5) Let $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $B = A^{20}$. Then the sum of the elements of the first column of $B$ is?

(a) 211 (b) 210 (c) 231 (d) 251

[Main Online April 16, 2018]

Solution: (c)

Here $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$\therefore A^2 = A \cdot A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

also $A^3 = A^2 \cdot A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 6 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

and $A^4 = A^3 \cdot A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & 1 & 0 \\ 10 & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

On observing the pattern, or by using induction,

we get $A^n = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ n & 1 & 0 \\ \frac{n(n+1)}{2} & n & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$\therefore A^{20} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 20 & 1 & 0 \\ 210 & 20 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Therefore, sum of the first column of $A^{20}$

$= 1 + 20 + 210 = \boxed{231}$