

1. Consider the following statements:

1. A person can be named a Fugitive Economic offender if there is an arrest warrant against him or her for involvement in economic offences involving at least Rs. 100 crore or more and has fled from India to escape Legal Action.
2. The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 seeks to confiscate properties of economic offenders who have left the country to avoid facing criminal prosecution.
3. Offences involving amounts of Rs. 100 crore or more only fall under the purview of this law.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- A person can be named an offender under this law if there is an arrest warrant against him or her for committing any offence listed in the schedule of the act and for involvement in economic offences involving at least Rs. 100 crore or more and has fled from India to escape Legal Action.
- Major criteria that have to be satisfied are:

- The Person has left the country to avoid facing prosecution.
- He refuses to return to India to face prosecution.
- The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 seeks to confiscate properties of economic offenders who have left the country to avoid facing criminal prosecution.
- Offences involving amounts of Rs. 100 crore or more fall under the purview of this law.
- Some of the offences listed in the schedule of the bill are-counterfeiting government stamps or currency, cheque dishonour for insufficiency of funds, money laundering, transactions defrauding creditors etc.
- **So all the three statements are correct.**

2. Under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA), which of the following countries are included to make a deal with Iran?

1. US
2. UK
3. Russia
4. France
5. Germany

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) All the above

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Iran agreed to rein in its nuclear programme in a 2015 deal struck with the US, UK, Russia, China, France and Germany (P5+1 countries). The United States announced its withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the "Iran nuclear deal" or the "Iran deal", on May 8, 2018.
- Under the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA)** Tehran agreed to significantly cut its stores of centrifuges, enriched uranium and heavy-water, all key components for nuclear weapons.
- The JCPOA established the Joint Commission, with the negotiating parties all represented, to monitor implementation of the agreement.
- Iran has said that it will “automatically” return to its nuclear commitments if U.S. President-elect Joe Biden lifts sanctions imposed over the past Two Years.

3. Which of the following country is not bordered by Iran?

- (a) Afghanistan
- (b) Turkey
- (c) Iraq
- (d) Syria

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- There are seven countries that Iran shares this long land border with.
- These countries are Iraq, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.
- Of these countries, Turkmenistan shares the longest border with Iran, with the border between the two countries stretching 713 miles.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, the extradition of a fugitive criminal is governed under the Indian Extradition Act, 1962.
2. The Act only talks about extraditing of persons to India and extradition of persons from India to foreign countries is not mentioned.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

What is Extradition?

- It is the formal process of one state surrendering an individual to another state for prosecution or punishment for crimes committed in the requesting country's jurisdiction.

- This is generally enabled through a bilateral or multilateral treaty.
- The legal basis for extradition with countries with which India does not have an Extradition treaty is provided by Section 3 (4) of the Indian Extradition Act, 1962.

About Indian Extradition Act, 1962:

- In India, the extradition of a fugitive criminal is governed under the Indian Extradition Act, 1962. This is for both extraditing of persons to India and from India to foreign countries. The basis of the extradition could be a treaty between India and another country. India has extradition treaties with 39 countries currently.
- Example, underworld don Abu Salem was extradited from Portugal to India to face charges. He, along with his wife, was extradited on the conditions that they would not be given the death penalty in India. This was so because European law prevents extradition to a country where capital punishment is in practice.

5. In context to Zero Defect Zero Effect Scheme (ZED), consider the following statements:

1. It refers to zero air pollution, liquid discharge and solid waste.
2. It is implemented by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Zero Defect Zero Effect Scheme (ZED) was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of MSME, the scheme is an integrated and comprehensive certification system.
- The scheme accounts for productivity, quality, pollution mitigation, energy efficiency, financial status, human resource and technological depth including design and IPR in both products and processes.
- Its mission is to develop and implement the 'ZED' culture in India based on the principles of Zero Defect & Zero Effect.

Zero Defect:

- The Zero-defect concept is focusing on the customer.
- Zero non-conformance or non-compliance
- Zero waste

Zero Effect:

- Zero air pollution, liquid discharge, solid waste.
- Zero wastage of Natural Resources

6. Consider the following, with regard to India Young Water Professional Programme:

1. It is a joint program of Australia and India.
2. It has been taken up under the National Hydrology Project.
3. The National Hydrology Project is a Central Sector Scheme supported by the World Bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched the first edition of the India Young Water Professional Programme.
- Its launch marks a significant milestone in Australia-India Water relationship. This Programme looks to prepare future water leaders.
- This program has been taken up under the National Hydrology Project. It will be implemented by Australia India Water Centre (a consortium of Australian and Indian universities). Hence, statement 2 is correct. The National Hydrology Project was started in 2016 as a Central Sector Scheme by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and is supported by the World Bank.

7. Consider the following, with regard to Delimitation Commission:

1. It is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
2. It have been set up only twice in India in 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1972 and 2002, respectively.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
- The Delimitation Commission in India is a high power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.
- Composition:
 - Retired Supreme Court judge
 - Chief Election Commissioner
 - Respective State Election Commissioners
- Delimitation Commissions So Far: Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.

- The first delimitation exercise was carried out by the President (with the help of the Election Commission) in 1950-51.
- There was no delimitation after the 1981 and 1991 Census.

8. Which one of the following National Parks lies completely in the temperate alpine zone?

- (a) Manas National Park
- (b) Namdapha National Park
- (c) Neora Valley National Park
- (d) Valley of Flowers National Park

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Valley of Flowers National Park is situated in the state of Uttarakhand. It is situated at an altitude of about 3352 to 3658 metres above sea level and so lies completely in the temperate alpine zone.

9. Consider the following statements with regards to the Minimum Support Price:

1. It was first introduced in 1965 to encourage Farmers to Grow Food grains.
2. At present, it covers 23 crops.
3. No MSP is offered for pulses in India.

Choose the correct statements:

- (a) 1 & 2 only
- (b) 2 & 3 only
- (c) 1 & 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The MSP system was introduced in 1965 to Encourage farmers to Grow Foodgrains.
- It was initially declared for paddy and wheat, but later extended to 23 crops, including 7 cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, barley and ragi); 5 pulses (gram, tur, moong, urad, lentil); 7 oilseeds (groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soyabean, seasmum, sunflower, safflower, nigerseed); and 4 commercial crops (copra, sugarcane, cotton and raw jute).

10. Consider the following statements with regards to suspension of the Members of Parliament:

1. The MPs can be suspended by the President on the recommendation of the presiding officer of the house.
2. The MPs can only be suspended for their conduct in the ongoing session of the Parliament.

Choose the correct statements:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 & 2
- (d) None of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The presiding officer (NOT President) is permitted to suspend a member of Parliament (MP). The Speaker of the Lok Sabha has the authority to force a member to resign from the House or to suspend him

or her. The Rajya Sabha Chairman, unlike the Speaker, does not have the authority to suspend a member.

- The act of ‘naming’ such a member opens the door for a motion to be introduced in that House requesting that the member thus ‘named’ be “suspended from the service (of the House) for a time not exceeding the remainder of the session.”



1. With reference to Indian elephants, consider the following statements:

1. There are around 32 elephant Reserves in India notified by the state governments.
2. The first elephant reserve was the Singhbhum elephant Reserve of Jharkhand.
3. Among the States in India, the highest elephant population is in Karnataka.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Project elephant is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in February 1992. The scheme helps and assists in the management and protection of elephants to the States having free-ranging populations of wild elephants, in order to ensure the survival of elephant population in the wild and protection of elephant habitat and elephant corridor.
- Project elephant is mainly implemented in 16 States / UTs, which includes Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Kerala, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Uttaranchal West Bengal Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

- The union government provides financial and technical assistance to the states to achieve the goals of this project. Help is also provided for the purpose of the census, training of field officials and to ensure the mitigation and prevention of human-elephant conflict.
- There are around 32 elephant Reserves in India notified by the state governments. The first elephant reserve was the Singhbhum elephant Reserve of Jharkhand. So, both statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- Karnataka has the highest number of elephants in India followed by Assam and Kerala. **Statement 3 is correct.**

2. Consider the following statements regarding Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA):

1. The Act empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP or ACP or above rank officer in the state.
2. It has death penalty and life imprisonment as highest punishments.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- UAPA passed in 1967 aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.
- Unlawful activity refers to any action taken by an individual or association intended to disrupt the territorial integrity and sovereignty of India.
- The Act assigns absolute power to the central government, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so.
- It has death penalty and life imprisonment as highest punishments. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Under UAPA, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged. It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India.
- Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court.
- The 2004 amendment, added “terrorist act” to the list of offences to ban organisations for terrorist activities, under which 34 outfits were banned.
- Till 2004, “unlawful” activities referred to actions related to secession and cession of territory.
- In August 2019, Parliament cleared the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 to designate individuals as terrorists if the individual commits or participates in acts of terrorism, prepares for terrorism, promotes terrorism or is otherwise involved in terrorism.
- The Act empowers the Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by the said agency.
- The Act also empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP or ACP or above rank officer in the state. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

3. Consider the following statements:

Statement 1: India has recently joined the G20 Troika with Indonesia and Italy.

Statement 2: India will assume the G20 presidency on December 1, 2022 from Indonesia.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1

(b) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1

(c) Statement 1 is correct but Statement 2 is not correct

(d) Statement 1 is not correct but Statement 2 is correct

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- India has recently joined the G20 ‘Troika’ in which India has started the procedure for taking over the G20 presidency next year.
- **Troika** refers to the top grouping within the G20 that consists of the current, previous and the incoming presidencies — Indonesia, Italy and India.
- India will assume the G20 presidency on December 1, 2022 from Indonesia, and will convene the G20 Leaders’ Summit for the first time in India in 2023.
- **So a is the correct answer.**

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The modalities of the compensation cess were specified by the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017.
2. This Act assumed that the GST revenue of each State would grow at 14% every year, from the amount collected in 2015-16, through all taxes subsumed by the GST.
3. A State that had collected tax less than this amount in any year would be compensated for the shortfall.

4. The amount would be paid every two months based on provisional accounts, and adjusted every year after the State’s accounts were audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3 only

(d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collections in November 2021 (for sales in October) rose 25.3 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,31,526 crore.
- The modalities of the compensation cess were specified by the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017.
- This Act assumed that the GST revenue of each State would grow at 14% every year, from the amount collected in 2015-16, through all taxes subsumed by the GST.
- A State that had collected tax less than this amount in any year would be compensated for the shortfall.
- The amount would be paid every two months based on provisional accounts, and adjusted every year after the State’s accounts were audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

- This scheme is valid for five years, i.e., till June 2022.

- **So, all the statements are correct.**

5. The drainage path of Krishna River doesn't include which of the following states?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Telangana

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Krishna is the second largest eastward draining interstate river basin in Peninsular India covering large areas in the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

6. In the context of which one of the following are the terms 'pyrolysis and plasma gasification' mentioned?

- (a) Extraction of rare earth elements
- (b) Natural gas extraction technologies
- (c) Hydrogen fuel-based automobiles
- (d) Waste-to-energy technologies

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Pyrolysis is the chemical decomposition of organic compounds in the absence of oxygen.
- Plasma gasification is a high-temperature thermal process that uses plasma to transform organic materials into a syngas

(synthesis gas) largely composed of Hydrogen and Carbon Monoxide.

- Pyrolysis transforms organic materials into a solid residue including ash and carbon, as well as minor amounts of liquid and gases.
- While plasma gasification is used commercially as a waste-to-energy system, converting municipal solid trash, tyres, hazardous waste, and sewage sludge into synthesis gas (syngas), which contains hydrogen and carbon monoxide and this may be used to create electricity.

7. Which of the following is correct with regards to the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), as per the RBI?

- (a) CBDC is the legal tender issued by a global authority in a digital form
- (b) CBDC is the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form
- (c) CBDC is RBI's attempt to launch its own cryptocurrency to rival the existing ones
- (d) None of the above

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) suggested revisions to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, allowing it to introduce a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).
- The CBDC is a digital form of fiat currency that can be traded using blockchain-backed wallets and is governed by the central bank.

- It differs from decentralized virtual currencies and crypto assets, which are not issued by the government and do not have the status of ‘legal tender.’
- CBDCs allow users to perform domestic and cross-border transactions without the involvement of a third party or a bank.

8. Consider the following, with reference to cotton:

1. It is a drought resistant crop and is suitable for arid climates.
2. The soil of the Deccan plateau is suitable for growing cotton crops.
3. Gujarat is the leading cotton producing state of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

About Cotton:

- Kharif Crop which requires 6 to 8 months to mature.
- Drought – resistant crop ideal for arid climates.
- Occupies 2.1% of the world’s arable land, meets 27% of the world’s textiles needs.
- Temperature: Between 21-30°C.
- Rainfall: Around 50-100cm.

- Soil Type: Well-drained black cotton soil (Regur Soil) (E.g. Soil of Deccan Plateau).
- Products: fibre, oil and animal feed.
- Top Cotton Producing Countries: China > India > USA
- Top Cotton Producing States in India: Gujarat > Maharashtra > Telangana > Andhra Pradesh > Rajasthan.

9. Consider the following, with regard to Commonwealth of Nations?

1. It was established by the London Declaration in 1949.
2. Queen Elizabeth II is the head of the Commonwealth.
3. The membership is based on free and equal voluntary cooperation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

Commonwealth of Nations:

- It is an international intergovernmental organization of countries that were mostly former territories of the British Empire and dependencies.
- It was established by the London Declaration in 1949.

- Queen Elizabeth II is the head of the Commonwealth.
- The current membership includes 54 Countries. The membership is based on free and equal voluntary co-operation.
- It is home to 2.5 billion people, and includes both advanced economies and developing countries.
- The last country to join the Commonwealth was Rwanda in 2009.
- The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is a biennial summit meeting of the heads of government from all Commonwealth Nations.
- Under standard conditions, it is the lightest metal and the lightest solid element.
- It is highly reactive and flammable, and must be stored in mineral oil.
- Lithium has become the new 'white gold' as the demand for high performing Rechargeable Batteries is Rising.

10. Consider the following, with reference to Lithium:

1. It is the lightest metal and the lightest solid element.
2. It is highly reactive and flammable.
3. It is new 'white gold' as the demand for high performing rechargeable batteries is rising.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

About Properties of Lithium:

- It is a chemical element with the symbol Li.
- It is a soft, silvery-white metal.

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Variants of a virus have one or more mutations that differentiate it from the other variants that are in circulation.
2. Errors in the viral RNA are called variants.
3. Viruses with these variants are called Mutation.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Variants of a virus have one or more mutations that differentiate it from the other variants that are in circulation. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Essentially, the goal of the virus is to reach a stage where it can cohabit with humans because it needs a host to survive.
- Errors in the viral RNA are called **mutations**, and viruses with these mutations are called **variants**. Variants could differ by a single or many mutations. **So, statement 2 and 3 are not correct.**

2. Consider the following statements:

1. According to Entry 17 of State List, the states are eligible to make laws on irrigation, water supply, canals, embankments, drainage, water power and water storage.
2. According to Entry 56 of the Union List, the Parliament is allowed to make laws on regulation of river valleys and interstate rivers.
3. Article 252 allows the Parliament to make laws on subjects in State list if two or more states pass resolution requiring a law.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Rajya Sabha has recently passed the Dam Safety Bill.
- According to Entry 17 of State List, the states are eligible to make laws on irrigation, water supply, canals, embankments, drainage, water power and water storage. According to Entry 56 of the Union List, the Parliament is allowed to make laws on regulation of river valleys and interstate rivers.

- Article 252 allows the Parliament to make laws on subjects in State list if two or more states pass resolution requiring a law. In this issue, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have passed resolution asking for a law on dam safety.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**

3. With respect to the Central Water Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It was constituted as a statutory body under the Water Act, 1974.
2. It presently functions as an attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
3. The Commission is entrusted for the purpose of flood control, irrigation, navigation, and drinking water supply and Water Power Development.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- CWC is a premier technical organization of India in the field of water resources and is presently functioning as an **attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti**. So, **statement 2 is correct.**

- It was formed in 1974-1975 via a notification. **So statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Commission is entrusted with the general responsibilities of initiating, coordinating and furthering in consultation of the State Governments concerned, schemes for control, conservation and utilization of water resources throughout the country, for the purpose of flood control, irrigation, navigation, drinking water supply and water power development.
- **So, statement 3 is correct.**

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The Mullaperiyar Dam is a masonry gravity dam on the Periyar River in the Indian state of Kerala.
2. The Dam was given to British-ruled Madras Presidency on a 999-year lease in 1886 and the agreement was renewed in 1970.
3. The dam is operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu state.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Mullaperiyar Dam is a masonry gravity dam on the Periyar River in the Indian state of Kerala.
- The dam situated at the confluence of the Mullayar and Periyar rivers
- It is located 881 m (2,890 ft) above mean sea level, on the Cardamom Hills of the Western Ghats in Thekkady, Idukki District of Kerala, South India.
- It was constructed between 1887 and 1895 by John Pennycuick and also reached in an agreement to donate water eastwards to the Madras Presidency area (present-day Tamil Nadu).
- The Periyar National Park in Thekkady is located around the dam's reservoir.
- The dam is located in Kerala on the river Periyar, but is operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu state.
- Dam was given to British-ruled Madras Presidency on a 999-year lease in 1886.
- The agreement was renewed in 1970.
- Tamil Nadu was given rights to the land and the water from the dam as well as the authority to develop hydro-power projects at the site, and Kerala would receive rent in return.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**

5. In context to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), consider the following:

1. It comes under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It was established on the recommendation of the Santhanam Committee.
3. It is a statutory body.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Now, the CBI comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).
- The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
- The CBI is the main investigating agency of the Central Government.

- It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.

6. Which of the following was/were established upon the recommendations of Santhanam Committee?

1. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)
2. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
3. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)
4. Lokpal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1, 2 and 4

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).
- The CBI is the main investigating agency of the Central Government.
- The Central Vigilance Commission is conceived to be the apex vigilance institution, free of control from any
- executive authority, monitoring all vigilance activity under the Central Government.

- The CVC was set up by the Government in February, 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by K. Santhanam.
- It is an independent body which is only responsible to the Parliament. It submits its report to the President of India.
- The National Crime Records Bureau was set-up in 1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- It was set up based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task Force (1985).
- The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 provided for the establishment of Lokpal at the national level.
- They perform the function of an "ombudsman" and inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for related matters.
- In 1966, the First Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) recommended the setting up of two independent authorities-at the central and state level, to look into complaints against public functionaries, including MPs.
- In 2002, a Commission headed by M.N. Venkatachaliah recommended the appointment of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas.

- In 2005, the Second ARC chaired by Veerappa Moily also recommended the Establishment of Lokpal.

7. Consider the following, with regard to Human Immunodeficiency Virus:

1. It attacks the White Blood Cell in the human body.
2. Once HIV enters the body, it can never be removed.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) attacks CD4, a type of White Blood Cell (T cells) in the body's immune system. T cells are those cells that move around the body detecting anomalies and infections in cells.
- After entering the body, HIV multiplies itself and destroys CD4 cells, thus severely damaging the human immune system. Once this virus enters the body, it can never be removed.
- The CD4 count of a person infected with HIV reduces significantly. In a healthy body, CD4 count is between 500- 1600, but in an infected body, it can go as low as 200.

8. Amongst the eight core sectors in the Index of Industrial Production, which sector has the Lowest Weightage?

- (a) Cement
- (b) Coal
- (c) Fertilizers
- (d) Steel

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizer, steel, cement, and power are among the eight key sector industries.
- The eight core industries account for 40.27 percent of the weight of the items in the Industrial Production Index (IIP).
- In decreasing order of weightage, below are the eight Core Industries:
 - ✓ Refinery Products
 - ✓ Electricity
 - ✓ Steel
 - ✓ Coal
 - ✓ Crude Oil
 - ✓ Natural Gas
 - ✓ Cement
 - ✓ Fertilizers

9. Why is there a great concern about the 'Microbeads' that are released into the Environment?

- (a) They are considered harmful to Marine Ecosystems.

(b) They are considered to cause Skin Cancer in Children.

(c) They are small enough to be absorbed by crop plants in irrigated fields.

(d) They are often found to be used as food Adulterants.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Microbeads are solid plastic particles with a greatest diameter of less than one Millimetre.
- Polyethylene is the most common material, however other petrochemical plastics such as polypropylene and polystyrene can also be used.
- Exfoliating personal care items, toothpastes, and biomedical and health-Science studies all employ them.
- Microbeads in freshwater and ocean water can produce plastic particle contamination and constitute an environmental concern to Aquatic Species.

(c) However, when such a child attains the age of 18, he may resume Indian citizenship.

(d) None of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- If an Indian citizen is of full age and capacity, he can voluntarily resign his Indian citizenship.
- When a person relinquishes his citizenship, his or her minor children lose their Indian citizenship as well.
- When the youngster reaches the age of 18, he may reclaim his Indian citizenship.

10. Which of the following is incorrect with regards to the voluntary renunciation of Indian citizenship?

(a) If an Indian citizen wishes, who is of full age and capacity, he can relinquish citizenship of India by his will.

(b) When a person relinquishes his citizenship, every minor child of that person also loses Indian citizenship.

1. Located in the Idukki district of Kerala, the Mullaiperiyar dam is under the control of which of the following states or UTs?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Puducherry

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The dam is at the centre of a decades-long conflict between Tamil Nadu and Kerala, two southern Indian states.
- The dam, which is located in Kerala, poses a threat to thousands of people who live downstream.
- The water provided by the dam, which is controlled by Tamil Nadu, is a lifeline for residents in Five Districts.

2. With reference to the G20, which amongst the following correctly defines ‘Troika’?

- (a) Three-member nations with the largest GDP sizes
- (b) Three-member nations that will hold the presidency in the next three years
- (c) Three-member nations comprising current, previous, and upcoming presidencies of G20
- (d) Top three resolutions adopted after the G20 meeting

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- India is assuming the G20 presidency for the year 2022-2023. Troika refers to the top grouping in G20 which consists of current, previous, and incoming presidencies. So, India joined Troika this year.

3. Which amongst the following is not one of the criteria to be eligible for reservation under the EWS category?

- (a) Your family should not own agricultural land of size 5 acres or more.
- (b) Your family should not own a residential flat of area 1000 square feet or more.
- (c) Your family should not own a residential plot (in notified municipalities) of an area 100 square yards or more.
- (d) Your family should not own a residential plot (other than in notified municipalities) of area 250 square yards or more.

Answer: d)

Explanation:

Eligibility Criteria for EWS Reservation:

- The quota would be available to persons who earn less than Rs 8 lakh per year.
- People who own a home on a plot of land larger than 1,000 square feet.
- Those who possess a residential parcel of land in a notified municipality that is larger than 100 square yards. People who possess a residential plot of more than 200 (NOT 250) yards in a non-notified region will be ineligible as well.

- Under the social backwardness criteria, those who currently benefit from education and job restrictions.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The Director of the CBI is appointed as per the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946.
2. The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013) says that the Central Government shall appoint the Director of CBI on the recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India or Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him.
3. The tenure for the CBI Director is two years.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1 and 2 only

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- President Ram Nath Kovind has promulgated two ordinances that would allow the Centre to extend the tenures of the directors of the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement.

- Directorate from two years to up to five years. **So, statement 3 is not correct. The maximum validity of an ordinance is 6 months and 6 weeks. An ordinance will expire after 6 weeks once both houses of the Parliament are in session.**

- The bill seeking the extension of tenure was placed before Lok Sabha recently.

- The Director of the CBI is appointed as per section 4A of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013) says that the Central Government shall appoint the Director of CBI on the recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India or Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- Further, the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Act, 2014 made a change in the composition of the committee related to the appointment of the Director of C.B.I. It states that where there is no recognized leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, then the leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha would be a member of that committee.

5. With respect to the MGNREGA, which of the statement(s) is/are correct?

1. The primary objective of the scheme is to Guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related both skilled and unskilled manual work.
2. Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
3. The act mandates Gram Sabhas to recommend the works that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by them.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world.
- The primary objective of the scheme is to guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do **public work-related unskilled manual work only**.
- **So statement 1 is not correct.**

- Unlike earlier employment guarantee schemes, the act aims at addressing the causes of chronic poverty through a rights-based framework.
- At least one-third of beneficiaries have to be women.
- Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. **So statement 2 is correct.**
- The most important part of MGNREGA's design is its legally-backed guarantee for any rural adult to get work within 15 days of demanding it, failing which an 'unemployment allowance' must be given.
- This demand-driven scheme enables the self-selection of workers.
- There is an emphasis on strengthening the process of decentralisation by giving a significant role in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in planning and implementing these works.
- The act mandates Gram Sabhas to recommend the works that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by them. **So statement 3 is correct.**

6. With respect to the contract farming, which of the statement(s) is/are correct?

1. It is agricultural production carried out according to an agreement between a buyer and farmers, which establishes conditions for the production and marketing of a farm product or products.
2. In contract farming, the buyer agrees to provide agreed quantities of a specific agricultural product which meet the quality standards of the farmer and be supplied at the time determined by the farmer.
3. On the other hand, the farmer commits to purchase the product and, in some cases, to support production through the supply of farm inputs, land preparation and the provision of technical advice.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Contract farming can be defined as agricultural production carried out according to an agreement between a buyer and farmers, which establishes conditions for the production and marketing of a farm product or products. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

- In contract farming, the **farmer** agrees to provide agreed quantities of a specific agricultural product which meet the quality standards of the **purchaser** and be supplied at the time determined by the **purchaser**. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

- On the other hand, the buyer commits to purchase the product and, in some cases, to support production through the supply of farm inputs, land preparation and the provision of technical advice. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

7. Consider the following statements:

1. The aim of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, is the establishment of an effective system for the protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders and to encourage the development of new varieties of plant.
2. The act also establishes Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
3. The National Gene Fund was constituted under the PPV&FR Act 2001.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The aim of the act is the establishment of an effective system for the protection of plant varieties, the rights of farmers and plant breeders and to encourage the development of new varieties of plant.
- The act also establishes Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- The major function of Authority includes Registration of new plant varieties; documentation of varieties registered; Preservation of plant genetic resource; Maintenance of the National Register of Plant Varieties and Maintenance of National Gene Bank (for conserving seeds of registered varieties).
- In 2007, the National Gene Fund was constituted under the PPV&FR Act 2001.
- It started with an initial amount of Rs 50 lakh from the Central government and gets a contribution from the money paid by plant breeders as registration and annual fee.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**

8. Consider the following:

1. Nagaland does not share borders with Tripura.
2. Garos are the largest tribe of Nagaland.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Nagaland is a state in the Northeast region of India which was granted statehood by the State of Nagaland Act, 1962.
- It is bounded by the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh to the northeast, Manipur to the south, and Assam to the west and northwest and the country of Myanmar (Burma) to the east. The state capital is Kohima, located in the southern part of Nagaland. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The main occupation of the state is agriculture which employs about nine-tenths of the population.
- Rice, corn (maize), small millets, pulses (legumes), oilseeds, fibres, sugarcane, potato, and tobacco are the principal crops.
- The Konyaks are the largest tribe of Nagaland, followed by the Aos, Tangkhuls, Semas, and Angamis.
- Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Other tribes include the Lothas, Sangtams, Phoms, Changs, Khiem Hungama, Yimchunger, Zeliangs, Chakhesangs (Chokri), and Rengmas.

9. Consider the followings, with regard to paika rebellion:

1. It was led by the class military retainers who rendered martial services in return for rent-free land and titles against the British.
2. It took place nearly 40 years before the first sepoy mutiny by the highest-ranking military general of Gajapati ruler Mukund Dev II.
3. It has been formally urged by the government of Odisha to be declared as the first war of independence.

The above statements most appropriately describe which of the following rebellions?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Paikas were a class of military retainers who had been recruited since the 16th century by kings in Odisha from a variety of social groups to render martial services in return for hereditary rent-free land (nish-kar jagirs) and titles.
- The Paika Bidroha (Paika Rebellion) of 1817 took place nearly 40 years before the first sepoy mutiny.
- Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar Mohapatra Bharamarbar Rai, the highest-ranking military general of Mukund Dev II, and erstwhile holder of the lucrative Rodanga

estate, led an army of Paikas to join the uprising of the Kondhs. They confronted the British on 2nd April 1817.

- Recently, the Centre has said that the Paika rebellion cannot be called the first War of Independence.
- It has also been suggested that it would be included as a case study in the Class 8 National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) history textbook.
- For the first time in 2017, the Odisha state cabinet had passed a proposal to formally urge the centre to declare the Paika rebellion as the first war of Independence.

10. Consider the following, with regard to Worldwide Cost of Living report:

1. The report is compiled by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
2. Tel Aviv is the world's most expensive city to live in.
3. Ahmedabad has been listed in the top ten cheapest cities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Worldwide Cost of Living report has been released highlighting that

Tel Aviv (Israel's capital) is the world's most expensive city to live in. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- Paris and Singapore came joint second, followed by Zurich and Hong Kong. New York was in sixth, with Geneva in seventh.
- The report is compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). It compares the cost-of-living indices in different cities. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The index is benchmarked against prices in New York City, hence cities with currencies that are stronger against the US dollar are likely to appear higher in the rankings.
- In India, Ahmedabad, Gujarat has been listed in the top ten cheapest cities of the survey. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Among the cheapest cities, Damascus (capital of Syria) is at the top. It is followed by Tripoli (Libya,) Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Tunis (Tunisia) and Almaty (Kazakhstan') in the Ranking of Cheapest Cities.

1. In the Context to the El Nino and La Nina, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. The northeast monsoon is known to receive a boost from El Niño, when the sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, off the western coast of South America, are warmer than usual.
2. And, when the opposite phenomena La Niña happens, rainfall during the northeast monsoon is known to get depressed.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Like the southwest monsoon, the northeast monsoon is also impacted by the warming and cooling of sea surface waters in the central Pacific Ocean. But the impact is the opposite.
- The northeast monsoon is known to receive a boost from El Niño, when the sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, off the western coast of South America, are warmer than usual. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- And, when the opposite phenomena La Niña happens, rainfall during the northeast

monsoon is known to get depressed. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

- This year the El Niño Southern Oscillation, or ENSO, is in neutral state and is likely to remain like that for the rest of the year.

2. Which of the following are the favorable conditions for the formation of the Cyclone?

1. Large sea surface with a temperature higher than 27° C
2. Absence of the Coriolis force
3. Small differences in the vertical wind speed
4. Upper divergence above the sea level system

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The conditions which favour the formation and intensification of tropical cyclone storms are:
 - ✓ Large sea surface with a temperature higher than 27° C
 - ✓ **Presence of the Coriolis force**
 - ✓ Small differences in the vertical wind speed
 - ✓ A pre-existing weak- low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation
 - ✓ Upper divergence above the sea level system

3. Nagaland is bordered by which of the following states?

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Mizoram
3. Assam
4. Manipur

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently violence was erupted in Nagaland and few civilians were gunned down in the process of stabilizing the violence.
- Nagaland is located in the northeast of India. The state shares its borders with Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Assam.
- The state shares international borders with Myanmar only.



4. With reference to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. In Keshavananda Bharati case, the court held that the basic elements or the fundamental features of the constitution as contained in the preamble cannot be altered by an amendment under article 368.
2. The preamble has been amended only once by the 44th constitutional amendment act, 1978.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- In Keshavananda Bharati case, the court held that the basic elements or the fundamental features of the constitution as contained in the preamble cannot be altered by an amendment under article 368. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The preamble has been amended only once. That is- **42nd constitutional amendment act, 1976** when three new terms were added- Socialist, secular and integrity.
- **So, statement 2 is not correct.**



- Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh recently reserved his decision to allow the introduction of a private member's Bill to amend the Preamble to the Constitution.
- It was introduced by BJP Member from Kerala K J Alphons.
- The Bill seeks to change the words in the Preamble "EQUALITY of status and of opportunity" to "EQUALITY of status and of opportunity to be born, to be fed, to be educated, to get a job and to be treated with dignity".
- It also seeks to replace the word "socialist" with "equitable".
- The Bill also proposes adding "access to information technology" and "happiness" as objectives.

5. Consider the following, with regard to Public Accounts Committee

1. It is one of the three Financial Parliamentary committees.
2. It was established by Montford Reforms in 1921.
3. It comprises 22 members of the Parliament.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) All the above

Explanation:

- The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is one of the three Financial Parliamentary committees, the other two are the Estimates Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings.
- Parliamentary committees draw their authority from Article 105 (on privileges of Parliament members) and Article 118 (on Parliament's authority to make rules for regulating its procedure and conduct of business).
- The Public Accounts Committee was introduced in 1921 after its first mention in the Government of India Act, 1919 also called Montford Reforms.
- It presently comprises 22 members (15 members elected by the Lok Sabha Speaker, and 7 members elected by the Rajya Sabha Chairman) with a term of one year only.
- It was framed with the purpose of ascertaining whether money granted to the Government by the Parliament has been spent by the former within the "scope of demand" or not, the PAC restricts any Minister from being elected as a member of it.

Answer: a)

6. Consider the following:

1. The President appoints the judges of the High Court in consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and the Chief Minister of the State.
2. The High Court judges are recommended by a Collegium comprising the CJI and two senior-most judges.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Article 217 of the Constitution states that the Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI), the Governor of the State.
- In the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of the High Court is consulted.
- The high court judge retires at the age of 62 years.
- Consultation Process: High Court judges are recommended by a Collegium comprising the CJI and two senior-most judges.
- The proposal, however, is initiated by the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned

in consultation with two senior-most colleagues.

- The recommendation is sent to the Chief Minister, who advises the Governor to send the proposal to the Union Law Minister.
- The Chief Justice of India would, in consultation with the two seniors most Judges of the Supreme Court, form his opinion in regard to a person to be recommended for appointment to the High Court.

7. Consider the following, with regard to Wage Rate Index (WRI):

1. It is compiled and maintained by the Labour Bureau.
2. The base year for WRI has been changed to 2016 from 1963-65.
3. The oil mining industry has been introduced in the WRI basket in place of the mica mines industry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Recently, the government has revised the base year for Wage Rate Index (WRI) to 2016 which will replace the old series with a base of 1963-65.

- The Wage Rate Index Number measures the relative changes in wage rates over a period of time, high or low Wage Rate Index in an industry does not necessarily indicate high or low wage rate in that industry as compared to other industries.
 - A base year is the first of a series of years in an economic or financial index and is typically set to an arbitrary level of 100.
 - The Ministry of Labour & Employment has released a new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) with base year 2016, being compiled and maintained by the Labour Bureau, an attached office of the ministry.
 - It is based on the recommendations of the International Labour Organization and the National Statistical Commission.
 - The new series on WRI has been compiled on a half-year basis (on the first of January and July every year) as against the annual in the existing series.
 - The new WRI basket (2016=100) has enhanced the scope and coverage in terms of occupations and industries as compared to old WRI series (1963-65=100).
 - Of the 37 industries covered in the new series, 16 new ones - including textile garments, footwear and petroleum - have been added under the manufacturing sector.
 - In the new series, the oil mining industry has been introduced in the basket in place of mica mines industry, to make the mining sector more representative of the three different kinds of mining namely coal, metal and oil.
 - Total 3 plantation industries namely tea, coffee and rubber have been retained in the new WRI basket with enhanced coverage.
 - The top five industries - motor vehicles, coal mines, textile garments, iron & steel and cotton textiles together account for 46% of the total weight.
8. Consider the following statements with respect to Private Member's Bill:
1. A member of the ruling dispensation who is not a minister or that of the opposition can be said to be a 'Private Member'.
 2. No private member's Bill has been passed by Parliament since 1970.
- Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both
(d) None

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- A private member of parliament (MP) is a member of parliament who is not a minister.
- Private Member's Bills are bills introduced by private members of Parliament.
- So far, 14 such Bills have been enacted by Parliament, six of them were passed in 1956.

- According to PRS Legislative Research, no Private Member's Bill has been enacted by Parliament since 1970.

9. With respect to Lesser florican, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is endemic to the Indian Subcontinent.
2. The bird is listed as "critically endangered" on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species.

Options:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) None

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Lesser Florican is a small and thin bustard-like bird that lives in tall grasses.
- *Syphotides indicus* is the scientific name for Lesser Floricans.
- During the monsoon season, the endangered bird may be seen in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and other areas.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species classifies the bird as "Endangered."

2. NPCI has launched RuPay, a card payment scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is a government-owned corporation that manages retail payment and settlement systems and promotes financial inclusion in India.
- It is the result of a collaboration between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
- NPCI has launched RuPay which is an Indian-developed payment system that is tailored to the expectations and needs of Indian consumers, banks, and merchants.

10. Consider the following statements:

1. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) helps in promoting financial inclusion in the country.

1. Tenth Schedule of the constitutions deals with which of the following?

- (a) Panchayati Raj
- (b) Municipalities and Corporations
- (c) Three legislative lists
- (d) Anti-Defection Laws

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Tenth Schedule of Indian Constitution is popularly known as the **Anti-Defection Act**.
- Original constitution had no such provisions. It was included in the Constitution in 1985 by the Rajiv Gandhi government.
- The main intent of the law was to deter “the evil of political defections” by legislators motivated by the lure of office or other similar considerations.
- The grounds for disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law includes
 - a) If an elected member voluntarily gives up his membership of a political party.
 - b) If he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party or anyone authorized to do so, without obtaining prior permission.
 - c) Going against the party whip.
- As a pre-condition for his disqualification, his abstention from voting should not be condoned by his party or the authorized person within 15 days of such incident.

- Articles 102 (2) and 191 (2) deals with anti-defection.
- The law disallows MPs/ MLAs to switch parties after elections, make the members follow the whips issued by their party.
- It also applies to a nominated member if he/she join a political party after 6 months of nomination and to an independent candidate if he/she joins a party after the Election.

2. Which of the following is/are **not** the safeguards for the anti-defection law?

1. The Anti-Defection Law provides a safeguard for defections made on genuine ideological differences.
2. It accepts split within a party if at least one-third of the members of the legislative party defect.
3. It also allows the formation of a new party or merger with other political party if not less than two-thirds of the party’s members commit to it.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Anti-Defection Law provided a safeguard for defections made on genuine ideological differences.
- It accepted “split” within a party if at least one-third of the members of the legislative party defect, and allowed the formation of a new party or “merger” with other political party if not less than two-thirds of the party’s members commit to it.
- The 91st Constitutional Amendment introduced in 2003 deleted the provision allowing split.
- The 91st Amendment also barred the appointment of defectors as Ministers until their disqualification period is over or they are re-elected, whichever is earlier.
- But, obviously, such laws have not put to rest the trend of defections.

3. Which of the statements given below are correct regarding the powers given to the Armed Forces under The Armed Forces (Special Power) Act, 1958 (AFSPA)?

1. They have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area, can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.
2. If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant; enter or search premises without a warrant; and ban the possession of firearms.

3. Any person arrested or taken into custody may be handed over to the officer in charge of the nearest police station along with a report detailing the circumstances that led to the arrest.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- In simple terms, AFSPA gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in “disturbed areas”.
- Powers given to Armed Forces:
 - ✓ They have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area, can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.
 - ✓ If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant; enter or search premises without a warrant; and ban the possession of firearms.
 - ✓ Any person arrested or taken into custody may be handed over to the officer in charge of the nearest police station along with a report detailing the circumstances that led to the arrest.

- A disturbed area is one which is declared by notification under Section 3 of the AFSPA. An area can be disturbed due to differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.
- The Central Government or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.

4. Freedom of speech and expression is restricted under which of the following grounds?

1. Security of the State.
2. Friendly relations with foreign States.
3. Public order.
4. Decency and morality.
5. Executive action.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 2, 3, 4, and 5 only
- (c) 1, 3, 4, and 5 only
- (d) All the above

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Right to freedom of speech and expression is subject to reasonable restrictions being imposed under Article 19(2).
- Out of the eight different grounds listed on Article 19(2) of the Constitution, the majority of hate speech laws are saved by

the 'public order' exception. The eight different grounds are;

1. Security of the State.
2. Friendly relations with foreign States.
3. Public order.
4. Decency and morality.
5. Contempt of court.
6. Defamation.
7. Incitement to an offence, and
8. Sovereignty and integrity of India.

- Reasonable restrictions on these grounds can be imposed only by a duly enacted law and **not by executive action. So, answer is (a).**

5. In context to Sedition, which of the following is/are correct?

1. Sedition is a crime under Section 124A of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).
2. It is a non-bailable offence.
3. A person charged under sedition law is barred from a government job.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Sedition is a crime under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- The Section 124A IPC defines sedition as an offence committed when “any person by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in India”.
- Disaffection includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity. However, comments without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, will not constitute an offence under this section.
- Punishment for the Offence of Sedition: It is a non-bailable offence. Punishment under the Section 124A ranges from imprisonment up to three years to a life term, to which fine may be added. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- A person charged under this law is barred from a government job. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- They have to live without their passport and must produce themselves in the court at all times as and when required.
6. Consider the following, with regard to Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) pension scheme?
1. It is a Central Sector Scheme administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

2. An Unorganised Worker (UW) between 18 and 60 years of age is eligible for the PM-SYM scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- According to the Ministry of Labour & Employment, nearly 46 lakh Unorganised Workers (UW) have been registered under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) pension scheme.
- PM-SYM is a Central Sector Scheme administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India and Community Service Centers (CSCs). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- LIC (Life Insurance Corporation) is the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out.

Eligibility:

- Should be an Unorganised Worker (UW).
- Monthly Income Rs 15000 or below.
- Entry age between 18 and 40 years. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Should possess a mobile phone, savings bank account and Aadhaar number.

- Should not be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- Should not be an Income Tax Payer.

7. Consider the following, with regard to Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC)

1. It is a specialized financial institution that buys the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks and financial institutions
2. The SARFAESI Act, 2002 provides a unified mechanism to tackle NPAs in the farm sector.

Which of the above statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- An Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) is a specialized financial institution that buys the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks and financial institutions so that they can clean up their balance sheets. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- This helps banks to concentrate on normal banking activities. Banks, rather than going after the defaulters by wasting their time

and effort, can sell the bad assets to the ARCs at a mutually agreed value.

- The SARFAESI Act, 2002 provides the legal basis for the setting up of ARCs in India.
- At present, there is neither a unified mechanism to tackle NPAs in the farm sector nor a single law that deals with enforcement of mortgages created on agricultural land. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Agriculture being a state subject, the recovery laws, wherever agricultural land is offered as collateral – varies from state to state.

8. With respect to Mithi River, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a River flowing through the city of Mumbai
2. It is a confluence of tail-water discharges of the Tulsi and Vihar lakes

Options:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) None

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Mithi River is a river on Salsette Island, the island of the city of Mumbai, India. It is a confluence of tail-water discharges of the Powai and Vihar lakes.

- The river is seasonal and rises during the monsoons. The overflowing lakes also contribute to the river flow, which is stopped by a dam at other times.

9. Consider the following statements with respect to Vice- President of India:

1. He/she is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of only elected members from both houses of Parliament
2. An election to fill a vacancy in the office of Vice- President occurring by reason of his death, resignation or removal, or otherwise shall be held as soon as possible after, and in no case later than six months from, the date of occurrence of the vacancy

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) None

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Vice-President is elected by an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting in such election is by secret ballot. The Electoral College to elect a person to the office of the Vice-President consists of all members of both Houses of Parliament

- Article 68(2) of the Constitution provides that an election to fill a vacancy in the office of Vice-President occurring by reason of his death, resignation or removal or otherwise shall be held as soon as possible.

10. Consider the following statements with respect to the ICON mission:

1. It is a collaboration between the European Space Agency (ESA) and its Russian equivalent Ros cosmos
2. Its objective is to help understand the origin and evolution of the Solar System

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) None

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Ionospheric Connection Explorer (ICON) is a satellite that studies change in the Earth's ionosphere.
- The ionosphere is a dynamic zone high in our atmosphere where weather from the ground collides with weather from space.
- ICON examines interaction between Earth's weather systems and space weather caused by the Sun.

1. 2+2 dialogue is a bilateral ministerial dialogue of India with few countries. Which of the ministries are a part of this dialogue?

- (a) Defence and External Affairs
- (b) Defence and Corporate affairs
- (c) External affairs and corporate affairs
- (d) Defence and Home affairs

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- It is held between the **foreign and defence ministers** of two countries and is generally seen to be aimed at creating a mechanism under which the bilateral relationship takes a decisive strategic turn with greater integration of defence, security and Intelligence Apparatus.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Compensatory Afforestation Fund:

1. As per the rules, 90% of the CAF money is to be given to the states while 10% is to be retained by the Centre.
2. The funds can be used only for planting trees, when a forest land is diverted for non-forest purposes such as mining or industry.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Compensatory afforestation means that every time forest land is diverted for non-forest purposes such as mining or industry, the user agency pays for planting forests over an equal area of non-forest land, or when such land is not available, twice the area of degraded forest land.
- As per the rules, 90% of the CAF money is to be given to the states while 10% is to be retained by the Centre. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The funds can be used for **treatment of catchment areas, assisted natural generation, forest management, wildlife protection and management, relocation of villages from protected areas, managing human-wildlife conflicts, training and awareness generation, supply of wood saving devices and allied activities.** **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

3. Which of the following magazines was published by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar?

- (a) Mook Nayak
- (b) New India
- (c) Young India
- (d) Tribune

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Prime Minister has paid tributes to Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar on Mahaparinirvan Diwas.
- New India was a newspaper founded by Annie Besant.
- Young India was a Newspaper founded by Gandhi.
- Tribune was a newspaper founded by Sardar Dyal Singh Majithia.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Originally, the Constitution required the President to address both Houses of Parliament at the commencement of every session.
2. This requirement was changed by the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- **Article 87(1) says:** “At the commencement of the first session after each general election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first session of each year the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together

and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons.”

- **First Constitutional Amendment:** Originally, the Constitution required the President to address both Houses of Parliament at the commencement of “every session”. This requirement was changed by the First Amendment to the Constitution.
- **So, both the statements are correct.**

5. Consider the following, With reference to the BR Ambedkar:

1. He established a fortnightly newspaper “Mooknayak”.
2. He played a pivotal role in the Kalaram Temple Movement.
3. He became Minister of Law in the first Cabinet of Independent India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

About BR Ambedkar:

- He established a fortnightly newspaper “Mooknayak” in 1920 which laid the foundations of an assertive and organised Dalit politics.
- Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- He founded Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923), devoted to spreading education and culture amongst the downtrodden.
- He led the Mahad Satyagraha in March 1927 to challenge the regressive customs of the Hindus.
- The Kalaram Temple Movement of 1930 formed a pivotal role in the Dalit movement in India in which Ambedkar led a protest outside the Kalaram temple which did not allow Dalits to enter the temple premises. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- He participated in all three round-table conferences.
- In 1932, he signed the Poona pact with Mahatma Gandhi, which abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes (Communal Award).
- He accepted Prime Minister Nehru's invitation to become Minister of Law in the first Cabinet of independent India. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

6. In context to Black Sea, Consider the following:

1. It is also connected to the Sea of Azov by the Strait of Kerch.
2. The Dardanelles, Bosphorus and Marmara Sea forms a transitional zone between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Black Sea is located between Eastern Europe and Western Asia.
- It is surrounded by the Pontic, Caucasus, and Crimean Mountains in the south, east and north respectively.
- The Black Sea is also connected to the Sea of Azov by the Strait of Kerch. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Turkish straits system – the Dardanelles, Bosphorus and Marmara Sea – forms a transitional zone between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Bordering countries of Black Sea are: Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania.
- There is a significant absence of oxygen in the water (anoxic waters).

7. With reference to Chhatrapati Shivaji, consider the following:

1. The Treaty of Purandar was signed between Shivaji and Adil Shah of Bijapur.
2. Shivaji captured the Torna fort and Kondana fort from the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.

3. Shakakarta and Haindava Dharmodhhaara are the titles given to Chhatrapati Shivaji.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1 and 2 only

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was born on 19th February, 1630 at Shivneri Fort in District Pune in the present-day state of Maharashtra.

Early Life:

- He displayed his military zeal for the first time in 1645 when as a teenager, he successfully got control of the Torna Fort which was under Bijapur.
- He also acquired the Kondana Fort. Both these forts were under Adil Shah of Bijapur. Hence, option C is not correct.

Important Battles:

- The Battle of Sangamner, 1679 fought between the Mughals and Marathas was the last battle in which the Maratha King Shivaji fought. Hence, option A is not correct.
- Battle of Sinhadgad, 1670 was fought between Tanaji Malusare, a commander of Maratha ruler Shivaji Maharaj and Udaybhan Rathod, fortkeeper under Jai Singh I who was a Mughal Army Chief.

Important Treaty:

- In June 1665, the Treaty of Purandar was signed between Shivaji and Raja Jai Singh I (representing Aurangzeb). Hence, option B is not correct.
- As per this treaty, many forts were relinquished to the Mughals and it was agreed that Shivaji would meet Aurangzeb at Agra. Shivaji also agreed to send his son Sambhaji as well.

Granted Title:

- He took on the titles of Chhatrapati, Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas and Haindava Dharmodhhaarak. Hence, option D is correct.

8. Consider the following statements with regards to the AFSPA law:

1. It was first introduced by Viceroy Linlithgow in the form of an Ordinance in the wake of the Quit India Movement of 1942.
2. Post-Independence, AFSPA was first enacted to deal with the Naga insurgency in the Assam region.
3. Section 4 gives the Army powers to search premises and make arrests without warrants, to use force even to the extent of causing death, destroy arms/ammunition dumps, fortifications/shelters/hideouts and to stop, search and seize any vehicle.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 & 2 only

- (b) 2 & 3 only
(c) 1 & 3 only
(d) All of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Lord Linlithgow, India's viceroy, issued the Armed Forces Special Powers (Ordinance) on August 15, 1942, in response to Mahatma Gandhi's Quit India Movement.
- After independence, Jawaharlal Nehru's government passed the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (1958) in the Indian parliament in the wake of the Naga insurgency in Assam.
- Section 4 in the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 stands for Special Powers of the armed forces. It empowers the Army to search and arrest anyone without a warrant, to use lethal force, to demolish weapons and ammunition depots, fortifications, shelters, and hideouts, and to stop, search, and seize any vehicle.

9. Consider the following statements with regards to OBC reservation in Maharashtra:

1. The Maharashtra government set up a 27 percent quota in local bodies for OBCs in 1994.
2. The 27 percent reservation was applicable to all urban (Municipal Corporations, Councils and Nagar Panchayat) and rural

bodies (Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti and Gram Panchayat) across the state.

3. 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment acts make it compulsory to provide OBC reservation in local bodies of the state.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 & 2 only
(b) 2 & 3 only
(c) 1 & 3 only
(d) All of the above

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- In 1994, the Maharashtra government established a 27% quota for OBCs in local bodies.
- All urban (Municipal Corporations, Councils, and Nagar Panchayat) and rural (Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti, and Gram Panchayat) entities in the state were eligible for the 27% reservation.
- The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment acts do not make it compulsory to provide OBC reservation in local bodies of the state.

10. India observes 'Maitri Divas' with reference to which of the following nations?

- (a) Bhutan
(b) Bangladesh
(c) Sri Lanka
(d) Nepal

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971, India and Bangladesh are celebrating ‘Maitri Diwas.’
- Bangladesh was formally recognised as a new country by India on December 6 1971.
- Every year, the two countries observe this day as ‘Maitri Diwas,’ or ‘Friendship Day.’



1. River Ken flows through which of the following Tiger Reserve?

- (a) Panna
- (b) Pench
- (c) Periyar
- (d) Todoba Andheri

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) is the River interlinking project that aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken river in MP to Betwa in UP to irrigate the drought-prone Bundelkhand region spread across the districts of two states mainly Jhansi, Banda, Lalitpur and Mahoba districts of UP and Tikamgarh, Panna and Chhatarpur districts of MP.
- Ken-Betwa is one of the 30 rivers inter linking projects conceived across the country.
- Ken and Betwa rivers originate in MP and are the tributaries of Yamuna.
- Ken meets with Yamuna in Banda district of UP and with Betwa in Hamirpur district of UP.
- Rajghat, Paricha and Matatila dams are over Betwa river.
- **Ken River passes through Panna tiger reserve.**

2. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Water Development Agency is responsible for the formulation of proposals of the linking of rivers.
2. NWDA was tasked to prepare feasibility reports and give concrete shape to Peninsular Rivers Development Component of National Perspective.
3. The task of Himalayan Rivers Development Component of National Perspectives is done by the National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The **National Water Development Agency (NWDA)** is responsible for the formulation of proposals of the linking of rivers. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- NWDA is the agency of the Union Ministry of Water Resources. It was set up in July, 1982 as autonomous society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- It was established to carry out the water balance and other studies on a scientific and realistic basis for optimum utilisation of Water Resources of the peninsular rivers system.

- Besides it was tasked to prepare feasibility reports and give concrete shape to Peninsular Rivers Development Component of National Perspective. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- In 1990, it was also entrusted with the task of Himalayan Rivers Development Component of National Perspectives.
- Recently, the functions of NWDA have been further modified and the work of preparation of detailed Project Reports (DPR) of various link proposals and Pre-feasibility Reports.
- It has been also entrusted to prepare feasibility reports of intra-State links as proposed by the States.
- The Central government is just working on the establishment of an exclusive body named **National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA)** to implement projects for linking rivers. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

3. In the context to the Eastern and Western Ghats, consider the following statements:

1. While the Western Ghats passes through six states, the Eastern Ghats passes through only four states.
2. While Western Ghats was recognized as the UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2012, Eastern Ghats got the tag very recently in 2020.

3. Both the Western and Eastern Ghats meet at the Nilgiri Hills.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The **Western Ghats** is an extensive region spanning over six States. It is the home of many endangered plants and animals. The **Eastern Ghats** run from the northern Odisha through Andhra Pradesh to Tamil Nadu in the south passing some parts of Karnataka. **So statement 1 is correct.**
- **Western Ghats** is a **UNESCO World Heritage site**. It is one of the eight “hottest hot-spots” of biological diversity in the world. Recently Environmental groups have also demanded to add the Eastern Ghats in the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Currently it is **not under UNESCO World Heritage Site. So statement 2 is not correct.**
- According to UNESCO, the Western Ghats are older than the Himalayas but younger than the Eastern Ghats.
- They influence Indian monsoon weather patterns by intercepting the rain-laden monsoon winds that sweep in from the south-west during late summer.

- They are eroded and cut through by four major rivers of peninsular India, viz. Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna, and Cauvery.
 - The Eastern Ghats meet up with the Western Ghats **at Nilgiri Hills.**
 - **So statement 3 is correct.**
4. Hornbill Festival is the tribal festival of which of the following state?
- (a) Mizoram
 - (b) Nagaland
 - (c) Assam
 - (d) Manipur

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Nagaland State government has decided to call off the ongoing Hornbill Festival in protest against the killing of 14 civilians by security forces.
- Nagas celebrate this festival to revive, protect, sustain and promote the richness of the Naga heritage and traditions.
- It occurs during 1 – 10 December on an annual basis.
- It is also called the “Festival of Festivals”.
- The festival pays tribute to Hornbill, the most admired and revered bird for the Nagas for its qualities of alertness and grandeur.
- It is organized by State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments and also supported by Union Government.

- Hornbill Festival was established on 1st December 1963 and was inaugurated by the then President Dr. S Radhakrishnan.

5. Consider the following, with regard to Human rights Council:

1. The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system.
2. The Universal Periodic Review is a mechanism to review the human rights records of all UN member states once every four years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Human Rights Council is an inter-Governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights.
- It is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The most innovative feature of the Human Rights Council is the Universal Periodic Review.

- This unique mechanism involves a review of the human rights records of all 192 UN member states once every four years. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) serves as the secretariat for the Human Rights Council.

6. In context to Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Consider the following:

1. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) was constituted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.
2. The National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is based on Article 47 of the Indian Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) was constituted by the Government of India in 1986 under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It is the apex coordinating agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is based on

Article 47 of the Indian Constitution which directs the State to endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption, except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drugs injurious to health. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- Drug abuse control is the responsibility of the Central Government.

7. Consider the following, with regard to Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA):

1. Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) are ecologically fragile areas which are located within 10 km of protected areas.
2. ESAs are notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under Environment Protection Act 1986.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Eco-Sensitive Areas (ESAs) are located within 10 kms around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ESAs are notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) under Environment Protection Act 1986. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- The basic aim is to regulate certain activities around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries so as to minimize the negative impacts of such activities on the fragile Ecosystem Encompassing the Protected Areas.

8. What are the key objectives of the new restructured scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)?

1. Developing and strengthening the capacities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for rural local governance to become more responsive towards local Development Needs.
2. Preparing the participatory plans for PRIs that leverage technology and ensure efficient and optimum utilization of available resources.
3. Realizing sustainable solutions to local problems at the panchayat level to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Options:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) was launched for developing and strengthening the capacities of Panchayati

Raj Institutions (PRIs) for rural local governance to become more responsive towards local Development Needs.

- It also looks into preparing the participatory plans that leverage technology, efficient and optimum utilization of available resources.
- The key principles of SDGs are addressed by RGSA along with realizing sustainable solutions to local problems at the panchayat level.

9. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission to regulate Political Parties and Candidates during Elections.
2. It is operational from one month prior to elections to the date of result Announcement.
3. These guidelines are legally enforceable.

Options:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Model Code of Conduct is a collection of rules developed with the agreement of political parties that have agreed to adhere to the ideas reflected in the code, as well as

to respect and observe it in its text and spirit.

- The Model Code of Conduct applies to political parties and candidates during elections and is in effect from the moment the elections are declared by the Commission until the elections are completed.
- These guidelines are not legally enforceable.

10. Which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization that works to support and strengthen democratic institutions and processes around the world, to develop sustainable, effective and legitimate Democracies.
2. It is based out of Stockholm and is an official United Nations Observer.
3. India is seeking membership in this organization.

Options:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- International IDEA (International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance) is an international organization whose mission is to promote and enhance democracy across the world.
- International IDEA works worldwide and is based in Stockholm, Sweden. It also has The Office of the Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the United Nations in New York and The Office of International IDEA to the European Union in Brussels.
- India Joined International IDEA in 1995. Thus, India is not seeking membership in this organization.

1. With reference to the Foreigners Tribunal, which of the statements given below are correct?

1. The Foreigners Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies, to determine if a person staying illegally is a foreigner or not.
2. Under the provisions of Foreigners Act 1946 and Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964, both Foreigners Tribunals and Ministry of Home Affairs are empowered to declare a person as a foreigner.
3. A rejected person would have 120 days from the date of receiving the rejection slip to approach a Foreigners' Tribunal (FT) for judging their Citizenship Status.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c)

- The tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies, to determine if a person staying illegally is a “foreigner” or not. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Every individual, whose name does not figure in the final National Register of Citizens (NRC), can represent his/her case in front of the appellate authority i.e. Foreigners Tribunals (FT).

- Assam has set up FTs, specifically to handle the cases of 19.06 lakh people left out of the updated NRC.
- Under the provisions of Foreigners Act 1946 and Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964, **only Foreigners Tribunals** are empowered to declare a person as a foreigner. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Assam Police Border Organisation, a wing of the State police tasked with detecting foreigners, readies the cases for the tribunals to decide who is a foreigner and who is not.
- According to the Centre's standard operating procedures, a rejected person would have **120 days** from the date of receiving the rejection slip to approach a Foreigners' Tribunal (FT) for judging their citizenship status. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

2. Consider the following pairs:

Ramsar Sites	State
1. Sultanpur National Park	Haryana
2. Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary	Punjab
3. Haiderpur Wetland	Uttar Pradesh
4. Wadhvana	Gujarat

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- India has recently designated the Haiderpur wetland in Uttar Pradesh as the country's 47th Ramsar site and 2,463rd Ramsar site internationally.
- **Sultanpur National Park, Haryana:** More than 10 globally threatened, including the critically endangered sociable lapwing, and the endangered Egyptian Vulture, Saker Falcon, Pallas's Fish Eagle and Black-bellied Tern birds are found here.
- **Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana:** It is a human-made freshwater wetland. It is also the largest in Haryana.
- **Haiderpur Wetland, Uttar Pradesh:** Haiderpur Wetland covers an area of 6,908 hectares and is situated on the Muzaffarnagar-Bijnor border in Uttar Pradesh. It was formed in 1984 by the construction of Madhya Ganga Barrage at the confluence of Solani and Ganga rivers and is a part of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary. A source of freshwater and groundwater recharge, Haiderpur Wetland supports a variety of plant species, and is home to numerous animals, including swamp deer, otters, gharial and fishing cat. It plays host to more than 300 species of birds, many of which come for wintering.

- **Wadhvana, Gujarat:** It is internationally important for its birdlife as it provides wintering ground to migratory waterbirds, including over 80 species that migrate on the Central Asian Flyway. Pallas's fish-Eagle, the vulnerable Common Pochard, and the near-threatened Dalmatian Pelican, Grey-headed Fish-eagle and Ferruginous Duck are some birds found here.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019:
1. It seeks to give citizenship to refugees from the Hindu, Christian, Buddhist, Sikh and Zoroastrian communities fleeing religious persecution from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, who came to India before 31st December, 2014.
 2. Residential requirement for citizenship through naturalization for persons from other countries from the above mentioned is 5 years.
 3. The Act applies to all States and Union Territories of the country, except Assam, Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Parliament passed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 that seeks to give citizenship to refugees from the Hindu, Christian, Buddhist, Sikh and Zoroastrian communities fleeing religious persecution from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, who came to India before 31st December, 2014. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Residential requirement for citizenship through naturalization from the above said countries is at least 5 years. **Residential requirement for citizenship through naturalization for others is 11 years. So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Act applies to all States and Union Territories of the country. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The beneficiaries of Citizenship Amendment Act can reside in any state of the country.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the National Register of Citizens (NRC):

1. The NRC is an official record of those who are legal Indian citizens that includes demographic information about all those individuals who qualify as citizens of India as per the Citizenship Act, 1955.
2. The register was first prepared after the 1951 Census of India and since then it has not been updated until recently.

3. So far, such a database has only been maintained for the state of Assam.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The NRC is an official record of those who are legal Indian citizens. It includes demographic information about all those individuals who qualify as citizens of India as per the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- The register was first prepared after the 1951 Census of India and since then it has not been updated until recently.
- So far, such a database has only been maintained for the state of Assam.
 - ✓ In 2014, the SC ordered the updation of the NRC, in accordance with Citizenship Act, 1955 and Citizenship Rules, 2003 in all parts of Assam. The process officially started in 2015.
 - ✓ **So all the statements are correct.**

5. With reference to cyclones, consider the following:

1. Middle latitude cyclones develop in the region between the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer.

2. The World Meteorological Organization uses the term 'Extra-Tropical Cyclone' to cover weather systems in which winds exceed 'Gale Force'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Cyclones are rapid inward air circulation around a low-pressure area. The air circulates in an anticlockwise direction in the Northern hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.
- They are usually accompanied by violent storms and bad weather.
- Tropical cyclones develop in the region between the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer.
- They are large-scale weather systems developing over tropical or subtropical waters, where they get organized into surface wind circulation.
- The World Meteorological Organization uses the term 'Tropical Cyclone' to cover weather systems in which winds exceed 'Gale Force' (minimum of 63 km per hour). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- Extra Tropical cyclones also called Temperate cyclones or middle latitude cyclones or Frontal cyclones or Wave Cyclones occur in temperate zones and high latitude regions, though they are known to originate in the Polar Regions. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Tag: History

6. Which of the following is/are the cause of failure of Revolt of 1857'?

1. The large princely states did not join the rebellion.
2. The leaders could not offer effective leadership to the movement as a whole.
3. The rich merchants, traders and zamindars of Bengal helped the British to suppress the revolt.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

Cause of Failure of Revolt:

- **Limited Uprising:** The revolt was mainly confined to the Doab region.
- The large princely states, Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore, and Kashmir, as well as the smaller ones of Rajputana, did not

join the rebellion. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- The southern provinces did not take part in it.
- **No effective leadership:** The rebels lacked an effective leader. Although Nana Saheb, Tantia Tope and Rani Lakshmi Bai were brave leaders, they could not offer effective leadership to the movement as a whole. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Limited Resources:** The rebels lacked resources in terms of men and money. The English, on the other hand, received a steady supply of men, money and arms in India.
- **No participation of the Middle Class:** The English educated middle class, the rich merchants, traders and zamindars of Bengal helped the British to suppress the revolt. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

7. Consider the following, with regard to Guru Teg Bahadur:

1. He founded the town of Chak-Nanki in Punjab.
2. He is venerated as the ‘Protector of Humanity’ (Srisht-di-Chadar).
3. He was executed in Delhi under the orders of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.

The above statements most appropriately are related to which of the following Gurus of Sikhism.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Guru Tegh Bahadur was the ninth Sikh Guru, often venerated as the ‘Protector of Humanity’ (Srisht-di-Chadar) by the Sikhs.
- He is known as a great teacher, Guru Tegh Bahadur was also an excellent warrior, thinker, and poet, who wrote detailed descriptions of the nature of God, mind, body, and physical attachments among other things spiritual.
- His writings are housed in the sacred text, ‘Guru Granth Sahib,’ in the form of 116 poetic hymns.
- He was also an avid traveler and played a key role in setting up preaching centers throughout the Indian subcontinent.
- During one such mission, he founded the town of Chak-Nanki in Punjab, which later became a part of Punjab’s Anandpur Sahib.
- In the year 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed in Delhi under the orders of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.
- Hence, option A is correct.

8. Which amongst the following appliances must have the BEE energy rating label mandatorily under Indian law?

1. Colour TV

2. Electric Geyser
3. Tubular fluorescent
4. Room Air-conditioners

Choose from the codes given below:

- (a) 1 & 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 & 3 only
- (c) 3 & 4 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The following products have been notified under Mandatory Labelling.
- ✓ Frost Free (No-Frost) Refrigerator
- ✓ Tubular Fluorescent Lamps
- ✓ Room Air Conditioners
- ✓ Distribution Transformers
- ✓ Room Air Conditioners (Cassette, Floor Standing Tower, Ceiling, Corner AC)
- ✓ Direct Cool Refrigerator
- ✓ Electric Geysers
- ✓ Colour TV
- ✓ Room Air Conditioners (Inverter type)
- ✓ LED lamps

9. Consider the following statements with regards to the recently passed Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2020:

1. The Bill provides that every ART clinic and bank must be registered under the National Registry of Banks and Clinics of India.
2. The registration will be valid for five years and can be renewed for a further five years.

3. A bank can obtain semen from males between 21 and 55 years of age, and oocytes from females between 23 and 35 Years of age.
4. The woman can donate oocyte only once in her life and not more than seven oocytes can be retrieved from her.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 & 2 only
- (b) 2 & 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 & 4 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Bill provides that every ART clinic and bank must be registered under the National Registry of Banks and Clinics of India.
- The National Registry will be established under the Bill and will act as a central database with details of all ART clinics and banks in the country.
- The registration will be valid for five years and can be renewed for a further five years.
- Registration may be cancelled or suspended if the entity contravenes the provisions of the Bill. A bank can obtain semen from males between 21 and 55 years of age, and oocytes from females between 23 and 35 years of age. An oocyte donor should be an ever-married woman having at least one alive child of her own (minimum three years of age).

- The woman can donate oocytes only once in her life and not more than seven oocytes can be retrieved from her.
- A bank cannot supply the gamete of a single donor to more than one commissioning couple (couple seeking services).
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) conducted a pilot launch with 21 member banks in 2016.

10. Which of the following is not true with regards to Unified Payments Interface (UPI)?

- (a) It is an advanced version of Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) – round-the-clock funds transfer service to make cashless payments faster, easier and smoother.
- (b) UPI is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank), merging several banking features, seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood.
- (c) RBI launched UPI with 21 member banks in 2014.
- (d) The user doesn't have to pay any fee for UPI transactions.

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank), merging several Banking Features, Seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood.

1. What is the significance of NASA's LCRD Mission?

- (a) It aims to deflect an asteroid by intentionally crashing a spacecraft into it.
- (b) It is NASA's first-ever laser Communications system that will help the Agency test optical communication in space.
- (c) It is aimed at understanding the concentration of greenhouse gasses in the earth's atmosphere.
- (d) It is designed to robotically expand the existing International Space Station.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- NASA launched its new Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD). LCRD is NASA's first-ever laser communications system which will demonstrate all of the advantages of using laser systems

2. Consider the following:

1. Calcutta Unitarian Committee
 2. Tabernacle of New Dispensation
 3. Indian Reform Association
 4. Keshab Chandra Sen is associated with the establishment of which of the above?
- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

• **Calcutta Unitarian Committee:**

- The Calcutta Unitarian Committee was founded in 1823 by Rammohun Roy, Dwarkanath Tagore, and William Adam.
- The Calcutta Unitarian Committee aimed to gather together influential Brahmins as well as European citizens of Calcutta who were Unitarian Christians, to promote religious monotheism.

Tabernacle of New Dispensation:

- In 1868, Keshub Chandra Sen laid the foundation stone of his new church, the Tabernacle of New Dispensation.
- He introduced into the church the Pilgrimage to saints, the Homa ceremony, the Baptismal ceremony, the Lord's supper, etc.

Indian Reform Association:

- On October 29, 1870, the Indian Reform Association was founded, with Keshub Chunder Sen as its first president. It represented the secular side of the Brahmo Samaj and had many non-Brahmo Samaj members.

3. Consider the following statements with regards to the Ken-Betwa River interlinking project:

1. Ken and Betwa rivers originate in MP and are the tributaries of Yamuna.
2. The Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) is the river interlinking project that aims to transfer surplus water from the Betwa in

UP to Ken River in MP to irrigate the drought-prone Bundelkhand region.

3. Ken River passes through Panna Tiger Reserve.

Choose the correct statements:

- (a) 1 & 2 only
- (b) 2 & 3 only
- (c) 1 & 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- It is a project to transfer excess water from the River Ken to the Betwa basin through the use of a concrete canal.
- The project aims to provide irrigation to the Bundelkhand region, which is one of the worst drought-affected areas in India.

4. Which of the following is/are favourable conditions for formation of the cyclone?

1. Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C.
2. Absence of the Coriolis force.
3. Small variations in the vertical wind speed.
4. A pre-existing weak low- pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation.
5. Upper divergence above the sea level system.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

Answer: b)

Explanation:

Favourable Conditions for formation:

- Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C.
- **Presence of the Coriolis force.**
- Small variations in the vertical wind speed.
- A pre-existing weak low- pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation.
- Upper divergence above the sea level system.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. H9N2 is a subtype of the influenza A virus, which causes human influenza as well as bird flu.
2. H9N2 viruses are endemic in poultry in many areas and infections in humans are rare.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- H9N2 is a subtype of the influenza A virus, which causes human influenza as well as bird flu.

- The H9N2 subtype was isolated for the first time in Wisconsin, US in 1966 from turkey flocks.
- H9N2 viruses are found worldwide in wild birds and are endemic in poultry in many areas.
- H9N2 virus infections in humans are rare, but likely under-reported due to typically mild symptoms of the infections.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. The frequency of very severe cyclonic storms has increased in recent years over the Arabian Sea.
2. However, this has not measurably increased the threat to India's western coast, as most of these cyclones were making landfall in Oman and Yemen

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- An analysis of past data of cyclones over North Indian Ocean (Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea) during the period from 1891 to 2020 indicates that:
 - ✓ The frequency of “very severe cyclonic storms” has increased in recent years over the Arabian Sea. However, this has not

measurably increased the threat to India's western coast, as most of these cyclones were making landfall in Oman and Yemen.

- ✓ The Eastern Coast remained far more vulnerable to “Extremely Severe Cyclones” than the Western coast, but there was nevertheless “no significant trend” in the frequency of Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storms (ESCS).
- ✓ The number of deaths due to cyclones has decreased significantly, as a result of the improvement in the early warning skill of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- ✓ The effective mitigation measures and response actions by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) have also improved.

7. Consider the following statements:

1. Enforcement Directorate is a part of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.
2. It is mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of two special fiscal laws – Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only

- (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The origin of this Directorate goes back to 1st May, 1956, when an ‘Enforcement Unit’ was formed, in the Department of Economic Affairs, for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 (FERA ‘47).
- In the year 1957, this Unit was renamed as ‘Enforcement Directorate’.
- Presently, it is part of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Organization is mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of two special fiscal laws – Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).
- **So, statement 2 is correct.**

8. In context to Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), consider the following statements:
1. It is a statutory and institutionalized framework established under the RBI Act, 1934.
 2. The Governor of RBI is ex-officio Chairman of the MPC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the Monetary Policy Report (MPR) for the month of December 2021.
- The MPR is published by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of RBI.
- The MPC is a statutory and institutionalized framework under the RBI Act, 1934, for maintaining price stability, while keeping in mind the objective of growth. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The MPC determines the policy interest rate (repo rate) required to achieve the inflation target (4%) with a leeway of 2% points on either side. The Governor of RBI is ex-officio Chairman of the MPC. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

9. Consider the following statements:

1. Ken and Betwa rivers are the tributaries of Yamuna.
2. Ken River passes through Panna tiger reserve.
3. The Ken-Betwa inter-linking of rivers project lies in Bundelkhand region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Ken and Betwa rivers originate in MP and are the tributaries of Yamuna. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Ken meets with Yamuna in Banda district of UP and with Betwa in Hamirpur district of UP.
- Rajghat, Paricha and Matatila dams are over Betwa river.
- Ken River passes through Panna tiger reserve. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The Ken-Betwa inter-linking of rivers project lies in Bundelkhand, a drought-prone region, which spreads across 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

10. With reference to the Chakravarti

Rajagopalachari, consider the following statements:

1. He was first Governor General of Independent India.
2. He opposed the launch of the Quit India Movement.
3. He carried out a salt march at Vedaranyam in the Madras Presidency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, popularly known as Rajaji, was born on December 10th in 1878.
- He became the chairperson of the municipality of Salem in 1917 and served there for two years.
- In 1955, he was honoured with India's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna.
- He died on 25th December, 1972.

Role in Freedom Struggle:

- Non-Cooperation Movement: He met Mahatma Gandhi for the first time in 1919 in Madras (now Chennai) and participated in Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement.
- He was also jailed for two years in Vellore in 1920.
- After his release, he opened his own ashram to promote Gandhi's principles of Hindu-Muslim harmony and the abolition of untouchability.
- He was also a proponent of khadi.
- Dandi March: When Gandhi led the Dandi March to break the salt law in 1930, Rajagopalachari carried out a similar

march at Vedaranyam in the Madras Presidency. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

- He also became the editor of Gandhi's newspaper, Young India.
- Quit India Movement: During the Quit India Movement, Rajagopalachari opposed Gandhi.
- He was of the view that the British were going to leave the country eventually, so launching another Satyagraha was not a good decision. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- In 1947, during the absence of Lord Mountbatten, the last British viceroy and independent India's first Governor General, Rajagopalachari was temporarily chosen to hold the office. Hence, statement 1 is correct.



1. Which of the statements given below are correct regarding the powers given to the Armed Forces under The Armed Forces (Special Power) Act, 1958 (AFSPA)?

1. They have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area, can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.
2. If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant; enter or search premises without a warrant; and ban the possession of firearms.
3. Only the Centre (MHA) have got the powers to issue notification under Section 3 of AFSPA.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- In simple terms, AFSPA gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in “disturbed areas”.
- **Powers given to Armed Forces:**
 - ✓ They have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area, can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.

✓ If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant; enter or search premises without a warrant; and ban the possession of firearms.

✓ Any person arrested or taken into custody may be handed over to the officer in charge of the nearest police station along with a report detailing the circumstances that led to the arrest.

✓ **So, statement 1 and 2 is correct.**

- A disturbed area is one which is declared by notification under Section 3 of the AFSPA. An area can be disturbed due to differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.
- The Central Government or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.
- Both the Centre (MHA) and the State Governments have got the concurrent powers to issue notification under Section 3 of AFSPA.
- **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

2. Section 124A of IPC is sometimes seen in news. It is seen as a hindrance to which of the following Fundamental Right?

- (a) Article 21A.
- (b) Article 14.
- (c) Article 19.

(d) Article 32.

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Sedition, which falls under **Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code**, is defined as any action that brings or attempts to bring hatred or contempt towards the government of India and has been illegal in India since 1870.
- The sedition law has been in controversy for far too long. Often the governments are criticized for using the law — Section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) — against vocal critics of their policies.
- Therefore, this Section is seen as a restriction of individuals' freedom of expression and falls short of the provisions of reasonable restrictions on freedom of speech under **Article 19 of the Constitution**.

3. Lalibela is a conflicted region between which of the following countries?

- (a) Eritrea and Ethiopia
- (b) Israel and Palestine
- (c) South Korea and North Korea
- (d) Kenya and Tanzania

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Tigray rebels recently recaptured the north Ethiopian town of Lalibela, home to a UNESCO world heritage site, 11 days after

Ethiopian forces said they had taken it back.

- The Tigray Region is the northernmost of the nine regions (kililat) of Ethiopia.
- It is the homeland of the Tigrayan, Irob and Kunama peoples.
- It is also known as region 1 according to the federal constitution.
- Capital and largest city: Mekelle.
- It is bordered by Eritrea to the north, Sudan to the west, the Amhara Region to the south and the Afar Region to the east and south east.
- Ethiopia is a Landlocked Country on the Horn of Africa. (Most Populous Landlocked Country in the World).
- It shares borders with Eritrea to the north, Djibouti to the northeast, Somalia to the east, Kenya to the south, South Sudan to the west and Sudan to the northwest.
- Its capital and largest city is Addis Ababa.



4. Consider the following pairs:

Tiger Reserves	State
1. Satkosia	- Odisha
2. Srivilliputhur	- Chahattisgarh
3. Periyar	- Kerala
4. Orang	- Assam

Which of the following pairs given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) All the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Noticing defects and shortcomings in the Tangedco's proposal for laying a new underground electric cable to the Arulmigu Sundara Mahalingam Swami temple, on top of the Sathuragiri Hills in Tamil Nadu, the Forest Department has sought clarifications from the power utility.
- Activists said the move to electrify the temple with a new 11 KV high tension line would disturb the core habitat of the newly formed Srivilliputhur Tiger Reserve.
- Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve is the fifth Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu and 51st tiger reserve of the country which was accorded shortly before Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary received all clearances to become the Rajasthan's fourth and country's 52nd tiger reserve.

- Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve was established in February 2021. It was jointly declared by the Centre and Tamil Nadu governments.
- For this, the Megamalai WLS and the adjoining Srivilliputhur WLS were clubbed together.
- **Ecological Diversity:** Animals seen here are Bengal tiger, elephants, gaur, Indian giant squirrel, leopard, Nilgiri Tahrs, etc.
- It has a mix of tropical evergreen forests and semi-evergreen forests, dry deciduous forests and moist mixed deciduous forests, grassland.
- Other four Tiger reserves of Tamil Nadu:
 - ✓ Anamalai tiger reserve
 - ✓ Kalakkad - Mundanthurai tiger reserve
 - ✓ Mudumalai Tiger Reserve
 - ✓ Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve

5. In India, which of the following species are considered as Invasive species?

1. Red Eared Turtle
2. Senna Specatublis
3. Forked Fanwort
4. Eucalyptus

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 4 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- After the Pink Bloom, an alien flower named Forked Fanwort, that choked the Avala Pandi canal at Perambra in Kerala, yet another invasive species, red-eared slider turtle is posing a major threat to the biodiversity of waterbodies in the State.
- Most species such as Eucalyptus, Wattle (Acacia), introduced from Australia, have become highly invasive. In the last few years, the Forest Department has taken measures to stop the invasive species from spreading such as planting native floral species.
- *Senna spectabilis* is a plant species of the legume family (Fabaceae) in the subfamily Caesalpinioideae native to South and Central America.
- They are often grown as an ornamental in front yards, parks, gardens, buildings etc. due to their bright yellow flowers that bloom during the Summer Months.

6. Which amongst the following ministries is/are associated with the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme?

1. Ministry of Women and Child Development
2. Ministry of Law and Justice
3. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
4. Ministry of Education
5. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Options:

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 5

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana is a national initiative jointly run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Education.
- Each body is accountable for different aspects of the scheme.
- Budgetary control and administration of the BBBP falls under the MoWCD's purview. However, capacity building and quality control are responsibilities of the MoH & FW.

7. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the Soil Health Card Scheme?

1. The card will contain an advisory based on the soil nutrient status of a farmer's holdings.
2. It will provide insurance coverage and financial support to the non-loanee small and Marginal Farmers in case of Soil Erosion.
3. It aims to expand cultivable area under assured irrigation to maintain soil fertility.

Options:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- A Soil Health Card is used to assess the current state of soil health and, over time, to detect changes in soil health caused by Land Management.
- The card will provide an advisory based on a farmer's holding's soil Nutrient Level.
- The scheme will monitor the soil of the farmers well and will give them a formatted report.
- The soil card will give the farmers a proper idea of which nutrients their soil is lacking.
- The main aim behind the scheme was to find out the type of particular soil. And then provide ways in which we can improve it.
- The Soil Health Card does not provide insurance coverage and it does not aim to expand the cultivable area under irrigation.

8. Which of the following statements with regards to the Pinaka missile system is not correct:

- (a) The DRDO has teamed up with the France Military Industries to develop the Trajectory Correction System on Pinaka.
- (b) The Pinaka is a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher.

- (c) It is completely automatic and uses Microprocessor-based positioning and fire Control
- (d) Each battery of Pinaka consists of six launcher vehicles and each launcher vehicle has twelve rockets.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) is the principal organization of the Government of India's Ministry of Defense.
- The Defense Science Organization was founded in 1958 by the amalgamation of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production of the Indian Ordnance Factories.
- The DRDO has teamed up with the France Military Industries to develop the Trajectory Correction System on Pinaka.

9. The Chakma-Hajong community are the usual inhabitants of which of the following states in India?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Meghalaya
- (c) Nagaland
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Chakmas and Hajongs originated from the Chittagong Hill Tracts in former East Pakistan.
- They fled their homeland after the Kaptai dam project drowned it in the 1960s.
- The bulk of them were transferred to the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA), which is now Arunachal Pradesh.

10. The word 'Denisovan' is sometimes mentioned in media in reference to
- (a) Fossils of a kind of dinosaurs
 - (b) An early human species
 - (c) A cave system found in North-East India
 - (d) A geological period in the history of Indian subcontinent

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Scientists sifting through the genomes of people scattered across the islands of south-east Asia have found echoes of ancient pairings with not just one, but three separate populations of the archaic hominins known as Denisovans. First discovered in 2010, the Denisovans are a relatively recent Addition to the Human Family Tree.

1. With reference to the UNCLOS and its Maritime Zones, consider the following Statements:

1. UNCLOS is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces.
2. Each coastal state has full sovereignty over its territorial sea as like it has on its land territory.
3. In contiguous zone, the coastal state has the right to both prevent and punish infringement of fiscal, immigration, sanitary, and customs laws within its territory and territorial sea.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are *not* correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- UNCLOS is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Each coastal state has full sovereignty over its internal waters as like it has on its land territory. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

- In contiguous zone, the coastal state has the right to both prevent and punish infringement of fiscal, immigration, sanitary, and customs laws within its territory and territorial sea. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

2. Krishna River was recently seen in news. Which of the following are the tributaries of the Krishna River?

1. Tungabhadra
2. Mallaprabha
3. Koyna
4. Kabini

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) All the above

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- **Source:** It originates near Mahabaleshwar (Satara) in Maharashtra. It is the second biggest river in peninsular India after the Godavari River.
- **Drainage:** It runs from four states Maharashtra (303 km), North Karnataka (480 km) and the rest of its 1300 km journey in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh before it empties into the Bay of Bengal.

- **Tributaries:** Tungabhadra, Mallaprabha, Koyna, Bhima, Ghataprabha, Yerla, Warna, Dindi, Musi and Dudhganga.

- **Kabini is a tributary of River Cauvery. So, answer is b.**

3. Which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct regarding the appointment of the Chief Justice of India?

1. The Judges Inquiry Act mandates the outgoing Chief Justice of India to select the most senior then-sitting Supreme Court judge as the next CJI.
2. The procedure is initiated by the law minister seeking the recommendation of the outgoing CJI at the 'appropriate time', which is near to the date of retirement of the incumbent CJI.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Chief Justice of India is traditionally appointed by the outgoing Chief Justice of India on the day of his (or her) retirement.
- By convention, the outgoing Chief Justice of India selects the most senior then-sitting Supreme Court judge.

- Seniority at the apex court is determined not by age, but by:

- ✓ The date a judge was appointed to the Supreme Court.
- ✓ If two judges are elevated to the Supreme Court on the same day.
- ✓ The one who was sworn in first as a judge would trump another.
- ✓ If both were sworn in as judges on the same day, the one with more years of high court service would 'win' in the seniority stakes.
- ✓ An appointment from the bench would 'trump' in seniority an appointee from the bar.

- The Constitution of India does not have any provision for criteria and procedure for appointing the CJI. Article 124(1) of the Indian Constitution says there "shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India".

- The closest mention is in Article 126, which deals with the appointment of an acting CJI.
- In the absence of a constitutional provision, the procedure relies on custom and convention.
- The procedure to appoint the next CJI is laid out in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) between the government and the judiciary:

- ✓ The procedure is initiated by the Law Minister seeking the recommendation of the outgoing CJI at the ‘appropriate time’, which is near to the date of retirement of the incumbent CJI.
- ✓ The CJI sends his recommendation to the Law Ministry; and in the case of any qualms, the CJI can consult the collegium regarding the fitness of an SC judge to be elevated to the post.
- ✓ After receiving recommendation from the CJI, the law minister forwards it to the Prime Minister who then advises the President on the same.
- ✓ The President administers the oath of office to the new CJI.

Explanation:

MAJOR INTER-STATE RIVER DISPUTES	
River (s)	States
Ravi and Beas	Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan
Narmada	Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan
Krishna	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana
Vamsadhara	Andhra Pradesh & Odisha
Cauvery	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry
Godavari	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha
Mahanadi	Chhattisgarh, Odisha
Mahadayi	Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka
Periyar	Tamil Nadu, Kerala

4. Consider the following pairs:

River	Disputed states
1. Narmada	Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan
2. Krishna	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana
3. Vamsadhara	Chhattisgarh, Odisha
4. Cauvery	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

Which of the pairs given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer: d)

5. The Governor of a State is the Chancellor of
- (a) State Universities
 - (b) State and Central Universities
 - (c) State and Private Universities
 - (d) State, Central and Private Universities

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Governor serves as the State Universities’ ex-officio Chancellor.

- According to the terms of the relevant University's Act, the Governor selects the Vice Chancellor on the advice of the State Government.
- The honorary chancellor of all State-owned colleges is the governor of the state, who is selected by the president as the union's representative.

6. Which of the following statements with respect to Parliament House is/are correct?

1. The building was designed by the British architects Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker.
2. The foundation stone was laid by Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, in 1921.
3. It is said to have been based on Chausath Yogini Temple in Rajasthan.

Options:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens was crucial in the design and construction of New Delhi, which would eventually serve as the seat of the Government of India. New Delhi is often known as "Lutyens' Delhi" in honor of his contribution.

- He was also the major architect of various landmarks in New Delhi, including the India Gate, which he created in partnership with Sir Herbert Baker; he also designed Viceroy's House, which is now known as the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- During the Delhi phase of his India journey in 1921, the Duke of Connaught, together with Prince Arthur and Strathearn, laid the Groundwork for Parliament House.
- The Indian parliament building is reported to be built on the Chausath Yogini temple in Madhya Pradesh.

7. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:

1. Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the sects of Jainism.
2. Sarvastivadin held that the constituents of phenomena were not wholly momentary, but existed forever in a latent form.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation

- Buddhist sects include the Sautrantikas and Sammtiyas. The term "Sautrantika" refers to a sutra-follower. Sautrantika is

often regarded as another school of Buddhism that arose inside the Sarvastivada sect.

- Sarvastivadin believes that everything empirical is ephemeral, but that the dharma components are eternally persistent realities. This Buddhist group believes that all things exist and will continue to exist in the past, future, and Present.

8. In context to Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE), consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint effort of NASA and the Italian Space Agency.
2. It will replace the Chandra X-ray Observatory.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched a new mission named Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE).
- The IXPE observatory is a joint effort of NASA and the Italian Space Agency. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- It will study “the most extreme and mysterious objects in the universe – supernova remnants, supermassive black holes, and dozens of other high-energy objects.”
- Its primary length is two years and the observatory will be at 600 kilometers altitude, orbiting around Earth’s equator.
- It is expected to study about 40 celestial objects in its first year in space.
- It will complement other X-ray telescopes such as the Chandra X-ray Observatory and the European Space Agency’s X-ray observatory, XMM-Newton. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

9. In context to the James Webb Space Telescope, consider the following statements:

1. It is considered a successor of the Kepler Mission and will extend and complement its discoveries.
2. It is the result of an international collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Canadian Space Agency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- James Webb Space Telescope is the most powerful infrared telescope of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- It is also considered a successor of the Hubble Telescope and will extend and complement its discoveries. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The telescope is the result of an international collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Canadian Space Agency. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Webb will reveal new and unexpected discoveries, and help humanity understand the origins of the universe and our place in it.

Explanation:

- NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) has launched its new Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD). Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It is the first-ever laser communications system that will pave the way for future optical communications missions.
- It uses infrared light and has a shorter wavelength than radio waves. This will help the transmission of more data in a short time. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Further, Optical communications using lasers, will help increase the bandwidth 10 to 100 times more than radio frequency systems.
- Hence, statement 3 is correct.

10. In context to Laser Communications Relay Demonstration, consider the following statements:

1. It uses infrared light for data transmission.
2. It is launched by NASA
3. It offers higher bandwidth than radio frequency systems.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

1. Chardham Project was sometimes seen in News. Which of the following places constitute the same?

1. Kedarnath
2. Badrinath
3. Yamunotri
4. Gangotri
5. Kasi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
(d) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- It is a programme taken up by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for connectivity improvement for Chardham (Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri and Gangotri) in Uttarakhand and part of the route leading to Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.
- The cost of the project is around Rs. 12,000 Crore.
- It envisages improvement as well as development of 889 km length of national highways. Implementing Agencies are Uttarakhand State Public Works Department (PWD), BRO and the National Highway & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).

2. With respect to the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Model, consider the following statements:

1. Under this model, the cost borne by the government and the private player is 50:50.
2. Government invites bids for engineering knowledge from the private players and the procurement of raw materials and construction costs are met by the Government.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Under this model, the cost is completely borne by the government. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Government invites bids for engineering knowledge from the private players. Procurement of raw materials and construction costs are met by the Government. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

3. Which parts of the country currently do *not* come under AFSPA?

- (a) Whole of Assam
(b) Parts of Nagaland

(c) Whole of Manipur, with the exception of the Imphal municipal area.

(d) In Arunachal Pradesh, the districts of Tirap, Changlang and Longding, and the areas falling under Namsai and Mahadevpur police stations, bordering Assam.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The AFSPA has been in force for decades in most parts of the Northeast States. Under this law, an area can be declared a ‘disturbed area’, bringing into play the protection it offers to the armed forces for use of force in the notified area.
- The notification is extended periodically, mostly for six months at a time.
- As of today, **the whole of Assam and Nagaland** are ‘disturbed areas. The last six-month extension was made on August 28 and June 30 respectively.
- **The whole of Manipur, with the exception of the Imphal municipal area,** has been notified by the State government for one year from December 2020.
- In **Arunachal Pradesh**, the ‘disturbed area’ notification is confined to the
- **districts of Tirap, Changlang and Longding,** and the **areas falling under Namsai and Mahadevpur police stations, bordering Assam.**

- The AFSPA was revoked in Tripura in May 2015, after being in force since February 1997. It was revoked by a decision of the State Cabinet following substantial improvement in the ground situation.
- Meghalaya was under AFSPA for 27 years, until it was revoked from April 1, 2018. The Act was implemented in a 20-km area along the border with Assam.
- Jammu and Kashmir has a separate J&K Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1990.

4. Consider the following statements regarding Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA):

1. Unlawful activity refers any action that brings or attempts to bring hatred or contempt towards the government of India and has been illegal in India since 1870.
2. Only Indians can be charged under the UAPA.
3. It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India.

Which of the statement given above is correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- UAPA passed in 1967 aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.
 - Unlawful activity refers to any action taken by an individual or association intended to disrupt the territorial integrity and sovereignty of India. **So, statement 1 is not correct. Here the statement refers to the Sedition under Section 124A of IPC.**
 - The Act assigns absolute power to the central government, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so.
 - It has death penalty and life imprisonment as highest punishments.
 - Under UAPA, **both Indian and foreign nationals** can be charged. **So, statement 2 is not correct.** It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
 - Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court. The 2004 amendment, added "terrorist act" to the list of offences to ban organisations for terrorist activities, under which 34 outfits were banned.
 - Till 2004, "unlawful" activities referred to actions related to secession and cession of territory.
 - In August 2019, Parliament cleared the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 to designate individuals as terrorists if the individual commits or participates in acts of terrorism, prepares for terrorism, promotes terrorism or is otherwise involved in terrorism.
 - The Act empowers the Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by the said agency.
 - The Act also empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP or ACP or above rank officer in the state.
 - **So, statement 1 is correct.**
5. In context to the Central Universities in India, consider the following statements:
1. According to the Central Universities Act 2009, the President of India shall be the Chancellor of a central university.
 2. The President has the right to authorise inspections of academic and non-academic aspects of the Universities.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Under the Central Universities Act, 2009, and other statutes, the President of India shall be the Visitor (not a chancellor) of a central university. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The President's role is limited to presiding over convocations, Chancellors in central universities are titular heads, who are appointed by the President in his capacity as Visitor.
- The Vice Chancellor too are appointed by the Visitor from panels of names picked by search and selection committees formed by the Union Government.
- The Central Universities Act, 2009, adds that the President, as Visitor, shall have the right to authorise inspections of academic and non-academic aspects of the universities and also to institute inquiries. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

6. Consider the following, with regard to Buxa Tiger Reserve:

1. It runs along the international border with Bhutan.
2. The forest of the tiger reserve is mainly Moist Tropical Forest.

3. Sankosh, Raidak, Jayanti, Churnia are rivers flowing through it.

The above statements most appropriately are related to which of the following Tiger Reserves in India?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Buxa Tiger Reserve is situated in the Alipurduar Sub-division of Jalpaiguri District, West Bengal. It was created in 1983 as the 15th tiger reserve of India.
- It was declared as a National Park in January 1992.
- The northern boundary of Buxa Tiger Reserve runs along the international border with Bhutan. The Sinchula hill range lies all along the northern side of Buxa National Park and the Eastern boundary touches that of the Assam State.
- The forests of the reserve can be broadly classified as the 'Moist Tropical Forest'.
- The main rivers flowing across the Tiger Reserve are Sankosh, Raidak, Jayanti, Churnia, Turturi, Phashkhawa, Dima and Nonani. Hence, option A is correct.

7. Consider the following:

1. The Great Indian Bustard (GIB) is the flagship Grassland Species.
2. The GIB is listed as critically endangered under IUCN Red List.
3. The population of GIB is confined only to the Desert National Park of Rajasthan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Great Indian Bustard (GIB) is the State bird of Rajasthan and is considered India's most critically endangered bird.
- It is considered the flagship grassland species, representing the health of the grassland ecology. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat. Small populations occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Hence, statement 3 is not correct. The bird is under constant threats due to collision/electrocution with power transmission lines, hunting (still prevalent in Pakistan), habitat loss and alteration as a result of widespread agricultural expansion, etc.

Protection Status:

- International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List: Critically Endangered. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix 1
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): Appendix I
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule 1

8. Consider the following statements with regards to India's Republic Day parade:

1. No Central Asian leader has ever been the chief guest at India's Republic Day Parade.
2. 10 leaders from ASEAN nations were invited to India's Republic Day parade as Guests in 2016.
3. A beating retreat ceremony signifies the beginning of the parade.

Which of these statements is/are not correct?

- (a) 1 & 2 only
(b) 2 & 3 only
(c) 1 & 3 only
(d) All of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Kazakhstan's former President Nursultan Nazarbayev was the chief guest in 2009 for India's republic day parade.

- 10 leaders from ASEAN nations were invited to India's Republic Day parade as Guests in 2018.
- A beating retreat ceremony signifies the end of the parade.

9. Consider the following statements with regards to the UNCLOS:

1. UNCLOS is the only international convention that stipulates a framework for state Jurisdiction in Maritime Spaces.
2. The territorial sea extends seaward up to 24 nautical miles (nm) from its baselines.
3. Exclusive Economic Zone does not give a Coastal state the right to prohibit or limit freedom of navigation or overflight, subject to very limited exceptions.

Choose the correct statements:

- (a) 1 & 2 only
- (b) 2 & 3 only
- (c) 1 & 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, also called the Law of the Sea Convention, is an international agreement that establishes a legal framework for all marine and maritime activities.
- It lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and

seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources.

- The territorial sea extends seaward up to 12 nautical miles (nm) from its baselines.
- Exclusive Economic Zone does not give a coastal state the right to prohibit or limit freedom of navigation or overflight, subject to very limited exceptions. It only grants it the right to make use of the Natural Resources Available in the region.

10. Which amongst the following motions are moved against a member of Parliament for disregarding their rights and immunities granted to them so that they can effectively discharge their duties?

- (a) Calling attention motion
- (b) Privilege motion
- (c) Adjournment motion
- (d) Cut motion

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- All Members of Parliament (MPs) enjoy rights and immunities, individually and collectively, so that they can discharge their duties and functions effectively.
- Any instance when these rights and immunities are disregarded by any member of Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha is an offence, called 'breach of privilege', which is punishable under the Laws of Parliament.

- Any member from either house can move a notice in the form of a motion against the member who he/she thinks is guilty of the breach of privilege.
- Both Houses of the Parliament reserve the right to punish any action of contempt (not necessarily breach of privilege) which is against its authority and dignity, as per the laws.



1. In context to the Maritime Zones, consider the following :

1. The territorial sea extends seaward up to 12 nautical miles (nm) from its baselines.
2. The contiguous zone is an intermediary zone between the territorial sea and the high seas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982 divides marine areas into five main zones namely- Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the High Seas.
- Baseline is the low-water line along the coast as officially recognized by the coastal state.
- Internal waters are waters on the landward side of the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.
- The territorial sea extends seaward up to 12 nautical miles (nm) from its baselines. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- A nautical mile is based on the circumference of the earth and is equal to

- one minute of latitude. It is slightly more than a land measured mile (1 nautical mile = 1.1508 land miles or 1.85 km).
- The contiguous zone extends seaward up to 24 nm from its baselines.
- It is an intermediary zone between the Territorial Sea and the high seas. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The coastal state has the right to both prevent and punish infringement of fiscal, immigration, sanitary, and customs laws within its territory and territorial sea.
- Unlike the territorial sea, the contiguous zone only gives jurisdiction to a state on the ocean's surface and floor. It does not provide air and space rights.
- Each coastal State may claim an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) beyond and adjacent to its territorial sea that extends seaward up to 200 nm from its baselines.
- The ocean surface and the water column beyond the EEZ are referred to as the high seas.
- It is considered as "the common heritage of all mankind" and is beyond any national jurisdiction.
- States can conduct activities in these areas as long as they are for peaceful purposes, such as transit, marine science, and undersea exploration.

2. In context to the Pinaka Missile, consider the following :

1. It was developed jointly by India and Israel.
2. It is supposed to be a inter-continental missile of Highest Range.

Which of the statements given above is/are

Incorrect?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The development of the Pinaka multi-barrel rocket systems was started by the DRDO in the late 1980s, as an alternative to the Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher systems of Russian make called the ‘Grad’, which are still used by some regiments. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The Pinaka, a Multi-Barrel Rocket-Launcher (MBRL) system named after Shiva’s bow, can fire a salvo of 12 rockets over a period of 44 seconds.
- The existing Pinaka system, which is already in the Army, has a range of up to 35-37km. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

3. Consider the following statements with regard to ‘Log4Shell Vulnerability’:

1. The vulnerability is based on an open-source logging library.
2. It allows attackers to execute code remotely on a target computer.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- A critical vulnerability called Log4Shell, detected last week in widely used open-source logging software Apache Log4J, is now being exploited by attackers to target organizations all over the world, including India.
- The vulnerability is based on an open-source logging library used in most applications by enterprises and even government agencies. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The vulnerability is dubbed Log4Shell and is officially called CVE-2021-44228.
- CVE number is the unique number given to each vulnerability discovered across the world.
- The vulnerability was first detected on websites that were hosting servers of a Microsoft-owned game called Mine craft.

- The vulnerability can be exploited by using a single line of code and allows attackers to execute remote commands on a victim's system.
- It can be exploited by attackers to take control of any Java-based web server and carry out Remote Code Execution (RCE) attacks. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- In an RCE attack, attackers take control over the targeted system and can perform any function they want.
- The exploits for this vulnerability are already being tested by hackers, according to several reports, and it grants them access to an application, and could potentially let them run malicious software on a device or servers.

4. Consider the following statements with regards to the Draft Food Safety and Standards (Labeling And Display)

Regulations:

1. The front of all packaged food items will have to display the total number of calories, saturated and trans fats, salt, and added sugar content as well as the proportion of the daily energy needs fulfilled by the food item.
2. FSSAI has changed the symbol of vegetarian food from a green circle to a green triangle to help colour blind people distinguish it from the brown circle denoting non-vegetarian food.

3. If the total amounts of calories, fats, trans-fats, sugar, and sodium per serving exceed the stipulated limits, it would be indicated in red colour.

Choose the correct code:

- (a) 1 & 2 only
- (b) 2 & 3 only
- (c) 1 & 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The front of all packaged food items will have to display the total number of calories, saturated and trans fats, salt, and added sugar content as well as the proportion of the daily energy needs fulfilled by the food item. If the total amounts of calories, fats, trans-fats, sugar, and sodium per serving exceed the stipulated limits, it would be indicated in red colour.
- FSSAI has changed the symbol of vegetarian food from a Green Circle to a Green Triangle

5. Which of the following is issued by registered Foreign Portfolio investors to overseas investors who want to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly?

- (a) Certificate of Deposit
- (b) Commercial Paper
- (c) Promissory Note

(d) Participatory Note

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Participatory notes also referred to as P-Notes are financial instruments required by investors or hedge funds to invest in Indian securities without having to register with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

6. Consider the following statements with regards to the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution:

1. The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram to safeguard the rights of the tribal population in these states.
2. The Sixth Schedule establishes Tribal Advisory Councils in these states.
3. The Sixth Schedule was originally intended for the predominantly tribal areas (tribal population over 90%) of undivided Assam, which was categorised as “excluded areas” under the Government of India Act, 1935 and was under the direct control of the Governor.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 & 2 only
- (b) 2 & 3 only
- (c) 1 & 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram to safeguard the rights of the tribal population in these states. This special provision is provided under Article 244(2) and Article 275(1) of the Constitution.
 - The Sixth Schedule was originally intended for the predominantly tribal areas (tribal population over 90%) of undivided Assam.
 - The Sixth Schedule provides for the formation of autonomous district councils while the Fifth Schedule provides for Tribal Advisory Councils in the fifth schedule areas.
7. With respect to the Census, consider the following statements:
1. The Census was first started under British Viceroy Lord Mayo in 1872.
 2. The first synchronous census in India was held in 1881 and since then, censuses have been undertaken uninterruptedly once every ten years.
 3. The responsibility of conducting the decennial Census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are *not* correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The census provides information on size, distribution and socio-economic, demographic and other characteristics of the country's population.
- The Census was first started under British Viceroy Lord Mayo in 1872. It helped in framing new policies, government programs to uplift areas of improvement in the community. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The first synchronous census in India was held in 1881. Since then, censuses have been undertaken uninterruptedly once every ten years. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The responsibility of conducting the decennial Census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India under **Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The Census is one of the most credible sources of information on the following:
 - ✓ Demography.
 - ✓ Economic Activity.

- ✓ Literacy and Education.
- ✓ Housing & Household Amenities.
- ✓ Urbanization, Fertility, and Mortality.
- ✓ Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- ✓ Language.

8. Consider the following statements:

1. The Census provides a portrait of the Indian population, while the SECC is a tool to identify beneficiaries of state support.
2. Since the Census falls under the Census Act of 1948, all data are considered confidential, whereas all the personal information given in the SECC is open for use by Government departments to grant and/or restrict benefits to households.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

What is a Census?

- The origin of the Census in India goes back to the colonial exercise of 1881.
- Census has evolved and been used by the government, policymakers, academics, and others to capture the Indian Population, access resources, map social change, Delimitation exercise, etc.

- However, as early as the 1940s, W.W.M. Yeatts, Census Commissioner for India for the 1941 Census, had pointed out that “the census is a large, immensely powerful, but blunt instrument unsuited for specialized inquiry.”

What is SECC 2011?

- The Socio-Economic Caste Census of 2011 was a major exercise to obtain data about the socio-economic status of various communities.
- It had two components: a survey of the rural and urban households and ranking of these households based on pre-set parameters, and a caste census.
- However, only the details of the economic conditions of the people in rural and urban households were released. The caste data has not been released till now.
- SECC 2011 was conducted by three separate authorities but under the overall coordination of Department of Rural Development in the Government of India.
 - ✓ Census in Rural Area has been conducted by the Department of Rural Development (DoRD).
 - ✓ Census in Urban areas is under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA).
 - ✓ Caste Census is under the administrative control of Ministry of

- ✓ Home Affairs: Registrar General of India (RGI) and Census Commissioner of India.

Difference between Census & SECC:

- The Census provides a portrait of the Indian population, while the SECC is a tool to identify beneficiaries of state support.
- Since the Census falls under the Census Act of 1948, all data are considered confidential, whereas all the personal information given in the SECC is open for use by Government departments to grant and/or restrict benefits to households.

9. In the Context to the J&K Development Act of the J&K, what are the newly introduced laws?

1. Under a new provision, an Army officer not below the rank of Corps Commander can declare an area as “Strategic Area” within a local area, only for direct operational and training requirements of the armed forces.
2. Under the ‘transfer of land for the purpose of promotion of healthcare or education’, the government may now allow transfer of land in favour of a person or an institution for the purpose of promotion of healthcare or senior secondary or higher or Specialized Education in J&K.
3. No land used for agriculture purposes shall be used for any non-agricultural

purposes except with the permission of the District Collector.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Under the ‘transfer of land for the purpose of promotion of healthcare or education’, the government may now allow transfer of land “in favour of a person or an institution for the purpose of promotion of healthcare or senior secondary or higher or specialized education in J&K”. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- According to amendments made to “The Jammu & Kashmir Land Revenue Act, Samvat, 1996”, only agriculturists of J&K can purchase agricultural land. “No sale, gift, exchange, or mortgage of the land shall be valid in favour of a person who is not an agriculturist”.
- The Restriction on Conversion of Agricultural Land and Process for Permission of Non-Agriculture clause, however, puts conditions on the use of agricultural land. “No land used for agriculture purposes shall be used for any non-agricultural purposes except with the

permission of the district collector”. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

- Under a new provision, an Army officer not below the rank of Corps Commander can declare an area as “Strategic Area” within a local area, only for direct operational and training requirements of the armed forces. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The introduction of the UT of J&K Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020 by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has resulted in the repeal of at least 11 land laws in vogue in J&K earlier, including the J&K Big Landed Estates Abolition Act that had resulted in famous ‘Land to tiller’ rights.

10. With respect to the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), which of the statement(s) is/are correct?

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme to provide assured irrigation to cultivated areas, reduce wastage of water and improve water-use efficiency.
2. It only focuses on creating sources for assured irrigation.
3. All the States and Union Territories including the North-Eastern States are covered under the program.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

- (a) 1 only

- (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Launched in 2015, PMKSY is a centrally sponsored scheme to provide assured irrigation to cultivated areas, reduce wastage of water and improve water-use efficiency. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It **not only focuses on** creating sources for assured irrigation but **also aims to create protective irrigation by harnessing rainwater at the micro-level** through “Jal Sanchay” and “Jal Sinchan”.
- **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The scheme has been formulated by amalgamating other existing schemes like Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), and On Farm Water Management (OFWM).
- Ministries of Agriculture, Water Resources, and Rural Development are the implementing agencies of the scheme.
- PMKSY is being implemented in an area development approach, adopting decentralized state-level planning and projectized execution, allowing the states to draw their irrigation development plans based on district/block plans with a horizon of 5 to 7 years. States can take up

projects based on the District/State Irrigation Plan.

- All the States and Union Territories including the North-Eastern States are covered under the program. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- The motto of the Scheme is ‘Har Khet Ko Pani’.
- The funding pattern of the Scheme is 60:40 center-state share in the case of States, for the Himalayan and North-Eastern states, the center-state cost-share is 90:10, and for the Union Territories, 100% of the cost is borne by the Central Government.

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Section 3 of the Judges (Protection) Act of 1985 protects judges and former judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts from “any civil or criminal proceedings” for any act, thing or word committed, done or spoken by him in the course of their judicial duty or function.
2. The government can initiate criminal proceedings against a sitting or former judge of a superior court if it can produce material evidence to show that a judgment was passed after taking a bribe.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Delhi Judicial Service Association versus State of Gujarat judgment of the Supreme Court was the product of the notorious treatment meted out to the Nadiad Chief Judicial Magistrate by a few Gujarat police officials.
- It had the country’s legal and judicial bodies in an uproar, compelling the Supreme Court to issue directions of the procedure to be followed while arresting a judicial officer. Primarily, the court held

that a judicial officer “should be arrested for any offence under intimation to the District Judge or the High Court”.

- The immediate arrest shall only be a “technical or formal arrest”, after which it should be immediately communicated to the District and Sessions Judge of the district concerned and the Chief Justice of the High Court.
- The arrested judicial officer shall not be taken to a police station without the prior orders of the District Judge and no statements shall be recorded from him or her except in the presence of a counsel. He or she will not be handcuffed.
- Section 3 of the Judges (Protection) Act of 1985 protects judges and former judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts from “any civil or criminal proceedings” for any act, thing or word committed, done or spoken by him in the course of their judicial duty or function. No court shall entertain such complaints. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Section 77 of the Indian Penal Code exempts judges from criminal proceedings for something said or done during judicial duties.
- However, the government can initiate criminal proceedings against a sitting or former judge of a superior court under sub

- section (2) of Section 3 of Judges (Protection) Act, 1985 if it can produce material evidence to show that a judgment was passed after taking a bribe.

- **So, statement 2 is correct.**

2. With reference to the Socially Educational and Backward Class (SEBC), which of the statement(s) given below is/are **not** correct?

1. The President alone is empowered to identify SEBCs and include them in a list to be published under Article 342A (1) of the Constitution.
2. The States could only make suggestions to the President or the statutory commissions concerned for inclusion, exclusion or modification of castes and communities to be included in the List.
3. Once published, under Article 342A (1), the list can only be amended through a law enacted by Parliament.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Parliament recently passed a constitutional amendment aimed at restoring the rights
- of the States and the Union Territories to maintain their own list of socially and

educationally backward classes (SEBCs), commonly known as Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

- The Bill seeks to restore the **power of State governments to identify Other Backward Classes** that are socially and economically backward. **So, statements 1 and 2 is not correct.**

- Please note that In May 2021, the Supreme Court, in an order, had empowered only the Central government for such identification. The Bill amends this to provide that the President may notify the list of socially and educationally backward classes only for purposes of the central government.

- This central list will be prepared and maintained by the central government. The Bill enables states and union territories to prepare their own list of socially and educationally backward classes. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

- This list must be made by law, and may differ from the central list.

- Article 338B of the Constitution mandates the central and state governments to consult the NCBC on all major policy matters affecting the socially and Educationally Backward Classes.

3. Once the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework is invoked, what is/are the possible outcomes?

1. Based on the risk threshold, the RBI may prescribe mandatory corrective actions such as restriction on dividend distribution/remittance of profits, requiring promoters /shareholders to infuse equity and reducing leverage.
2. The RBI can also restrict the issuance of guarantees or take other contingent liabilities on behalf of group companies.
3. Further, the central bank may also restrict branch expansion, impose curbs on capital expenditure other than for technological up-gradation within board-approved limits and restrict/ directly reduce variable operating costs.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Based on the risk threshold, the RBI may prescribe mandatory corrective actions such as restriction on dividend distribution/remittance of profits, requiring promoters /shareholders to infuse equity and reducing leverage.

- The RBI can also restrict the issuance of guarantees or take other contingent liabilities on behalf of group companies (only for CICs).
- Further, the central bank may also restrict branch expansion, impose curbs on capital expenditure other than for technological up-gradation within board-approved limits and restrict/ directly reduce variable operating costs.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**

4. With reference to Elephant corridors, consider the following statements:

1. Elephant corridors are narrow strips of land that has more than hundreds of Elephants.
2. Gaj Yatra, a nationwide 15 months campaign to protect elephants, was launched on the occasion of World Elephant Day in 2017.
3. The campaign aims to create awareness about elephant corridors to encourage free movement in their habitat.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has pulled up the Union Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) for neglecting the elephant corridors in the Palakkad railway division. Elephants continue to die on rail tracks despite the Ministries jointly initiating short- and long-term measures, the CAG says in its latest report.
- Elephant corridors are narrow **strips of land that connect two large habitats of elephants. So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Elephant corridors are crucial to reduce animal fatalities due to accidents and other reasons.
- So fragmentation of forests makes it all the more important to preserve migratory corridors.
- ‘Gaj Yatra’, a nationwide campaign to protect elephants, was launched on the occasion of World Elephant Day in 2017. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The campaign is planned to cover 12 elephant range states. The elephant is part of India’s animal heritage and the Government celebrates this day to spread awareness about the conservation of the species.
- The 15 months campaign will be led by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI).

- The campaign aims to create awareness about elephant corridors to encourage free movement in their habitat.
- **So, statement 3 is correct.**

5. In context to the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, consider the following statements:

1. It allows for the exchange of evidence and information in criminal matters between the signing countries.
2. The Ministry of External Affairs is the nodal Ministry for seeking and providing mutual legal assistance in criminal law matters.
3. India has entered into a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with Poland.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) in criminal matters are the bilateral treaties entered between the countries for providing International cooperation and Assistance.

- These agreements allow for the exchange of evidence and information in criminal and related matters between the signing countries. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry and the Central authority for seeking and providing mutual legal assistance in criminal law matters. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The Ministry of External Affairs may be involved in this process when such requests are routed through diplomatic channels by these Ministries.
- As of November 2019, India has entered into Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties/Agreements with 42 countries.
- Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Government of India and Poland. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

6. Consider the following, with regard to Sixth Schedule of Indian constitution:

1. The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 provides for the formation of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs).
2. The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.
3. The ADCs are empowered to assess and collect land revenue and to impose certain Specified Taxes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 provides for the formation of autonomous administrative divisions — Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) — that have some legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy within a state. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Sixth Schedule contains special provisions for the administration of tribal areas in the four north-eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- The tribal areas in these four states have been constituted as autonomous districts. The Governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The acts of Parliament or the state legislature do not apply to autonomous districts or apply with specified modifications and exceptions.
- The power of direction, in this regard, lies either with the President or Governor.

- The district and regional councils administer the areas under their jurisdiction.
- They can make laws on certain specified matters like land, forests, canal water, shifting cultivation, village administration, the inheritance of property, marriage and divorce, social customs and so on. But all such laws require the assent of the Governor.
- They can constitute village councils or courts for trial of suits and cases between the tribes. They hear appeals from them. The jurisdiction of the high court over these suits and cases is specified by the governor.
- The district council can establish, construct or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries, roads and so on in the district.
- They are empowered to assess and collect land revenue and to impose certain specified taxes. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

7. Consider the following, with regard to UN Security Council (UNSC):

1. Article 23 of the UN Charter concerns the composition of the UN Security Council (UNSC).
2. The non-permanent members of the UNSC are elected by a two-thirds Majority.

3. There are no nominations for the two-year term election of non-permanent members of UNSC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The UNs Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Article 23 of the UN Charter concerns the composition of the UNSC. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The UNSC has been given primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.
- The UNSC is composed of 15 members, 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent.
- The ten non-permanent members are elected for two-year terms by the UN General Assembly.
- As stipulated in rule 144 of the rules of procedure, a retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election.

- In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election is held by secret ballot and there are no nominations. Under rule 83 of the rules of procedure, the non-permanent members of the Security Council are elected by a two-thirds Majority.
- Hence, statement 2 and statement 3 are correct.

- ✓ Chhau dance
- ✓ Kalbelia dance
- ✓ Mudiyettu
- ✓ Durga puja in Kolkata
- ✓ Buddhist chanting in Ladakh
- ✓ Sankirtana
- ✓ Traditional craft of thateras
- ✓ Nawrouz
- ✓ Kumbh mela

8. Consider the following traditions and choose the ones which have been recognized by UNESCO as part of India's intangible cultural Heritage:

1. Yoga
2. Kumbh Mela
3. Tradition of Vedic chanting
4. Nowruz
5. Durga Puja

Choose the correct statements:

- (a) 1,2 & 5 only
- (b) 2, 4 & 5 only
- (c) 1 & 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

The following have been recognized as part of India's intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO:

- ✓ Kutiyattam
- ✓ Vedic chanting
- ✓ Ramlila
- ✓ Ramman

9. Rustom II, developed by the DRDO is

- (a) A hypersonic missile system
- (b) An unmanned aerial vehicle or Drone
- (c) A tank suitable for high altitude warfare
- (d) A sonar system for identifying underwater

Mineral Nodules

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Rustom II is an unmanned aerial vehicle or Drone.
- It is a Medium Altitude Long Endurance unmanned air vehicle (UAV) being developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation for the three services, Indian Army, Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force of the Indian Armed Forces.

10. Which one of the following suggested that the Governor should be an eminent person from outside the State and should be a detached figure without intense political links or should not have taken part in politics in the recent past?

- (a) First Administrative Reforms Commission (1966)
- (b) Rajamannar Committee (1969)
- (c) Sarkaria Commission (1983)
- (d) National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000)

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Sarkaria Commission was set up in 1983 by the central government of India.
- The Sarkaria Commission's charter was to examine the central-state relationship on various portfolios and suggest changes within the framework of Constitution of India.
- One of the major suggestions of the commission was that the Governor should be an eminent person from outside the State and should be a detached figure without intense political links or should not have taken part in politics in the recent past.

1. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, clinical trials of new drugs and vaccines, and their approvals, are governed by the Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019.
2. The regulatory authority in India is the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Vaccines and medicines, and even diagnostic tests and medical devices, require the approval of a regulatory authority before they can be administered.
- In India, clinical trials of new drugs and vaccines, and their approvals, are governed by the Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019. The regulatory authority is the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).
- For vaccines and medicines, approval is granted after an assessment of their safety and effectiveness, based on data from trials.
- So, both statements are correct.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. A compulsory licence is a licence or authorisation issued by the government to an applicant for making, using and selling a patented product without the consent of the patentee.
2. The application for compulsory license can be made any time after 3 years from date of sealing of a patent.
3. Under the Section 92 of the Act compulsory licenses can also be issued suo motu by the Controller of Patents if there is either a national emergency or extreme urgency or in cases of public non-commercial use.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the three statements are correct.
3. In the context of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) 2010, consider the following statements:
 1. Under this act, candidate contesting the election is debarred from receiving contribution.

2. FCRA comes under the purview of the Department of Economic Affairs of Ministry of Finance.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- As per FCRA 2010, the following organizational individuals are debarred from receiving foreign contribution. They are

1. Candidate for election
2. cartoonist, editor, publishers of registered newspaper
3. Judge, government servants or employee of any corporation
4. Member of any legislature
5. Political parties.

- Despite being a law related to financial regulation, this law does not fall within the purview of the RBI but **under the Home Ministry** as it is internal security legislation.

4. When a person is illegally detained or put under unlawful arrest, he is protected under which of the following Fundamental Right?

- (a) Article 21A.
- (b) Article 14.

(c) Article 19.

(d) Article 32.

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Law Minister Kiren Rijju recently informed the Lok Sabha that a total of 52 petitions relating to “habeas corpus matters” are pending in the Supreme Court as on December 13.
- The Indian Constitution empowers the Supreme Court to issue writs for enforcement of any of the fundamental rights conferred by Part III of Indian Constitution under Article 32.
- Thus the power to issue writs is primarily a provision made to make available the Right to Constitutional Remedies to every citizen.
- There are five types of Writs: Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Prohibition, Certiorari and Quo warranto.
- **Mandamus:** A judicial writ issued as a command to an inferior court or ordering a person to perform a public or statutory duty.
- **Prohibition:** A writ of prohibition is a writ directing a subordinate to stop doing something the law prohibits. This writ is often issued by a superior court to the lower court directing it not to proceed with a case which does not fall under its jurisdiction.

- **Certiorari:** In law, certiorari is a court process to seek judicial review of a decision of a lower court or government agency.
- **Quo warranto:** Quo warranto is a prerogative writ requiring the person to whom it is directed to show what authority they have for exercising some right, power, or franchise they claim to hold.
- **Habeas Corpus:** It literally means “you may have the body.” The writ is issued to produce a person who has been detained, whether in prison or in private custody, before a court and to release him if such detention is found illegal.
- This writ is a bulwark of individual liberty against arbitrary detention.
- The writ of habeas corpus can be issued against both public authorities as well as private individuals.
- The writ, on the other hand, is not issued where the:
 - ✓ detention is lawful,
 - ✓ the proceeding is for contempt of a legislature or a court,
 - ✓ detention is by a competent court, and
 - ✓ detention is outside the jurisdiction of the court.

5. Which of the following is/are the features of Precision Agriculture?

1. Higher Agricultural Productivity.
2. More Chemical Application in crop production.
3. Efficient use of Water Resources.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Precision agriculture (PA) is an approach where inputs are utilised in precise amounts to get increased average yields, compared to traditional cultivation techniques such as agroforestry, intercropping, crop rotation, etc.
- It is based on sustainable agriculture and healthy food production and it consists of profitability and increasing production, economic efficiency and the reduction of Side Effects on the Environment.

Benefits:

- Increases Agriculture Productivity.
- Prevents soil Degradation.
- Reduces Chemical Application in crop Production.
- Efficient use of Water Resources.

- Disseminates modern farm practices to improve the quality, quantity and reduced cost of production.
- Changes the socio-economic status of Farmers.

6. The ‘VIHANGAM Platform, sometimes seen in the news is related to?

- (a) Promote online courses in the education sector.
- (b) Undertake real time digital transactions.
- (c) Promote the use of open source software.
- (d) Real-time transmission of aerial video of mining activities.

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Recently, an internet-based platform called ‘VIHANGAM’ integrated with a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) at Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) was inaugurated.
- The system consists of a Ground Control Station (GCS), an RPAS, internet lease line of 40 Mbps and VIHANGAM portal.
- The system enables real-time transmission of aerial video of mining activities from mines to internet platforms which can be accessed through VIHANGAM portal by authorized personnel only having ID and password.
- Hence, option D is correct.

7. In context to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), consider the following:

1. It was earlier called Shanghai Five.
2. Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is permanent body of the SCO.
3. India and Pakistan became members in 2019.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was established as a multilateral association to ensure security and maintain stability across the vast Eurasian region.
- Prior to the creation of SCO in 2001, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were collectively called the Shanghai Five. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- SCO-RATS is a permanent body of the SCO and is intended to facilitate coordination and interaction between the SCO member states in the fight against terrorism, extremism and separatism. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- India and Pakistan became members in 2017.
- Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

- Member countries: Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan.

8. With reference to Silverline Rail Project, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The project would be a vital link between Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram
2. It is exclusively for transporting freight at higher speed with increased load-carrying capacity

Options:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) None

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- SilverLine Project is a Semi High-Speed Rail between Thiruvananthapuram and Kasaragod.
- It is being planned as a mode of public transportation. SilverLine will bring remarkable changes in local commute, by improving the travel time and quality of transportation.

9. Consider the following statements:

1. Removal proceedings against a Judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court can be initiated in either House of Parliament
2. A Judge may be removed from office through a motion adopted by Parliament on grounds of 'proven misbehavior or unsound mind'.

Which of the above statements is/are

Incorrect?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) None

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Article 124(4) of the Constitution of India lays down the procedure for impeachment of judges.
A Judge of the Supreme Court must be removed from his office by order of the President. Such an order needs the approval of both the Houses of Parliament. Removal proceedings against a Judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court can be initiated in either House of Parliament.
- For this, a notice of a motion to remove the judge has to be signed,
 - ✓ If emanating from the Lok Sabha, by not less than one Hundred Members,
 - ✓ If emanating from the Rajya Sabha, by not less than Fifty Members.

- ✓ A judge may be removed from office through a motion adopted by Parliament on grounds of ‘proven misbehavior or Incapacity’.

10. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act?

1. Burden of proof in POCSO cases lies on the accused.
2. POSCO is a gender-neutral law

Options:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) None

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Usually, in criminal cases, the burden of proof lies on the prosecution, and the guilt must be proved beyond reasonable doubt. However, under POCSO, Burden of proof lies on the accused.
- POCSO is gender neutral, meaning that crimes of this nature committed against children will be handled by this act regardless of the gender of the child.

1. Consider the following statements regarding the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT):

1. It is a quasi-judicial body constituted under the Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013.
2. The President, chairperson and Judicial Members of the Appellate Tribunal are appointed after consultation with the President of India.
3. It can only hear and dispose appeals against any orders passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Which of the statement(s) given below is/are *not* correct?

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) is a quasi-judicial body constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June, 2016. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The President, chairperson and Judicial Members of the Appellate Tribunal are appointed after consultation with the **Chief Justice of India. So, statement 2 is not correct.**

- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

• **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

2. The Living Root Bridges are the aerial bridges that are built by weaving and manipulating the roots of the Indian rubber tree. They are prominently found in which of the following state?

- (a) Meghalaya
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Assam
- (d) Sikkim

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Living root bridges (also known as Jing Kieng Jri) are the aerial bridges that are built by weaving and manipulating the roots of the Indian rubber tree.



- ✓ A root bridge uses traditional tribal knowledge to train the roots of the Indian rubber tree (found in abundance in the area) to grow laterally across a stream bed resulting in a living bridge of roots.
 - ✓ It spans between 15 and 250 feet and is built over centuries.
 - They have been serving as connectors for generations in the Indian state of Meghalaya.
 - ✓ The bridges are primarily a means to cross streams and rivers. They have also become world-famous tourist attractions. The two most popular tourist spots are- Riwai Root Bridge and Umshiang Double Decker Bridge.
 - They have three main properties:
 - ✓ They are elastic,
 - ✓ The roots easily combine, and
 - ✓ The plants grow in rough and rocky soils.
3. Consider the following statements regarding ‘Article 44 of the Indian Constitution’:
1. The article states that ‘The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India’.
 2. It is one of the Economic Social Principle of DPSP in Part IV of the Indian Constitution.

3. Although the Indian constitution was compiled by Dr. BR Ambedkar, it was Pandit Nehru who introduced Article 44 to the constitution which sought to establish India’s status as a secular state.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Article 44 states that ‘The State shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India’. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is one of the Liberal-Intellectual Principle of DPSP in Part IV of the Indian Constitution. **So, statement 2 is not correct.** Although the Indian constitution was compiled by Dr. BR Ambedkar, it was Pandit Nehru who introduced Article 44 to the constitution which sought to establish India’s status as a ‘secular state’. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- The minimum age of marriage is distinct from the age of majority, which is gender-neutral.
- ✓ An individual attains the age of majority at 18 as per the Indian Majority Act, 1875.

- ✓ For Hindus, Section 5(iii) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 sets 18 years as the minimum age for the bride and 21 years as the minimum age for the groom. Child marriages are not illegal but can be declared void at the request of the minor in the marriage.
- ✓ In Islam, the marriage of a minor who has attained puberty is considered valid under personal law.
- The Special Marriage Act, 1954 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 also prescribe 18 and 21 years as the minimum age of consent for marriage for women and men respectively

4. Recently the Union Cabinet gave nod to raise the legal marriage age. With reference to this context consider the following statements:

1. The age of marriage should be increased to 21 years for both men and women.
2. This decision is based on the recommendation of a panel led by Ms. Mamata Banerjee.
3. The recommendation is based on the rationale of population control.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- The Cabinet has decided to raise the legal age of marriage for **women from 18 to 21**. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- This decision is based on the recommendation of a panel led by **Jaya Jaitly**. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech last year proposed a panel on the “age of a girl entering motherhood” to lower maternal mortality rates and improve nutrition levels.
- But when the decision to appoint a task force was announced, its terms of reference included examining “the correlation of age of marriage and motherhood” with health and Nutritional status of Mothers and Infants.
- The Government should look into increasing access to schools and colleges for girls, including their transportation to these institutes from far-flung areas.
- Skill and business training has also been recommended, as has sex education in schools.
- These deliveries must come first, as, unless they are implemented and women are empowered, the law will not be as effective.

Answer: a)

- The committee has said the recommendation is **not based on the rationale of population control** (India's total fertility rate is already declining) but more with women's empowerment and Gender Parity.
- **So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The committee has said access to education and livelihood must be enhanced simultaneously for the law to be Effective.

5. With reference to Application Programming Interface (API), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Open-source APIs are publicly available to consumers as well as software developers.
2. Every web service is an API.
3. APIs are protocol agnostic; can use any protocols or design styles.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer d)

Explanation:

- An 'Application Programming Interface' (API) is an interface that can be used to program software that interacts with an Existing Application.

- An open-source API, also called public API, is an application programming interface made publicly available to software developers.
- Open APIs are published on the internet and shared freely, allowing the owner of a network-accessible service to give universal access to consumers. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

APIs vs Web Services:

- APIs and web services are not mutually exclusive. In fact, one is a subset of the other: every web service is an API — since it exposes an application's data and/or functionality — but not every API is a web service. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- APIs are protocol agnostic. While APIs can use any protocols or design styles, web services usually use specific protocols. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Hence, option D is correct

6. Consider the following, with regard to ancient Historical Period:

1. It is the first metal age of India.
2. Wheel made pottery mostly of red and orange colour was prevalent.
3. Inamgaon and Eran are important sites.

Select the correct

- (a) Chalcolithic Period
- (b) Neolithic Period
- (c) Palaeolithic Period

(d) Megalithic Period

Answer a)

Explanation:

About Chalcolithic Period:

- The end of the Neolithic period saw the use of metals. Several cultures were based on the use of copper and stone implements.
- Such a culture is called Chalcolithic and as the name indicates, during the Chalcolithic (Chalco = Copper and Lithic = Stone) period, both metal and stone were utilised for the manufacture of the equipment in day-to-day life.
- It is the first metal age, copper and its alloy bronze which melted at low temperature were used for the manufacture of various objects during this period.
- The specialty of the Chalcolithic culture was wheel made pottery mostly of red and orange colour.
- The Malwa culture was a Chalcolithic archaeological culture which existed in the Malwa region of Central India and parts of Maharashtra in the Deccan Peninsula.
- Sites of the Malwa Culture include Daimabad, Inamgaon, Kayatha, Nagda, Vidisha, Eran, Mandsaur, and Navdatoli (Near Maheshwar)

7. Which of the following conventions/protocol that mandates the sharing of benefits derived from the use of genetic resources covered by the CBD is?

- (a) Nagoya Protocol
- (b) Basel Convention
- (c) Kyoto Protocol
- (d) Stockholm Convention

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Nagoya Protocol applies to genetic resources that are covered by the CBD, and to the benefits arising from their utilization.
- The Nagoya Protocol also covers traditional knowledge (TK) associated with Genetic Resources that are covered by the CBD and the benefits arising from its utilization.
- The CBD's 10th Conference of the Parties, in Nagoya 2010 adopted an international legally binding protocol on access to Genetic Resources and benefit-sharing

8. Consider the following statements with regards to the India–Central Asia dialogue:

1. India-Central Asia Dialogue is a ministerial-level dialogue between India and the Central Asian countries namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

2. The first India-Central Asia Dialogue was held in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan.
3. All the countries participating in the dialogue are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Choose the Correct statements:

- (a) 1 & 2 only
(b) 2 & 3 only
(c) 1 & 3 only
(d) All of the above

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- It is a ministerial-level discussion between India and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan in Central Asia. The inaugural meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue was jointly organized by India and Uzbekistan on 13 January 2019 in Samarkand (Uzbekistan).
- Except for Turkmenistan, all of the nation's taking part in the debate are also members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

9. Nord Stream 2 pipeline, recently seen in the news, connects which of the following nations?
- (a) Russia – Ukraine
(b) Russia – Germany
(c) Russia – China
(d) Russia – Poland

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Nord Stream 2 is a twin-pipe gas pipeline that runs through the Baltic Sea. It will transport up to 55 billion cubic meters of Gas per year from Russia to Germany

10. Which one of the following is not a subindex of the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business Index'?

- (a) Maintenance of law and order
(b) Paying taxes
(c) Registering property
(d) Dealing with construction permits

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The World Bank Group designed the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) index as a Rating System.
- The parameters of Ease of Doing Business Index are: –
 - ✓ Starting a Business
 - ✓ Dealing with Construction Permits
 - ✓ Getting Electricity,
 - ✓ Registering Property, Getting Credit,
 - ✓ Protecting Minority Investors,
 - ✓ Paying Taxes,
 - ✓ Trading Across Borders,
 - ✓ Enforcing Contracts and
 - ✓ Resolving Insolvency.
 - ✓ Thus, maintaining law and order is not a factor in the 'Ease of Doing Business Index.'

1. With respect to the Delimitation Commission, which of the statements given above are *not* correct?

1. Delimitation Commission is a temporary body constituted only after every census.
2. Delimitation will be done to the UT of Jammu & Kashmir as per the rules of the J&K Representation of the People Act 1957.
3. These bodies are so powerful that its orders have the force of law and they cannot be challenged before any court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
- Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.
- Once the Act is in force, the Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission.
- The J&K Representation of the People Act 1957 has now been invalidated and, instead, delimitation to the UT of J&K

- will be done as per the **Representation of the People Act, 1950** (as amended from time to time) and provisions of Sections 59, 60 of Act 34 of 2019. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

- These bodies are so powerful that its **orders have the force of law and they cannot be challenged before any court.** **So, statement 3 is correct.**

- Bifurcation of J&K into two UTs has led to redrawing of Assembly constituency boundaries. While, the UT of Ladakh will not have its own legislature, J&K will. This would be similar to Puducherry or Delhi.

- They are constituted after every Census. However, such delimitation was also necessitated in 2014 when Andhra Pradesh and Telangana were bifurcated. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

2. Consider the following statements regarding Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021:

1. The bill seeks to link the electoral rolls with the Aadhaar card.
2. It will provide registration of new voters on four qualifying dates in place of the existing January 1 of every year.
3. The amendment will replace the word 'spouse' with the word 'wife', which has created a contention between the Gender-Neutral activists.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are **not** correct?

- a) 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 that seeks to link electoral rolls to Aadhaar number has been passed by the Lok Sabha recently. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It will provide registration of new voters on four qualifying dates in place of the existing January 1 of every year. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- At present, anyone turning 18 on or before January 1 will be eligible to be registered as a voter. Anyone born after January 1 will have to get enlisted only after a year.
- According to the bill, along with January 1, there will be three other qualifying dates – April 1, July 1 and October 1 – in every calendar year.
- The amendments also allow the elections to become gender neutral for service voters.
- The amendment will help replace the word ‘wife’ with the word ‘spouse’ making the statutes “gender neutral”.

- At present, an Armyman’s wife is entitled to be enrolled as a service voter, but a woman officer’s husband is not. With ‘wife’ being replaced by the term ‘spouse’, this will change. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Uttar Pradesh was the first state to pass a law against lynching in the state.
2. Rajasthan, Manipur and West Bengal are the only states to pass law against Mob Lynching.
3. The Supreme Court has given guideline to the State Governments to prepare a lynching/mob violence victim Compensation Scheme.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- On December 18, a man was lynched to death by the Sikh Sangat (Sikh devotees) in Shri Harmandir Sahib Gurudwara (Golden Temple) in Amritsar over an alleged attempt to disrespect the holiest book of Sikh religion, Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji.

- Manipur was the first state to pass a law against lynching in the state. So, statement 1 is not correct.
- Rajasthan, Manipur and West Bengal are the only states to pass law against Mob Lynching. So, statement 2 is correct.
- The Supreme Court has given guideline to the State governments to prepare a lynching/mob violence victim compensation scheme. So, statement 3 is correct.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Red fort fuses architectural styles of the Timurids and the Persians.
2. It is one of the UNESCO World Heritage Site on the Banks of River Yamuna.
3. It was built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Red fort fuses architectural styles of the Timurids and the Persians.
- **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Red Fort has many structures that serve as fine examples of Islamic architectural style and Mughal architecture.

- Built By: Shah Jahan. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Architect: Ustad Ahmad Lahauri
- Architectural styles: Mughal, Indo-Islamic
- Current Status: UNESCO World Heritage Site On the Banks of River Yamuna. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Red Fort is known for its gardens and a water channel called The Stream of Paradise.

5. Consider the following, with regard to International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) :

1. It is corridor connects the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea.
2. It was established by Iran, Russia and India for the purpose of promoting transportation cooperation among the Member States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- It is a multi-modal transportation established on 12th September 2000 in St. Petersburg, by Iran, Russia and India for the purpose of promoting transportation

cooperation among the Member States.
Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- The INSTC was expanded to include eleven new members, namely: the Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Ukraine, Republic of Belarus, Oman, Syria, Bulgaria (Observer).
- It envisions a 7,200-km-long multi-mode network of ship, rail and road route for transporting freight, aimed at reducing the carriage cost between India and Russia by about 30% and bringing down the transit time from 40 days by more than half.
- This corridor connects India Ocean and the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via the Islamic Republic of Iran and then is connected to St. Petersburg and North Europe via the Russian Federation. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. The District Mineral Foundation is a statutory body.
2. The funds accrued under DMF is used under Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- As per the Mine and Minerals Development Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2015, in every district affected by mining-related operations, the state government shall, by notification, establish a trust as a non-profit body to be called the District Mineral Foundation. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Mining companies contribute 10-30% of the royalty amount that they pay to the government to DMF Trust in the district they are operating in.
- The idea behind the contribution is that local mining-affected communities, mostly tribal and among the poorest in the country, also have the right to benefit from natural resources extracted from where they live. DMFs have been set-up in 572 districts of the country, with a cumulative accrual of more than Rs. 40,000 crores so far as per Ministry of Mines (MoM) data.
- The functioning of the DMF trusts and the fund use governed by states' DMF Rules incorporate the mandates of a central guideline, Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) that specifies high priority areas of investments. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

7. Consider the following, with regard to panna tiger reserve:

1. It is situated in the Vindhya Mountain ranges.
2. The Panna region is famous for diamond mining.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Panna Tiger Reserve was established in 1981 and is situated in the Vindhya Mountain range in the northern part of Madhya Pradesh. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Ken river (a tributary of the Yamuna River) flows through the reserve.
- The region is also famous for Panna diamond mining. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Ken-Betwa River interlinking project will be located within the tiger reserve.

8. Delft Island often seen in news is a part of:

- (a) Vietnam
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Maldives
- (d) Australia

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Delft island is in Sri Lanka. It was in news recently because some Indian fishermen were arrested close to the island by Sri Lankan navy for trespassing.

9. Which of the following statements best describes “Operation Vijay”?

- (a) A codename assigned to the Indian Air Force’s strike to support the ground troops in an Indian operation to push back the infiltrators from the Kargil sector.
- (b) A codename given to the operation by the Indian Peace Keeping Forces to wrest control of Jaffna from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
- (c) A code name assigned to the military operation by which Republic of India took control of Portuguese Indian territories of Goa, Daman and Diu.
- (d) A code name for the police operation in which the Indian Armed Forces invaded the state of Hyderabad and annexed the state to the Indian Union.

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- 2021 marks the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Goa from Portugal, in 1961.
- Operation Vijay was the military action by which India liberated the territories of Goa, Daman and Diu from Portuguese rule in 1961.

10. Which among the following was the first military exercise between Indian and Vietnamese Armies?

- (a) INVITEX
- (b) LAMITIYE
- (c) VINBAX
- (d) Ekuverin

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- VINBAX is the military exercise between armies of India and Vietnam.
- It stands for India-Vietnam Bilateral Army Exercise.



1. Consider the following statements regarding the Special Category Status to states:

1. The concept of Special Category Status emerged in 1969 with the approval Gadgil formula.
2. Low population density or sizeable share of tribal population is one of the criteria to Special Category Status.
3. Andhra Pradesh is the last state to get the Special Category Status.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- There is no provision of SCS in the Constitution; the Central government extends financial assistance to states that are at a comparative disadvantage against others.
- The concept of SCS emerged in 1969 when the Gadgil formula (that determined Central assistance to states) was approved. So statement 1 is correct.
- First SCS was accorded in 1969 to **Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland.**

- Over the years, eight more states were added to the list — Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura and, finally, in 2010, Uttarakhand.

- Hilly and difficult terrain, **Low population density or sizeable share of tribal population**, Strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries, Economic and infrastructural backwardness and non-viable nature of state are the eligibility criteria to accord SCS. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- First SCS was accorded in 1969 to Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland.

- Over the years, eight more states were added to the list — Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura and, finally, in 2010, Uttarakhand.

- But now Article 35A has been scrapped and Jammu & Kashmir has become a union territory with legislature. Now, both Special Status and Special Category status doesn't apply to J&K anymore.

- Andhra Pradesh has recently revived its demand for Special Category Status (SCS). It is not under SCS. **So, statement 3 is incorrect.**

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Rule 255 of the General Rules of Procedure of the Rajya Sabha provides for Withdrawal of Member, whereas Rule 256 provides for Suspension of a Member.
2. Unlike the Speaker, the Rajya Sabha Chairman has the power to suspend a Member.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Rule 255 provides for ‘Withdrawal of Member’; whereas Rule 256 provides for Suspension of a Member.
- Under Rule 255, “of the General Rules of Procedure of the Rajya Sabha, “The Chairman may direct any member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the Council and any member so ordered to withdraw shall do so forthwith and shall absent himself during the remainder of the day’s meeting.”
- Like the Speaker in Lok Sabha, the Chairman of Rajya Sabha is empowered under Rule Number 255 of its Rule Book

- to “direct any Member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately” from the House.
- Unlike the Speaker, however, the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not have the power to suspend a member.
- The House has to adopt a motion suspending the Member from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the cold wave:

1. A cold wave is declared when there’s a significant increase in minimum or night time temperature.
2. For the plains, a cold wave is declared when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 degrees Celsius (C) less than normal for two consecutive days.
3. Presence of cloud cover in the region is one of the reason for the occurrence of cold wave.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- **Cold Wave:** A rapid fall in temperature within 24 hours to a level requiring substantially increased protection to agriculture, industry, commerce, and social activities. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

Cold Wave Conditions:

- For the plains, a cold wave is declared when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 degrees Celsius (C) less than normal for two consecutive days. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- For coastal stations, the threshold value of minimum temperature of 10 degree Celsius is rarely reached. However, the local people feel discomfort due to the wind chill factor which reduces the minimum temperature by a few degrees depending upon the wind speed.
- ✓ A wind chill factor is a measure of the cooling effect of the wind on the temperature of the air.

Reasons for the Fall in Minimum Temperature:

- **Absence of cloud cover in the region:** Clouds trap some of the outgoing infrared radiation and radiate it back downward, warming the Ground.
- **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- **Snowfall in the upper Himalayas** that has blown cold winds towards the region.
- **Subsidence of cold air over the region:** Subsidence is the downward movement of cold and dry air closer to the surface.
- **Prevailing weak La Nina conditions in the Pacific Ocean.**
- La Nina is the abnormal cooler sea surface temperatures reported along the equatorial Pacific Ocean and it is known to favour cold waves.
- During La Nina years, the severity of cold conditions becomes intense. The frequency and area covered under the grip of a cold wave becomes larger.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the NATO:

1. NATO is a military alliance established by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
2. Montenegro became the latest member to join NATO in 2017.
3. Recently US have withdrawn from the alliance after the dispute regarding operating budget in NATO.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- NATO will seek meaningful discussions with Moscow early next year to address tensions amid a Russian military build-up on Ukraine's border.
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April 4, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- A key provision of the treaty, the so-called Article 5, states that if one member of the alliance is attacked in Europe or North America, it is to be considered an attack on all members. That effectively put Western Europe under the "nuclear umbrella" of the US.
- NATO has only once invoked Article 5, on September 12, 2001 following the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center in the US.
- As of 2019, there are 29 member states, with Montenegro becoming the latest member to join the alliance in 2017.
- France withdrew from the integrated military command of NATO in 1966 but remained a member of the organization.

However, it resumed its position in NATO's military command in 2009.

5. In context to the Beas River, consider the following:

1. It originates near the Rohtang Pass.
2. It meets the Satluj river at Harike in Punjab.
3. It lies entirely within Indian territory.

Which of the statement given below are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

About Beas River:

- It originates near the Rohtang Pass, at a height of 4,062 m above sea level, on the southern end of the Pir Panjal Range, close to the source of the Ravi. It is a tributary of the Indus river. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It meets the Satluj river at Harike in Punjab. It is a comparatively small river which is only 460 km long but lies entirely within the Indian territory.
- Hence, statement 2 and statement 3 are correct.
- It forms a gorge at Kati and Largi in the Dhauladhar range.

- The major tributaries of the Beas River are Bain, Banganga, Luni and Uhal, along with Banner, Chakki, Gaj, Harla, Mamuni, Parvati, Patlikuhlal, Sainj, Suketi and Tirthan.

6. Consider the following, With reference to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC):

1. It was established in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War in 1991.
2. Its headquarters is in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
3. India is not a member of OIC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the collective voice of the Muslim world.
- It is the second-largest intergovernmental organisation after the United Nations with a membership of 57 states.
- It was established upon a decision of the historical summit which took place in Rabat, the Kingdom of Morocco on the 25th of September 1969. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- **Headquarters:** Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- India is not a member of the OIC. However, India was invited as a guest of honor at the 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in 2019. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

7. In context to the Islamic Development Bank, consider the following:

1. The purpose of the Bank is to foster economic development in accordance with the principles of Shari'ah.
2. The basic condition for membership of this bank is to have a certain proportion of the total population of the country to be Muslim.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Islamic Development Bank is an international financial institution established in pursuance of the Declaration of Intent issued by the Conference of Finance Ministers of Muslim Countries held in Jeddah in December 1973, and the Bank was formally opened in October 1975.

- The purpose of the Bank is to foster the economic development and social progress of member countries and Muslim communities individually as well as jointly in accordance with the principles of Shari'ah i.e., Islamic Law. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Bank's principal office is in Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- The present membership of the Bank consists of 56 countries.
- The basic condition for membership is that the prospective member country should be a member of the OIC, pay its contribution to the Capital of the Bank and be willing to accept such terms and conditions as may be decided upon by the IDB Board of Governors.
- Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

8. PANEX-21 is being held among the member countries of which of the following organisations?

- (a) Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
- (b) South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
- (c) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- (d) BRICS nations

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- PANEX-21 is a multi-agency exercise of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries.
- It is an exercise in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.
- Subject area experts and delegates from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand will attend the exercise.

9. The KAPILA Campaign was launched by the Government of India to:

- (a) Ensure Universal Availability of COVID-19 Vaccines, especially to vulnerable and low-income countries.
- (b) Increase awareness regarding the protection and exploitation of Intellectual Property (IP) and provide funding support to promote the filing of IP in Higher Education Institutions.
- (c) Prevent and stop the growing incidence of cyber violence and sexual abuse faced by women in India.
- (d) Ensure integrated water resource management helping to conserve water, minimize wastage and ensure more equitable distribution.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Government has established a campaign called the Kalam Program for

Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness Campaign (KAPILA) to raise awareness about intellectual property protection and exploitation (IP).

- It also gives financial assistance to Encourage the filing of Intellectual Property (IP) at Higher Education Institutions.
- In addition, a KAPILA site has been established for this purpose.

10. Which of the given statements with respect to Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is/are correct?

1. The beneficiaries of the Programme are children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
2. It is a centrally sponsored scheme under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
3. It aims to provide pre-school non-formal Education to children between the age Group of 3-6 years.

Options:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None of the above

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme, which provides children with supplemental nourishment,

vaccination, and pre-school education, is a Popular government flagship initiative.

- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme aims to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the Age group 0-6 years.
- ICDS is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by state governments and Union Territories.
- Hence Statement 2 is Correct.
- Its purpose is to give non-formal pre-school education to children aged 3-6 years.

1. Cauvery River was recently seen in news. Which of the following are the tributaries of the Cauvery River?

1. Amravati
2. Bhavani
3. Hemavati
4. Kabini

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Cauvery is a sacred river of southern India. It rises in the Brahmagiri range of the Western Ghats and falls in the Bay of Bengal south of Cuddalore, in Tamil Nadu.
- It forms the sacred islands of Srirangapatna and Shivanasamudra and Shivanasamudra falls and also a wide delta.
- Total Length of the river is about 760 km.
- Its main tributaries are Amravati, Bhavani, Hemavati, Kabini, Shimsha, and Lakshmana Tirtha.
- Its basin drains parts of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

2. In the context to the Parliamentary Committees, which of the statement(s) given below is/are *not* correct?

1. Finance Committees existence is uninterrupted and usually reconstituted on an annual basis.
2. Select committees formed for a specific purpose, such as to deliberate on a particular bill and cease to exist once the bill is disposed.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- **‘Standing’ committees:** Their existence is uninterrupted and usually reconstituted on an annual basis. Some standing committees are departmentally related. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **‘Select’ committees** formed for a specific purpose, for instance, to deliberate on a particular bill. Once the Bill is disposed of, that select committee ceases to exist. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Finance committees** are considered to be particularly powerful. The three financial committees are the Public Accounts Committee, the Estimates Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings.

3. With reference to the Parliamentary Committees, consider the following statements:

1. The Committee on Public Undertakings consists elected only from Lok Sabha and a Minister is not eligible for election to this Committee.
2. The Committee on Public Accounts consists members elected by both the members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and a Minister is not eligible for election to this Committee.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Committee on Public Undertakings consists of 15 members elected by the Lok Sabha and 7 members of Rajya Sabha. A Minister is not eligible for election to this Committee. The term of the Committee is one year. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Committee on Public Accounts consists of 15 members elected by the Lok Sabha and 7 members of the Rajya Sabha. A Minister is not eligible for election to this Committee. The term of the Committee is one year. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

4. Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA):

1. UNAMA was established on 28 March 2002 by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1267.
2. It was basically established to assist the state and the people of Afghanistan in laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development.
3. Its original mandate was to support the implementation of the Bonn Convention.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 3 only

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- UNAMA was established on 28 March 2002 by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1401. The Resolution 1267 list of terrorists is a global list, with a UNSC stamp.
- It is full of Pakistani nationals and residents. So, statement 1 is not correct.
- It was basically established to assist the state and the people of Afghanistan in laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development. So, statement 2 is correct.

- Its original mandate was to support the implementation of the Bonn Agreement (December 2001). Bonn Convention is a name of the international treaty on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals, that was adopted in Bonn, Germany in 1979. So, statement 3 is not correct.
- Reviewed annually, this mandate has been altered over time to reflect the needs of the country.
- UNAMA is an integrated mission. This means that the Special Political Mission, all UN agencies, funds and programmes, work in a multidimensional and integrated manner to better assist Afghanistan according to nationally defined priorities.

5. With reference to the Foreign funding of persons, consider the following statements:

1. Foreign funding of persons in India is regulated under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) act.
2. FCRA is implemented by the Ministry of Finance.
3. Individuals are permitted to accept foreign contributions of less than Rs. 25,000 without the Government Permission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1,2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Foreign funding of persons in India is regulated under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010 and is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- Hence, statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is not correct.
- Individuals are permitted to accept foreign contributions without the permission of MHA.
- However, the monetary limit for acceptance of such foreign contributions shall be less than Rs. 25,000. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. Cooperative Societies is an item in state subject.
2. Multi-State Cooperative Societies are regulated by the Union Government.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The item “Cooperative Societies” is a State Subject in the 7th Schedule (entry 32)

of the State List in the Constitution of India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- There are many Cooperative Societies such as those for sugar and milk, banks, milk unions etc whose members and areas of operation are spread across more than one state.
- The Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 governs such cooperatives.
- According to MSCS Act, Administrative and financial control of these societies is with the central registrar, with the law making it clear that no state government official can wield any control on them.
- Hence, statement 2 is correct

7. Consider the following, with regard to National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX):

1. It deals primarily in agricultural commodities in India.
2. It is founded by the National Stock Exchange of India and the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

National Commodities and Derivatives

Exchange:

- NCDEX is an online commodities exchange dealing primarily in agricultural commodities in India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It is a public limited company, established on 23rd April 2003 under the Companies Act, 1956.
- The exchange was founded by some of India's leading financial institutions such as ICICI Bank Limited, the National Stock Exchange of India and the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development, among others. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- These include 25 contracts for agricultural products. NCDEX is run by an independent board of directors with no direct interest in Agriculture.

8. What is the application of Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer Technology?

- (a) Production of Biolarvicides
- (b) Manufacture of biodegradable plastics
- (c) Reproductive cloning of animals
- (d) Production of organisms free of diseases

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- In genetics and developmental biology, somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) is a laboratory strategy for creating a viable

embryo from a body cell and an egg cell. The technique consists of taking an enucleated oocyte (egg cell) and implanting a donor nucleus from a somatic (body) cell.

- It is used in the reproductive cloning of Animals.

9. Which of the following statements about Compassionate Employment is/are correct?

1. Compassionate appointment is not a matter of right.
2. Dependent family of missing government employees can be considered for compassionate appointment.

Options:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) None

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Compassionate Appointment is a social security scheme launched by the Government to grant appointment to a dependent family member on a compassionate basis when a government servant dies while in service or retires on Medical Grounds.
- The Supreme Court has held in an order that compassionate employment is not a vested right, but is to enable the family to

tide over an immediate crisis that may result from the death of the employee.

10. The World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) is an Annual Ranking of countries compiled and published by

- (a) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- (b) Amnesty International
- (c) Economist Group
- (d) Reporters Without Borders

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Press Freedom Index is an annual ranking of countries compiled and published by Reporters Without Borders since 2002 based upon the organisation's own assessment of the countries' press freedom records in the Previous Year.

1. Consider the following:

1. The Sangam academies flourished under the royal patronage of the Pandya kings of Madurai.
2. Tolkappiyam provides insights on the political and socio-economic conditions of the Sangam Era.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Minister of State for Education, released the Hindi translation of Tolkappiyam and the Kannada translations of 9 books of Classical Tamil literature.
- Tamil literature goes back to the Sangam Era, named after the assembly (sangam) of poets.
- The period roughly between the 3rd century B.C. and 3rd century A.D. in South India (the area lying to the south of river Krishna and Tungabhadra) is known as Sangam Period.
- It has been named after the Sangam academies held during that period that flourished under the royal patronage of the Pandya kings of Madurai.

- Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Sangam literature includes Tolkappiyam, Ettutogai, Pattuppattu, Pathinenkilkanakku, and two epics named – Silappathikaram and Manimegalai .
- Tolkappiyam was authored by Tolkappiyar and is considered the earliest of Tamil literary work.
- Though it is a work on Tamil grammar, it also provides insights on the political and socio-economic conditions of the time. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It is a unique work on grammar and poetics, in its three parts of nine sections each, deals with Ezhuttu(letter), Col (word) and Porul (subject matter).
- Almost all levels of the human language from the spoken to the most poetic lie within the purview of Tolkappiyar's analysis as he treats in exquisitely poetic and epigrammatic statements on phonology, morphology, syntax, rhetoric, Prosody and poetics.

2. Consider the following, with regard to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):

1. The Gulf region is a part of this initiative.
2. The New Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road (MSR) are the components of BRI.
3. The Blue Dot Network and Global Gateway are the initiatives of the European Union (EU) to counter BRI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a multi-billion-dollar initiative launched to undertake big infrastructure projects in the world which in turn would also enhance the global influence of China.
- It aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It encompassed five kinds of activities; Policy coordination, Trade promotion, Physical connectivity, Renminbi internationalization (China's currency) and People to people contacts.

Routes of BRI:

- New Silk Road Economic Belt: It encompasses trade and investment hubs to the north of China; by reaching out to Eurasia including a link via Myanmar to India.
- Maritime Silk Road (MSR): It begins via the South China Sea going towards Indo-China, South-East Asia and then around the Indian Ocean thus reaching Africa and Europe.

- Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Initiatives to Tackle BRI:

- B3W Initiative: The G7 Countries proposed a 'Build Back Better World (B3W) initiative' at the 47th G7 summit to counter China's BRI.
- Blue Dot Network (BDN): It is a multi-stakeholder initiative formed by the US, Japan and Australia to bring together governments, the private sector and civil society to promote high-quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Global Gateway: In a bid to compete with BRI, the European Union recently launched the Global Gateway, a new Infrastructure Development Scheme

3. With reference to Ballistic Missiles, Consider the following:

1. It is a Long-Range Missile.
2. The flight path of this missile is projectile but within the Earth's Atmosphere.
3. Prithvi, Agni and Dhanush are Ballistic Missiles.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Ballistic Missile, Cruise Missile
- Travel in projectile motion and trajectory depends on gravity, air resistance and Coriolis Force.
- Comparatively follows a straight trajectory of motion.
- Leave the earth's atmosphere and re-enter it. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The flight path is within the earth's atmosphere.
- Long-range missiles (300 km to 12,000 km). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Short range missiles (range upto 1000 km)
- E.g., Prithvi I, Prithvi II, Agni I, Agni II and Dhanush missiles. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- E.g., BrahMos missiles

Explanation:

- The Sangam literature includes Tolkappiyam, Ettutogai, Pattuppattu, Pathinenkilkanakku, and two epics named – Silappathikaram and Manimegalai .
- **Pathinenkilkanakku:** It contains eighteen works about ethics and morals.
- The most important among these works is Tirukkural authored by Thiruvalluvar, the tamil great poet and philosopher.
- Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.
- **Tamil Epics:** The two epics Silappathikaram is written by Elango Adigal and Manimegalai by Sittalai Sattanar. Hence, pair 2 and 3 are correctly matched.
- They also provide valuable details about the Sangam society and polity.

4. Consider the following pairs, with regard to Tamil literature and it's author:

Tamil Literature	Author
1. Tirukkural	Tolkappiyar
2. Silappathikaram	Elango Adigal
3. Manimegalai	Sittalai Sattanar

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c)

5. In context to the Pralay Missile, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first conventional quasi-ballistic missile.
2. It is powered by a solid-propellant rocket motor.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Pralay' is India's first conventional quasi-ballistic missile and is an answer to any conventional missile attack from northern or western borders.
- A quasi-ballistic missile has a low trajectory, and while it is largely ballistic, it can manoeuvre in flight.
- The missile has a range of 150-500 kilometres and can be launched from a mobile launcher.
- Pralay will be the longest-range surface-to-surface missile in the inventory of the Army.
- It is powered by a solid-propellant rocket motor and many new technologies. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The missile guidance system includes a state-of-the-art navigation system and integrated avionics.

6. Consider the following statements with regards to the CRPF:

1. Originally constituted as the Crown Representative Police in 1939, it is one of the oldest central Paramilitary Forces.
2. After Independence, the force was renamed as Central Reserve Police Force by an Act of Parliament on December 28, 1949.
3. The force played a significant role during the Amalgamation of the Princely States into the Indian Union since it helped the

Union Government in disciplining the rebellious princely states of Junagarh and the small principality of Kathiawar in Gujarat.

Choose the correct statements:

- (a) 1 & 2 only
- (b) 2 & 3 only
- (c) 1 & 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is India's largest Central Armed Police Force. The CRPF's primary role lies in assisting the State/Union Territories in police operations to maintain law and order and counter-insurgency.
- It came into existence as the Crown Representative's Police in 1939. After Indian Independence, it became the Central Reserve Police Force on the enactment of the CRPF Act in 1949.
- The force played a significant role during the amalgamation of the princely states into the Indian Union since it helped the Union Government in disciplining the rebellious princely States of Junagarh and the small principality of Kathiawar in Gujarat. Currently, besides law and order and counter-insurgency duties, the CRPF has played an increasingly large role in India's General Elections.

7. Which of these given statements with regards to parliamentary proceedings is not correct?

- (a) The President of India can prorogue the Session of the Parliament
- (b) The declaration of ‘adjournment sine die’ can be made by the President of India
- (c) The presiding officer of the house can adjourn the proceedings of the house
- (d) The Parliament is summoned for the session by the President

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The presiding officer (Speaker or Chairman) declares the House adjourned sine die when the business of the session is completed.

8. Consider the following statements with regards to the qualifying age for Different purposes in India:

1. The 61st Constitution Amendment Act of 1988 defines the voting age for elections to Parliament and Legislative Assemblies as 18.
2. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, which prohibits the engagement of children in all occupations and bans adolescents in hazardous occupations defines a child as “a person who has not completed his 16th year of age”.
3. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 recognises a

child as someone under the age of 18 years and thereby implies that the age of consent for sex is also 18 years.

Choose the correct statements:

- (a) 1 & 2 only
- (b) 2 & 3 only
- (c) 1 & 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- 61st Constitution Amendment Act defines the voting age for elections to Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies as 18.
 - Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015 define a child as someone under the age of 18.
 - Right to Education Act, 2009 defines a child as someone between the ages of six and 14
 - Child Labour Amendment act 2016 says a child is someone under the age of 14 and an adolescent is someone aged between 14 and 18.
9. Which of the following are the functions of the Enforcement Directorate (ED)?
1. Investigating violations of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) laws and provisions.

2. Investigating offences of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) laws and provisions.
3. Processing cases of fugitive/s from India under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.
4. ED is India's officially designated single point of contact for liaison with Interpol.

Options:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- CBI is India's officially designated single point of contact for liaison with the Interpol.

10. Consider the following statements with respect to the Indian flapshell Turtle (*Lissemys punctata*):

1. It is only found in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
2. Its IUCN status is Vulnerable.
3. These turtles are omnivores.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Indian flap shell turtle (*Lissemys punctata*) is a freshwater species of turtle found in South Asia. Apart from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, it is also found in Nepal, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.
- It is morphologically an evolutionary link between the softshell and hard-shell aquatic turtles.
- Exploitation for profit and habitat change are threats to their survival. Its IUCN status is Vulnerable.
- The Indian flap shell turtle is known to be omnivorous. Its diet consists of frogs, shrimp, snails, aquatic vegetation, plant leaves, flowers, fruits, grasses, and seeds.

1. In context to Olive Ridley Turtles, consider the following statements:

1. They are found in warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans.
2. Arribada is known as the world's largest rookery (colony of breeding animals) of Olive Ridleys.
3. Operation Olivia was launched by India to protect the Olive Ridley Turtles.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

Olive Ridley Turtles:

- The Olive Ridley turtles are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world.
- They are found in warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Odisha's Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary is known as the world's largest rookery (colony of breeding animals) of sea turtles.
- Olive ridleys are best known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- They lay their eggs over a period of five to seven days in conical nests about one and a half feet deep which they dig with their hind flippers.
- **Operation Olivia:** Every year, the Indian Coast Guard's "Operation Olivia", initiated in the early 1980s, helps protect Olive Ridley turtles as they congregate along the Odisha coast for breeding and nesting from November to December. It also intercepts unlawful trawling activities. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

2. Which of the following is associated with The Viswanathan Committee (2019)?

1. Hate speech
2. Police reforms
3. Migrant workers
4. Forced religious conversion

Answer: a)

Explanation:

Viswanathan Committee 2019:

- It proposed inserting Sections 153 C (b) and Section 505 A in the IPC for incitement to commit an offence on Grounds of religion, race, caste or Community, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, place of birth, residence, language, disability or tribe.
- It proposed punishment of up to two years along with Rs. 5,000 fine.
- Hence, option D is correct.

3. Consider the following, with regard to ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) Funds:

1. The ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) Funds is a kind of Mutual Fund.
2. It is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) Funds is a kind of Mutual Fund. Its investing is used synonymously with sustainable investing or socially responsible investing.
- Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Typically, a mutual fund looks for a good stock of a company that has potential earnings, management quality, cash flows, the business it operates in, competition etc.
- However, while selecting a stock for investment, the ESG fund shortlists companies that score high on environment, social responsibility and corporate governance, and then looks into financial factors.

- Therefore, the key difference between the ESG funds and other funds is 'conscience' i.e the ESG fund focuses on companies with environment-friendly practices, ethical business practices and an employee-friendly record.
- The fund is regulated by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

4. The Judgement of 'Hadiya Case, 2017' recently seen in the news is related to?

- (a) Right to marry a person of one's choice
(b) Right to Privacy
(c) Right to Livelihood
(d) Right to Access Internet

Answer: a)

Explanation:

Hadiya Judgement 2017:

- Matters of dress and of food, of ideas and ideologies, of love and partnership are within the central aspects of identity.
- Neither the State nor the law can dictate a choice of partners or limit the free ability of every person to decide on these matters.
- The principle that the right to marry a person of one's choice is integral to Article 21.
- Hence, option A is correct.

5. Consider the following:

1. Adjournment sine die means termination of a session of the House by an order made by the President.
2. The notification for the prorogation of the session is issued by the presiding officer of the House.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Adjournment sine die means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period, that is, when the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly; it is called adjournment sine die. The power of adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The term prorogation means the termination of a session of the House by an order made by the President under Article 85(2)(a) of the Constitution. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The prorogation terminates both the sitting and session of the House and is usually done within a few days after the House is adjourned sine die by the presiding officer.

Tag: Pralay

6. Pralay recently seen in news is a/an

- (a) Indigenously-developed second generation, Anti-Tank Guided Missile
- (b) Air-to-Air Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile
- (c) Surface-to-surface tactical Short-range Ballistic Missile (SRBM)
- (d) All-weather multi-target tracking radar

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Pralay is a canisterised surface-to-surface tactical short-range ballistic missile for battlefield use developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation of India

7. Special Commissioner appointed to contain the rise of Manyam Rebellion is

- (a) Augustus Abbott
- (b) Thomas Adams
- (c) T G Rutherford
- (d) Robert Hope

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Rampa Rebellion of 1922, also known as the Manyam Rebellion, was a tribal uprising, led by Alluri Sitarama Raju in Godavari Agency of Madras Presidency, British India. It began in August 1922 and lasted until the capture and killing of Raju in May 1924.

- Unable to contain the ‘Manyam’ uprising, the British Government deputed T G Rutherford in April 1924 to quell the Movement.
8. With reference to ‘Quality Council of India (QCI)’, consider the following statements:
1. QCI was set up jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry.
 2. Chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendations of the Industry to the Government.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Quality Council of India (QCI) was set up jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry represented by three premier industry associations i.e. ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI to establish and operate a national accreditation structure and promote quality through a National Quality Campaign.
- The chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendation of the industry to the Government.
- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry is the nodal ministry for QCI.

9. With respect to National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a premier analytical testing & research organization established as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
2. It is the only laboratory in the country responsible for human sports dope testing.

Options:

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both
(d) None

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) is a premier analytical testing & research organization established as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.
- It is the only laboratory in the country responsible for human sports dope testing. It is accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Laboratories, NABL and World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) (2008) for testing of urine & blood samples from Human Sports.
- NDTL is one of the WADA accredited laboratories in the world.

10. Which of the following statements about Lala Lajpat Rai is/are correct?

1. He was elected President of the Indian National Congress at the Calcutta session.
2. He was also elected as the President of the All India Trade Union Congress.
3. In England, he became a member of the British Labour party.

Options:

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- One of the legendary triumvirates – Lal-Bal-Pal (Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal) of India's freedom movement against the British colonial rule, Lala Lajpat Rai was a multi-faceted Personality.
- He was part of the Arya Samaj, founded and led by Swami Dayanand Saraswati. Later on, he set up a Dayanand Anglo-Vedic school in Lahore.
- As early as 1897, he had founded the Hindu Relief Movement to provide help to the famine-stricken people.
- He visited USA and Japan where he kept in touch with the Indian revolutionaries. In England, he also became a member of the British Labour party.

- In recognition of his outstanding role in the freedom movement, he was elected President of the Indian National Congress at the Calcutta session (1920).
- As he took much interest in the condition of the working-class people, he was also elected as the President of the All India Trade Union Congress.
- Gifted with a perceptive mind, he was a prolific writer and authored several works like – “Unhappy India”, “Young India: An Interpretation”, “History of Arya Samaj”, “England's Debt to India” and a series of popular biographies on Mazzini, Garibaldi and Swami Dayanand.
- As a visionary and man with a mission, he founded the Punjab National Bank, the Lakshmi Insurance Company and the Servants of the Peoples Society at Lahore.

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Anti-dumping duty is imposed in order to counter the negative impact of import subsidies to protect domestic producers.
2. According to global trade norms, including the World Trade Organization (WTO) regime, a country is allowed to impose tariffs on such dumped products to provide a level-playing field to domestic manufacturers.
3. The Directorate General of Trade Remedies imposes Anti-Dumping duty in India.

Which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- In international trade practise, dumping happens when a country or a firm exports an item at a price lower than the price of that product in its Domestic Market.
- Dumping impacts the price of that product in the importing country, hitting margins and profits of local manufacturing firms.
- Anti-dumping duty is imposed to rectify the situation arising out of the dumping of goods and its trade Distortive effect.

- According to global trade norms, including the World Trade Organization (WTO) regime, a country is allowed to impose tariffs on such dumped products to provide a level-playing field to domestic manufacturers. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The duty is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for domestic producer's vis-a-vis foreign producers and exporters.
- Anti-dumping duty is different from countervailing duty. The latter is imposed in order to counter the negative impact of import subsidies to protect domestic producers. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Countervailing Duties (CVDs) are tariffs levied on imported goods to offset subsidies made to producers of these goods in the exporting country.
- CVDs are meant to level the playing field between domestic producers of a product and foreign producers of the same product who can afford to sell it at a lower price because of the subsidy they receive from their government.
- While the DGTR recommends the duty to be levied, the Finance Ministry imposes it. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

2. Which of the statements given below are correct regarding the powers given to the Armed Forces under The Armed Forces (Special Power) Act, 1958 (AFSPA)?

1. They have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area, can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.
2. If Reasonable Suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant; enter or search premises without a warrant; and ban the possession of firearms.
3. Any person arrested or taken into custody may be handed over to the officer in charge of the nearest police station along with a report detailing the circumstances that led to the arrest.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- In simple terms, AFSPA gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in “disturbed areas”.
- **Powers given to armed forces:**
 - ✓ They have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an

area, can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.

- ✓ If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant; enter or search premises without a warrant; and ban the possession of firearms.
- ✓ Any person arrested or taken into custody may be handed over to the officer in charge of the nearest police station along with a report detailing the circumstances that led to the arrest.

- A disturbed area is one which is declared by notification under Section 3 of the AFSPA. An area can be disturbed due to differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.
- The Central Government or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.

3. The area known as ‘Golan Heights’ sometimes appears in the news in the context of the events related to,

- (a) Central Asia
- (b) Middle East
- (c) South-East Asia
- (d) Central Africa

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett recently said the country intends to double the number of settlers living in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights with a multimillion-dollar plan meant to further consolidate Israel's hold on the territory it captured from Syria more than five decades ago.
- The Golan Heights is a rocky plateau with an area of 1,800km on the border between Israel and Syria in south-western Syria.



4. 'Two state solution', sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following countries?

- India and Pakistan
- Israel and Palestine
- China and Taiwan
- North and South Korea

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The "two-state solution" is based on a UN resolution of 1947 which proposed two states – one would be a state where Zionist Jews constituted a majority, the other where the Palestinian Arabs would be a Majority of the population.

5. Consider the following statements.

1. Nominated members of the Rajya Sabha have the same rights and privileges as elected members of Rajya Sabha with the right to vote in the election of the President.
2. The Nominated members of the Rajya Sabha are subjected to disqualification, if they join a political party within six months of being nominated to the House.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Only elected members of both Houses of Parliament and of the State Legislative Assemblies are members of the Electoral College for Presidential Election. Therefore, nominated members cannot vote in this election.
- In 1985 the Tenth Schedule, popularly known as the anti-defection law, was added to the Constitution.
- The law specifies the circumstances under which changing of political parties by MPs invite action under the law.
- The law covers three types of scenarios with respect to an MP switching parties.

- The first is when a member elected on the ticket of a political party “voluntarily gives up” membership of such a party or votes in the House contrary to the wishes of the party.
- The second possibility is when an MP who has won his or her seat as an independent candidate after the election joins a political party.
- In both these instances, the MP lose the seat in the House on changing (or joining) a party.
- The third scenario relates to nominated MPs. In their case, the law specifies that within six months of being nominated to the House, they can choose to join a political party.

6. Consider the following pairs regarding India’s Missile System.

1. Nag: Anti-Tank Guided missile
2. Akash: Surface to air missile
3. Astra: New Generation Anti-Radiation Missile
4. Rudram : Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1, 2, 3
(b) 1, 2
(c) 1, 2, 4
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILE: Nag has already been inducted into the services. Nag is the only “fire-and-forget ATGM meeting all weather requirements for its range (around 20 km)”.
- SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE: The short-range SAM system Akash has already been inducted in the Army and the Air Force.
- AIR-TO-AIR: Astra, India’s Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM), has been completely tested and is under induction. It has a range of around 100 km.
- AIR-TO-GROUND: Rudram, a New Generation Anti-Radiation Missile (NGRAM). With a maximum range of around 200 km, the missile mainly targets communication, radar and surveillance Systems of the Adversary.

7. Graphene is being termed as wonder material due to various properties it exhibits. It is used in which of the following

1. Wearable devices like heart-rate monitors
2. Solar Cells
3. Touch screens
4. Biosensors

Select the correct answer code:

- (a) 1, 2, 3
(b) 1, 3, 4
(c) 2, 3, 4
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Answer: d)

(a) 1, 2, 3

Explanation:

(b) 1, 3, 4

- Graphene is one-atom thick carbon-based material that is known to have high electrical and heat conductivity, high strength, flexible, optical properties etc.

(c) 2, 3, 4

(d) 1, 2, 3, 4

- Graphene has a unique property of conducting electrons very fast and hence, are used in manufacture of ultrafast transistors.

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Thus, it can be used in wearable devices to monitor basic bodily Functions.

- “Movements in the FCA occur mainly on account of purchases and sales of foreign exchange by the RBI, income arising out of the deployment of the foreign exchange reserves, external aid receipts of the Central Government and the effects of revaluation of the assets,”

- Given its optical reflectivity with an applied voltage, Graphene is said to be ideal for photonic applications.

9. With respect to financial powers of the Governor, which of the following statements is/are correct:

- Thus, it can be used in solar cells, LEDs, touch screens, lasers etc., which work on the principle of photo-electric effect.

1. Money bills can be Introduced in the State Legislature only with his prior Recommendation.

- An optical fibre coated with graphene is used to detect an anti-body that is found in blood plasma, which is an indicator of presence of cardio-vascular diseases.

2. He can make advances out of the Consolidated Fund of the State to meet any unforeseen expenditure.

8. Movements in the foreign currency assets (FCA) in India occur mainly on account of

Options:

1. Purchase and sale of foreign exchange by the RBI

(a) 1 only

2. Income arising out of the deployment of the Foreign Exchange Reserves

(b) 2 only

3. External aid receipts of the Central Government

(c) Both

(d) None

4. Effects of revaluation of the assets

Answer: a)

Explanation:

Select the correct answer code:

- A Money Bill can be introduced in the state legislature on the recommendation of the Governor. A Money Bill shall be

introduced only in a Legislative Assembly, not in the Legislative council.

- The Contingency Fund of each State Government is established under Article 267(2) of the Constitution. This is in the nature of an imprest placed at the disposal of the Governor to enable him/her to make advances to meet urgent unforeseen expenditure, pending authorization by the State Legislature.

10. Which of the following statements about the Right to Information Act is/are Incorrect?

1. The act orders those public authorities have to publish the information to the public on regular intervals voluntarily
2. If information sought concerns the life or liberty of a person, it shall be supplied within 72 hours.
3. If information is required from Intelligence Organizations, alleging Corruption or Human Rights violation, these organizations are bound to provide such information

Options:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) None

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Right to Information Act, 2005 orders the public authorities to publish the information to the public on regular intervals voluntarily and not on the demand of the public.
- The public information officer (PIO) is bound to furnish information sought under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, within 48 hours if it concerns the life or liberty of a person.
- If information is required from intelligence organizations, alleging corruption or human rights violation, these organizations are bound to provide such Information.

1. Consider the following, with regard to Chaudhary Charan Singh:

1. Kisan Diwas is observed to celebrate his birth anniversary.
2. He is also referred to as ‘Champion of India’s Peasants’.
3. He took a leading part in formulation and finalisation of the Debt Redemption Bill 1939.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 1 and 3
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

About Chaudhary Charan Singh:

- The ‘Kisan Diwas’ or National Farmers Day is observed across the country on 23rd December to celebrate the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, the former Prime Minister of India.
- He was given the nickname ‘Champion of India’s Peasants’ for his work towards the upliftment of farmers and the development of agriculture throughout the country.
- He took a leading part in formulation and finalisation of the Debt Redemption Bill 1939, in order to give relief to the peasantry from Moneylenders.

- He was instrumental in bringing about the Land Holding Act, 1960 which was aimed at lowering the ceiling on land holdings to make it uniform throughout the State.
- He was the author of several books and pamphlets, including ‘Abolition of Zamindari’, ‘Co-operative Farming X-rayed’, ‘India’s Poverty and its Solution’, ‘Peasant Proprietorship or Land to the Workers’ and ‘Prevention of Division of Holdings Below a Certain Minimum’.

2. Consider the following:

1. Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a centrally sponsored scheme.
2. LaQshya programme intended to improve the quality of care in the labor rooms.
3. The Poshan Abhiyaan aims to achieve improvement in the nutritional status of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme which is being implemented with the objective of reducing maternal and infant mortality by promoting institutional delivery among

pregnant women. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) has been launched to focus on conducting special AnteNatal Check-ups (ANC) checkup on 9th of every month with the help of medical officers to detect and treat cases of anaemia.
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a maternity benefit programme being implemented in all districts of the country with effect from 1st January, 2017.
- LaQshya (Labor room Quality Improvement Initiative) intended to improve the quality of care in the labor room and maternity operation theatres in public health facilities.
- Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The goal of Poshan Abhiyaan is to achieve improvement in the nutritional status of Children (0-6 years) and Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time-bound manner. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

3. Consider the following, with reference to Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD):

1. It is customs duty on goods that have received Government subsidies in the Originating or Exporting Country.
2. The use of anti-dumping measures as an instrument of fair competition is permitted by the World Trade Organisation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Dumping is said to occur when the goods are exported by a country to another country at a price lower than the price it normally charges in its own home market.
- This is an unfair trade practice which can have a distortive effect on international trade.
- Imposition of Anti-dumping duty is a measure to rectify the situation arising out of the dumping of goods and its trade distortive effect. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Different from Countervailing Duties:

- ADD is a customs duty on imports providing a protection against the dumping of goods at prices substantially lower than the normal value whereas Countervailing duty is a customs duty on goods that have received government subsidies in the originating or exporting country. In the long-term, anti-dumping duties can reduce the international competition of domestic companies producing similar goods.

- It is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.
- The use of anti-dumping measures as an instrument of fair competition is permitted by the World Trade Organisation. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

4. Which of the following are responsible for the release of the India's Annual Health Index?

1. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. NITI Aayog.
3. World Bank.
4. WHO
5. UNDP

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 4 and 5 only

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- For the fourth year in a row, Kerala has topped a ranking of States on health indicators; Uttar Pradesh has come in at the bottom.
- In 2017 the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the World Bank initiated an annual Health

Index for tracking Overall Performance and Incremental Performance across all states and Union Territories (UTs).

- In the current round of Health Index, three new indicators were added. These are Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), proportion of pregnant women received 4 or more ANC's and level of registration of deaths.
- The Health Index is a weighted Composite Index based on select indicators in three domains: (a) Health Outcomes; (b) Governance and Information; and (c) Key Inputs and Processes.
- The indicators have been selected based on their importance and availability of reliable data at least annually from existing data sources.
- The Health Index covers some of the SDG Targets and tracer indicators related to Goal 3 on Good Health and Well Being.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Total fertility rate (TFR) indicates the average number of children expected to be born to a woman during her reproductive span of 15-45 years.
2. India's TFR is declining and it is now 2.2 per woman, nearing the replacement rate of 2.1.
3. The replacement level is the number of children needed to replace the parents,

after accounting for fatalities, skewed sex ratio, infant mortality, etc.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are *not* correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- **Neonatal death** is defined as a death during the first 28 days of life, while **neonatal mortality rate** is defined as the number of neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births.
 - ✓ SDG goal 3 calls for an end to preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age and specifies that all countries should aim to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 deaths per 1,000 live births and under-five mortality to at least as low as 25 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2030.
 - ✓ **Total Fertility Rate:** TFR indicates the average number of children expected to be born to a woman during her reproductive span of **15-49 years**. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ✓ India's total fertility rate (TFR) is declining. It is now 2.2 per woman, nearing the replacement rate of 2.1,

according to the latest government data. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- **The replacement level** is the number of children needed to replace the parents, after accounting for fatalities, skewed sex ratio, infant mortality, etc. Population starts falling below this level. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Contraceptive Prevalence Rate:** CPR is the proportion of women who are currently using, or whose sexual partner is currently using, at least one method of contraception, regardless of the method being used.
 - ✓ It is reported as a percentage with reference to women of respective marital status and age group.
- **Sex ratio at birth (SRB)** is defined as the number of female births per 1,000 male births. The SRB is a key indicator of a son's preference vis-à-vis daughters.
- **Stunting** is the impaired growth and development that children experience from poor nutrition, repeated infection, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation.
 - ✓ It is the result of chronic or recurrent undernutrition, usually associated with
 - ✓ poverty, poor maternal health and nutrition, frequent illness and/or inappropriate feeding and care in early life.

- **Wasting** is defined as low weight-for-height. It often indicates recent and severe weight loss, although it can also persist for a long time. Wasting in children is associated with a higher risk of death if not treated properly.
- **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)** is defined as the ‘number of deaths of children under the age of 1 year per 1000 live births for a given year.’
 - ✓ The country’s average IMR stands at 32 per 1,000 live births which includes an average 36 deaths for rural and 23 for urban areas.

6. In the Context to the J&K Development Act of the J&K, what are the newly introduced laws?

1. Under a new provision, an Army officer not below the rank of Corps Commander can declare an area as “Strategic Area” within a local area, only for direct operational and training requirements of the armed forces.
2. Under the ‘transfer of land for the purpose of promotion of healthcare or education’, the government may now allow transfer of land in favour of a person or an institution for the purpose of promotion of healthcare or senior secondary or higher or specialized education in J&K.
3. No land used for agriculture purposes shall be used for any non-agricultural

purposes except with the permission of the district collector.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Under the ‘transfer of land for the purpose of promotion of healthcare or education’, the government may now allow transfer of land “in favour of a person or an institution for the purpose of promotion of healthcare or senior secondary or higher or specialized education in J&K”.
- **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- According to amendments made to “The Jammu & Kashmir Land Revenue Act, Samvat, 1996”, only agriculturists of J&K can purchase agricultural land. “No sale, gift, exchange, or mortgage of the land shall be valid in favour of a person who is not an agriculturist”.
- The Restriction on Conversion of Agricultural Land and Process for
- Permission of Non-Agriculture clause, however, puts conditions on the use of agricultural land. “No land used for agriculture purposes shall be used for any non-agricultural purposes except with the

permission of the district collector”. So, **statement 3 is correct.**

- Under a new provision, an Army officer not below the rank of Corps Commander can declare an area as “Strategic Area” within a local area, only for direct operational and training requirements of the armed forces. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The introduction of the UT of J&K Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020 by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has resulted in the repeal of at least 11 land laws in vogue in J&K earlier, including the J&K Big Landed Estates Abolition Act that had resulted in famous ‘Land to tiller’ rights.

7. When a person is refused to renew FCRA registration for his NGO by unlawful means, he is protected under which of the following Fundamental Right?

- (a) Article 21A.
- (b) Article 14.
- (c) Article 19.
- (d) Article 32.

Answer: c)

Explanation:

Constitutional Provisions for NGOs in India:

- **Article 19(1)(c)** on the right to form associations;

- **Article 43** which highlights the State’s having an endeavour to promote cooperatives in rural areas;
- **Concurrent List in Entry 28** mentions about – Charities and charitable institutions, charitable and religious endowments and religious institutions”.

8. Which of the following statements with regards to NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope is not correct?

- (a) It is the most powerful infrared telescope of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- (b) It is also considered a successor of the Hubble Telescope and will extend and complement its discoveries.
- (c) It was launched into low Earth orbit in 1990, and has made more than 1.4 million observations, including tracking interstellar objects, capturing a comet colliding with Jupiter, and discovering moons around Pluto.
- (d) The telescope is the result of an international collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The James Webb Space Telescope is the most powerful infrared telescope of the

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

- It is also considered a successor of the Hubble Telescope and will extend and complement its discoveries.
- Launched into low Earth orbit in 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope has made more than 1.4 million observations, including tracking interstellar objects, capturing a comet colliding with Jupiter, and discovering moons around Pluto.
- The telescope is the result of an international collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Canadian Space Agency.

9. Who amongst the following decides on the Election schedule for the state Assembly Elections?

- (a) Election Commission of India
- (b) State Election Commission
- (c) Governor in consultation with State Election Commission
- (d) President of India

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Election Commission of India is an Autonomous Constitutional Authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
- The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative

Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country.

10. Consider the following statements with respect to Chilika Lake:

1. It is the largest coastal lagoon in the world
2. It was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention
3. It is the largest wintering ground for birds in the Indian subcontinent

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Lake Chilika is Asia's biggest brackish water lagoon and the world's second-Largest Coastal Lagoon.
- The lagoon is located near the mouth of the Daya River on India's east coast.
- In 1981, the Ramsar Convention classified Lake Chilika as the first Indian wetland of International Significance.
- With 225 bird species at weddings, Lake Chilika is also the greatest wintering place on the Indian subcontinent.

1. Consider the following, with regard to reorganisation of states:

1. In 1948, the SK Dhar committee was appointed by the government to look into the need for the reorganisation of states on a linguistic basis.
2. Andhra Pradesh was the first linguistic state created by the Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

Reorganisation of States in India:

- In 1950, the Constitution contained a four-fold classification of the states of the Indian Union—Part A, Part B, Part C and Part D States.
- On account of the multilingual nature and differences that existed between various states, there was a need for the states to be reorganised on a permanent basis.
- In this context, in 1948, SK Dhar committee – was appointed by the government to look into the need for the reorganisation of states on a linguistic basis. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- In December 1948, the JVP Committee comprising Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabh

Bhai Patel and Pattabhi Sitaramayya was formed to study the issue.

- The Committee, in its report submitted in April 1949, rejected the idea of reorganisation of states on a linguistic basis but said that the issue could be looked at afresh in the light of public demand.
- However, due to protests, in October 1953, the Government of India created the first linguistic state, known as Andhra state, by separating the Telugu speaking areas from the Madras state.
- Hence, statement 2 is correct.

2. In context to the Indo-Lanka Accord, consider the following statements:

1. It is popularly referred to as the Rajiv-Jayewardene Accord.
2. It was signed to resolve the Sri Lankan Civil War.
3. The accord saw the placement of the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

About Indo-Lanka Accord:

- It is popularly referred to as the Rajiv-Jayewardene Accord, after its architects

Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene. It was signed in 1987. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- It was signed on the pretext of the Civil War in Sri Lanka (between Tamils and Sinhala community). Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The accord sought to balance India's strategic interests, interest of people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka and Tamil minority rights in Sri Lanka.
- The accord saw the placement of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka to resolve the Sri Lankan Civil War. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- The accord also resulted in the enactment of the thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka and the Provincial Councils Act of 1987.

3. With reference to State Health Index for 2019–20, Consider the following

1. The index is released by the NITI Aayog, with technical assistance from the World Bank.
2. The indicators are grouped under the domains of 'Health Outcomes', 'Governance and Information', and 'Key Inputs/Processes'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- NITI Aayog has released the fourth edition of the State Health Index for 2019–20.
- The index is developed by NITI Aayog, with technical assistance from the World Bank, and in close consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The report, titled "Healthy States, Progressive India", ranks states and Union Territories on their year-on-year incremental performance in health outcomes as well as their overall status.
- The State Health Index is an annual tool to assess the performance of states and UTs, which has been compiled and published since 2017.
- It is a weighted composite index based on 24 indicators grouped under the domains of 'Health Outcomes', 'Governance and Information', and 'Key Inputs/Processes'. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Health Outcomes:** It includes parameters such as neonatal mortality rate, under-5 mortality rate, sex ratio at birth.
- **Governance and Information:**

- It includes parameters such as institutional deliveries, average occupancy of senior officers in key posts earmarked for health.
- **Key Inputs/Processes:** It consists of proportion of shortfall in health care providers to what is recommended, functional medical facilities, birth and death registration and tuberculosis Treatment success rate.

4. Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA) sometimes seen in news is the affair related to which of the following country?

- (a) North Korea
- (b) Israel
- (c) Iran
- (d) Pakistan

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The international talks of have resumed in Vienna to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA.
- The talks are held between the remaining partners to the deal — **Iran, China, Russia, Germany, France and the U.K.**
- The talks seek to bring back the United States, after it withdrew from the accord in 2018 under then President Donald Trump and began imposing sanctions on Iran.
- Also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

- The JCPOA was the result of prolonged negotiations from 2013 and 2015 between Iran and P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union, or the EU).
- Under the deal, Tehran agreed to significantly cut its stores of centrifuges, enriched uranium and heavy-water, all key components for nuclear weapons.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, clinical trials of new drugs and vaccines, and their approvals, are governed by the Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019.
2. The regulatory authority in India is the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are **not** correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Vaccines and medicines, and even diagnostic tests and medical devices, require the approval of a regulatory authority before they can be administered.
- In India, clinical trials of new drugs and vaccines, and their approvals, are

governed by the Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019. The regulatory authority is the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

- For vaccines and medicines, approval is granted after an assessment of their safety and effectiveness, based on data from trials.
- So, both statements are not correct.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. India has recently approved Emergency Use Authorisation for Covovax and Corbevax.
2. Covovax is produced by the Serum Institute of India under licence from Novavax, a U.S.-based biotechnology company.
3. Emergency Use Authorisation can be granted in India only after the WHO approval of Emergency Use Listing.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- India has recently approved two more vaccines under emergency use authorisation and an antiviral drug, Molnupiravir. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

- Currently, India uses Covishield, Covaxin and Sputnik V in its vaccination programme.
- Corbevax is co-developed by Biological E, Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, United States, and American company Dynavax Technologies.
- Covovax is produced by the Serum Institute of India under licence from Novavax, a U.S.-based biotechnology company. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Covovax has been approved by the World Health Organisation (WHO) under its Emergency Use Listing and, therefore, will also be available globally as part of the COVAX initiative to ensure that at least 40% of world is vaccinated on priority.
- It is not necessary to grant Emergency Use Authorisation in India only after the WHO approval of Emergency Use Listing. Covaxin was used in India even before WHO approval of Emergency Use Listing. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

7. With respect to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), consider the following statements:

1. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India.

2. It regulates control over the import of drugs, approval of new drugs, clinical trials and approves licences to all kind of drugs in India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
- Major Functions are as follows:
 - ✓ Regulatory control over the import of drugs, approval of new drugs and clinical trials.
 - ✓ Approval of **certain licences** as Central Licence Approving Authority
- Drug Controller General of India (DCGI): DCGI is responsible for approval of licences of specified categories of drugs such as blood and blood products, IV fluids, vaccines and sera in India.

- It comes under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

- **So, statement 2 is correct.**

8. Consider the following statements with regards to the Right to Education:

1. The Act mandates that non-minority private unaided schools should reserve at least 25% of seats in entry-level grades for children from economically weaker and Disadvantaged backgrounds.
2. In 1993, the Supreme Court's landmark Judgment in the Unnikrishnan JP vs State of Andhra Pradesh & Others held that Education is a fundamental right flowing from Article 21.
3. Tapas Majumdar Committee (1999) was set up, which encompassed the insertion of Article 21A.

Choose the correct statements:

- (a) 1 & 2 only
- (b) 2 & 3 only
- (c) 1 & 3 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Section 12(1)(c) mandates that non-Minority private unaided schools should Reserve at least 25% of seats in entry-Level grades for children from economically weaker and disadvantaged backgrounds.

- In 1993, the Supreme Court's landmark Judgment in the Unnikrishnan JP vs State of Andhra Pradesh & Others held that Education is a fundamental right flowing from Article 21.
- Tapas Majumdar Committee (1999) was set up, which encompassed the insertion of Article 21A.

9. Consider the following statements:

1. The Petroleum and Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is the first regulatory body set up by the Government of India.
2. One of the tasks of PNGRB is to ensure Competitive markets for gas.
3. Appeals against the decisions of PNGRB go before the Appellate Tribunals for Electricity.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act of 2006 established the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). TRAI is India's first independent regulator.

- PNGRB is responsible for ensuring competitive gas markets.
- To settle conflicts, the PNGRB will have the same authority as a civil court. The Appellate Tribunal created under Section 110 of the Electricity Act of 2003 (36 of 2003) serves as the Appellate Tribunal for the purposes of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act of 2006.

10. Changu glacial lake is located in -

- (a) Jammu & Kashmir
- (b) Sikkim
- (c) Arunachal Pradesh
- (d) Uttarakhand

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Tsomgo Lake, also known as Changu Lake, is a glacial lake in the East Sikkim district of the state of Sikkim.
- The lake remains frozen during the Winter Season. The lake surface reflects different colours with change of seasons and is held in great reverence by the local Sikkimese people.

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:

1. Minimum investment threshold for MSMEs has been kept at Rs 10 crore and for others at Rs 100 crore.
2. Once qualified, the investor will be incentivised up to 20 times of minimum investment threshold enabling them to utilise their unused capacity.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The scheme aims to make India a global hub for manufacturing telecom equipment.
- Its Eligibility criteria include achievement of a minimum threshold of cumulative Incremental Investment and incremental sales of manufactured goods.
- The Incentive structure ranges between 4% and 7% for different categories and years. Financial year 2019-20 will be treated as the base year for computation of Cumulative Incremental sales of Manufactured Goods net of Taxes.
- Minimum investment threshold for MSMEs has been kept at Rs 10 crore and for others at Rs 100 crore.

- Once qualified, the investor will be incentivised up to 20 times of minimum investment threshold enabling them to utilise their unused capacity.
- So, both the statements are correct.

2. Technical textiles are functional fabrics that have applications across various industries. In which of the following it is applied?

1. Automobiles
2. Civil engineering and construction
3. Agriculture
4. Healthcare
5. Industrial safety and Personal Protection

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
(d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- India is the 6th largest producer of Technical Textiles with 6% Global Share, largest producer of cotton & jute in the world.
- ✓ Technical textiles are functional fabrics that have applications across various industries including automobiles, civil engineering and construction, agriculture, healthcare, industrial safety, personal protection etc.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Textiles & garments industry is labour Intensive and leading sector in terms of employment in India.
2. Textile Sector Employs more than 21% of total employment.
3. India is the 6th largest producer of Technical Textiles.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Textiles & garments industry is labour intensive sector that employs 45 mn people in India and is second only to the agriculture sector in terms of employment.
- India's textiles sector is one of the oldest industries in the Indian economy, and is a storehouse and carrier of traditional skills, heritage and culture.
- It can be divided into Two Segments-
 - ✓ The unorganised sector is small scale and uses traditional tools and methods. It consists of handloom, handicrafts and sericulture (production of silk).
 - ✓ The organised sector uses modern machinery and techniques and consists of the spinning, apparel and garments segment.

- It contributes 2.3% to Indian Gross Domestic Product, 7% of Industrial Output, 12% to the export earnings of India and employs more than 21% of total employment.
- India is the 6th largest producer of Technical Textiles with 6% Global Share, largest producer of cotton & jute in the world.
 - ✓ Technical textiles are functional fabrics that have applications across various industries including automobiles, civil engineering and construction, agriculture, healthcare, industrial safety, personal protection etc.

- India is also the second largest producer of silk in the world and 95% of the world's hand-woven fabric comes from India.

4. With respect to the Geographical Indication Tag (GI Tag), consider the following Statements:

1. GI Tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorized users are allowed to use the popular product name.
2. The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years.
3. In order to function as a GI, a sign must Identify a product as originating in a given place.

Which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

- (a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- A GI or Geographical Indication is a name or a sign given to certain products that relate to a specific geographical location or origins like a region, town or country.
- The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years.
- Using Geographical Indications may be regarded as a certification that the particular product is produced as per traditional methods, has certain specific qualities, or has a particular reputation because of its geographical origin.
- Geographical indications are typically used for wine and spirit drinks, foodstuffs, agricultural products, handicrafts, and industrial products.
- GI Tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorized users are allowed to use the popular product name. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**

5. Consider the following, with reference to 'Apatani Textile Product':

1. It comes from the Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.

2. The traditional handloom of the Apatani tribe is called Chichin.
3. The fabric is known for its geometric and zigzag patterns and also for its angular designs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Apatani weave comes from the Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh living at Ziro, the headquarters of lower Subansiri district.
- Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The woven fabric of this tribe is known for its geometric and zigzag patterns and also for its angular designs. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- The tribe predominantly weaves shawls known as jig-jiro and jilan or jackets called supuntarii.
- The people here use different leaves and plant resources for organic dyeing the cotton yarns in their traditional ways.
- Only women folk are engaged in weaving.
- The traditional handloom of this tribe is a type of loin loom, which is called Chichin, and is similar to the traditional handloom

of the Nyishi tribe. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- It is portable, easy to install and operated by a single weaver, especially the female members of the community.
- The woven fabric of this tribe is known for its **geometric and zigzag patterns** and also for its **angular designs**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- The tribe predominantly weaves shawls known as jig-jiro and jilan or jackets called **supuntarii**.
- The people here use different **leaves and plant resources for organic dyeing** the cotton yarns in their traditional ways.
- **Only women folk** are engaged in weaving.
- The **traditional handloom** of this tribe is a type of **loin loom**, which is called **Chichin**, and is similar to the traditional handloom of the **Nyishi tribe**.
- Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It is portable, easy to install and operated by a single weaver, especially the female members of the community.

6. In context to the AUKUS deal, consider the following statements:

1. It is a defence alliance of Australia, the UK and the US.
2. It is established to confront strategic tensions in the Indo-Pacific region.

3. Under this Australia would obtain nuclear-powered submarines.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- In September 2021, the US announced a new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific, between Australia, the UK and the US (AUKUS).
- Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It is the first agreement on the technology to be publicly signed since the three countries announced the formation of a defence alliance, AUKUS, to confront strategic tensions in the Pacific where China-US rivalry is growing. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Under the AUKUS deal, Australia would obtain eight state-of-the-art, nuclear-powered but conventionally armed Submarines capable of stealthy, long-range Missions. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

7. Consider the following:

1. Flex-Fuel Vehicles have engines that can run on flexible fuel, even 100% ethanol.
2. Flex-Fuel Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicles can run solely on electricity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Flex-fuel vehicles (FFV): They have engines that can run on flexible fuel — a combination of petrol and ethanol, which can include up to 100% ethanol. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Flex Fuel Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicles (FFV-SHEV): When FFV is integrated along with strong hybrid electric technology, it is referred as FFV-SHEVs.
- Strong hybrid is another term for full hybrid vehicles, which have the capability to run solely on either electric or petrol modes. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- In contrast, mild hybrids cannot run purely on one of these modes and use the Secondary Mode merely as a supplement to the main Mode of Propulsion.

8. Sabar tribe can be mainly found in

1. Madhya Pradesh
2. Odisha
3. West Bengal

Options:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 3 only

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Sabar people (also Shabar and Saora) are one of the Adivasi of the Munda ethnic group who live mainly in Odisha and West Bengal.

9. The experiment will employ a trio of spacecraft flying in formation in the shape of equilateral triangle that has sides one million km long, with lasers shining between the craft.” The experiment in the question refers to?

- (a) Voyager-2
- (b) New Horizons
- (c) LISA Pathfinder
- (d) Evolved LISA

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA) is a mission led by the European Space Agency to detect and accurately measure gravitational waves, tiny ripples in the fabric of space-time from Astronomical Sources.
- LISA would be the first dedicated space-based gravitational wave detector. It aims to measure gravitational waves directly by using Laser Interferometry.
- The LISA concept has a constellation of three spacecraft arranged in an equilateral triangle with sides 2.5 million km long,

flying along an Earth-like heliocentric orbit.

- The distance between the satellites is precisely monitored to detect a passing Gravitational Wave.
- The LISA Pathfinder was a mission that successfully demonstrated the technologies needed to build a future space-based gravitational wave Observatory.

- Flex-fuel vehicles are capable of running on a combination of 100% petrol or 100% bio-ethanol and their blends.

10. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Flex--fuel vehicles are capable of running on a combination of 100% petrol or 100% Bioethanol and their blends.
2. Ministry for Road Transport and Highways is working with automobile manufacturers to manufacture flex-fuel vehicles complying with BS--6 norms.

Options:

- (a) 1 Only
- (b) 2 Only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Indian Minister for Road Transport and Highways has asked automobile manufacturers to manufacture flex-fuel vehicles complying with BS-6 norms within six months.

1. With reference to the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), consider the Following Statements:

1. GEAC is the country's biotech regulator, functioning in the Ministry of Environment.
2. GEAC is the apex body for approval of activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle.
3. It is constituted under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body constituted in the Ministry of Environment and Forests under 'Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells 1989', under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- These rules commonly referred as 'Rules 1989'.

- The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) functions in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- GEAC is chaired by the Special Secretary/Additional Secretary of MoEF&CC and co-chaired by a representative from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- Functions of GEAC:
 - ✓ To appraise activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle.
 - ✓ To appraise proposals relating to release of genetically engineered organisms and products into the environment including experimental field trials.
- The committee or any persons authorized by it has powers to take punitive action under the Environment Protection Act.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Bt cotton is the only GM crop that has been approved for commercial cultivation in 2002.
2. GM rice is not grown commercially in India.
3. The task of regulating GMO levels in Imported Consumables is with the FSSAI.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under Environment Ministry oversees the approval of GM Crops in India.
- The task of regulating GMO levels in imported consumables was initially with the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC). Its role in this was diluted with the enactment of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and FSSAI was asked to take over approvals of imported goods.
- Use of the unapproved GM variant can attract a jail term of 5 years and fine of Rs. 1 lakh under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- **Bt cotton:** It is the only GM crop that has been approved for commercial cultivation in 2002.
- **Bt Brinjal:** Resistant to brinjal shoot fly, it was approved by GEAC in 2009. However due to 10 years moratorium imposed on GM crops by the Technical Expert Committee (TEC) appointed by the

Supreme Court of India, its commercialization has stalled.

- **GM Dhara Mustard Hybrid 11:** DMH 11 developed by Delhi University is pending for commercial release as GEAC has advised to generate complete safety assessment.
- However, unauthorized HtBt Cotton and Bt Brinjal are being grown commercially, with hundreds of growers blatantly defying the governmental ban.
- GM rice is not grown commercially in India. However, multiple GM rice varieties have been approved for confined field trials.
- There seems a possibility of cross-contamination from such field trials directly or through seed leakages.

3. With respect to the Defamation Cases, consider the following statements:

1. Civil defamation has been specifically defined as an offence under section 499 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
2. Criminal defamation does not rely on statutes to define wrongs but takes from ever-increasing body of case laws to define what would constitute a wrong.
3. Section 500 of IPC reads, “Whoever defames another shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.”

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Defamation is the communication of a false statement that harms the reputation of an individual person, business, product, group, government, religion, or nation.
- In India, defamation can both be a civil wrong and a criminal offence.
- The difference between the two lies in the objects they seek to achieve.
- A civil wrong tends to provide for a redressal of wrongs by awarding compensation and a criminal law seeks to punish a wrongdoer and send a message to others not to commit such acts.
- **Criminal defamation** has been specifically defined as an offence under section 499 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Civil defamation** is based on tort law (an area of law which does not rely on statutes to define wrongs but takes from ever-increasing body of case laws to define what would constitute a wrong).
- **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

- Section 499 states defamation could be through words, spoken or intended to be read, through signs, and also through visible representations.
- Section 499 also cites exceptions. These include “imputation of truth” which is required for the “public good” and thus has to be published, on the public conduct of government officials, the conduct of any person touching any public question and merits of the public performance.
- Section 500 of IPC, which is on punishment for defamation, reads, “Whoever defames another shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.”
- **So, statement 3 is correct.**

4. AFSPA was recently extended in Nagaland for six more months. The state is bordered by which of the following states?

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Mizoram
3. Assam
4. Manipur

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Union Home Ministry recently, extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in the whole of Nagaland for another six months.
- Nagaland is located in the northeast of India. The state shares its borders with Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Assam.
- The state shares international borders with Myanmar only.



5. Who amongst the following decides the date of the election for the speaker of the State Legislative Assembly?

- Governor
- President
- Chief Minister
- State Election Commission

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The date for the Speaker's election of the State Legislative Assembly is notified by the Governor.

6. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- Under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), registration is mandatory for any NGO or association to receive foreign funds or donations.
- The act is enforced by the Ministry of Finance.

Options:

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act is a consolidating act whose scope is to regulate the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality by certain individuals or associations or companies and to prohibit acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality for any activities detrimental to the national interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- Under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), registration is mandatory for any NGO or association to Receive foreign funds or donations.
- The act is enforced by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

7. Which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. India's 'Annual Health Index' has been developed by NITI Aayog, with technical assistance from the World Bank, in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. Kerala has consistently topped the Index.

Options:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Both statements are correct.

8. In context to Preferential Trade Agreements (PTA), consider the following statements:

1. In a PTA, the partners can reduce the tariffs on entry of certain products to a certain limit but not to completely zero.
2. India has signed a PTA with Afghanistan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA):

- PTAs or Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a special status given in trade by various countries.
- In this type of agreement, two or more partners give Preferential right of entry to certain products by reducing duties on an agreed number of tariff lines.
- Tariffs may even be reduced to zero for some products even in a PTA. India signed a PTA with Afghanistan. Hence, statement 1 is not correct but statement 2 is correct.

9. Consider the following, with regard to Konark Sun Temple:

1. It was built in the 13th century by King Narasimhadeva I.
2. It is a UNESCO world heritage site.
3. It is also referred to as the Black Pagoda.

which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

About Konark Temple:

- Konark Sun Temple, located in East Odisha near the sacred city of Puri.

- Built in the 13th century by King Narasimhadeva I (AD 1238-1264) and is dedicated to the Sun God.
- It marks the highest point of achievement of Kalinga architecture.
- It was declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1984.
- The temple is designed in the shape of a colossal chariot.
- There are two rows of 12 wheels on each side of the Konark sun temple.
- Some say the wheels represent the 24 hours in a day and others say the 12 months.
- The seven horses are said to symbolise the seven days of the week.
- Sailors once called this Sun Temple of Konark, the Black Pagoda because it was supposed to draw ships into the shore and cause shipwrecks.
- Hence, option A is correct.

10. Consider the following, with regard to Indian National Army:

1. It was first formed under Mohan Singh and Japanese Major Iwaichi Fujiwara.
2. It included Indian prisoners of war from Singapore, Indian civilians and some Japanese soldiers.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

Indian National Army:

- The INA was first formed under Mohan Singh and Japanese Major Iwaichi Fujiwara and comprised Indian prisoners of war of the British-Indian Army captured by Japan in the Malayan (present-day Malaysia) campaign and at Singapore. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- The INA included both the Indian prisoners of war from Singapore and Indian civilians in South-East Asia. Its strength grew to 50,000. Hence statement 2 is not correct.
- The INA fought allied forces in 1944 inside the borders of India in Imphal and in Burma.
- However, with the fall of Rangoon, Azad Hind Government ceased to be an effective political entity.
- In November 1945 a British move to put the INA men on trial immediately sparked Massive Demonstrations all over the Country.