



Prelims Refresher Program: Day 4 (Test-1)

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Question 1:

Which of the following best describes the concept of Social justice?

1. Equal treatment to all citizens without any social distinction.
2. Equal distribution of wealth.
3. Equal participation of women in politics.
4. Equal employment opportunities for men and women.

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- Social justice denotes the **equal treatment of all citizens without any social distinction** based on **caste, colour, race, religion, sex** and so on.
It means the absence of privileges being extended to any particular section of the society, and improvement in the conditions of backward classes (SCs, STs, and OBCs) and women.
- Social justice holds the aims of **equal opportunity to every citizen** in the matter of social & economic activities and to prevent inequalities. **Hence, option A is correct.**

Question 2:

The Preamble of the Constitution of India ensures?

1. Economic liberty
2. Equality of opportunity
3. Liberty of faith

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

The Preamble in the constitution explains two things:

- First the **structure of the governance** and the other, about the ideals to be achieved in independent India. It is because of this, the Preamble is considered to be the key to the Constitution.
- The **objectives**, laid down in the Preamble, are:
Description of Indian State as **Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic**. (Socialist, Secular added by 42nd Amendment, 1976).
 - **Justice** - social, **economic** and political. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - **Liberty** of thought, expression, belief, **faith** and worship. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - **Equality of status and opportunity.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - **Fraternity** assuring the dignity of the individual and unity and integrity of the nation.

Question 3:

Consider the following statements:

1. The territorial integrity of the states in India is guaranteed by the Constitution.
2. Indian territory can be ceded to a foreign state only by Constitutional amendment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The Constitution authorises the Parliament to form new states or alter the areas, boundaries or names of the existing states **without their consent**. Parliament can redraw the political map of India according to its will. **Hence, the territorial integrity or continued existence of any state is not guaranteed by the Constitution.** Therefore, India is rightly described as 'an indestructible union of destructible states'. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- In Berubari Union Case, the Supreme Court ruled that the power of Parliament to diminish the area of a state (under Article 3) does not cover cession of Indian territory to a foreign country. **Hence, Indian territory can be ceded to a foreign state only by amending the Constitution under Article 368.**
However, settling boundary disputes with neighbouring countries is different. In 1969, the Supreme Court ruled that boundary disputes can also be resolved by **executive action**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Question 4:

With reference to the concept of Universal Adult Franchise, consider the following statements:

1. It is based on the principle of equality.
2. People express their sovereign will through the right to vote.
3. It allows all adult citizens to be involved in the governance of the state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only

2. 2 and 3 only
3. 2 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- The right of the people to vote and elect their representatives is known as 'franchise'. Adult franchise means that the right to vote should be given to all adult citizens without the discrimination on the basis of caste, class, colour, religion or sex.
 - It is based on equality, which is a basic principle of democracy. It demands that the right to vote should be equally available among all. To deny any class of persons from exercising this right is to violate their right to equality. In fact, the spirit of democracy can be maintained only if the people are given the right to vote without any discrimination.
 - However, **criminals** are an exception and banned from voting in elections.
The Representation of the People Act, 1951, Section 62 (5) states that "No person shall vote at any election if he is confined in a prison, whether under a sentence of imprisonment or transportation or otherwise, or is in the lawful custody of the police. Nothing in this sub-section shall apply to a person subjected to preventive detention under any law for the time being in force".
 - **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - People are called political sovereign because they possess the right to vote a government into power or to vote a government out of power. That is why democracy has sometimes been described as a mode of appointing, controlling and dismissing governments by the people. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Universal adult franchise enables all citizens to be involved in the governance of their state. They do so by electing their representatives who govern to serve and protect the interests of the people. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
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Question 5:

With reference to Lake Urmia, consider the following statements:

1. It is situated in Iraq.
2. It is a freshwater lake.
3. The lake is a UNESCO biosphere reserve.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

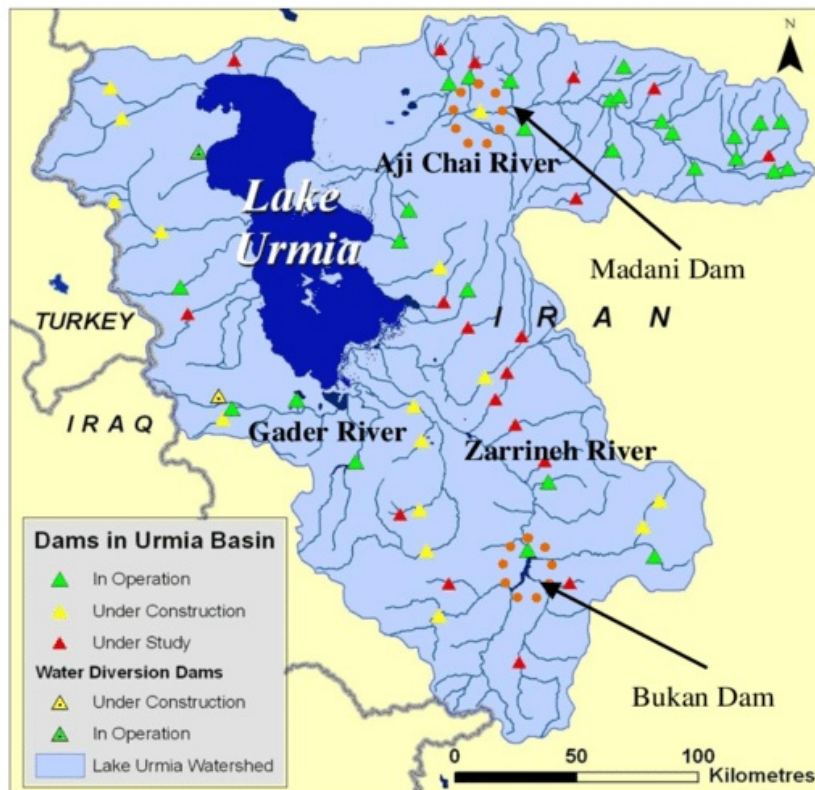
1. 1 and 3 only
2. 2 only
3. 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- Lake Urmia is situated in **north-western Iran**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is a **hypersaline lake** with many islands, surrounded by extensive brackish marshes. The lake is fed by rainfall, springs and streams and subject to seasonal variation in level and salinity. The brackish marshes are an important staging area for migratory waterbirds. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- It is both a Ramsar site and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- According to **UNEP reports**, the lake has been declining since 1995. By August 2011, its surface area was reduced to 2,366 km² which further declined to 700km² in 2013.
NASA satellite data indicate that the lake lost about 70% of its surface area between 2002 and 2016.
- According to the latest **UNDP reports**, the lake has shown **signs of recovery**. The lake increased by 1600 km² between 2013 and 2017.



Question 6:

Recently "Paris Call" was in the news, it relates to which of the following:

1. Climate change
2. Space agreement
3. Cyber Security
4. Biotechnology

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

Paris Call

- In November 2018, French President Emmanuel Macron launched the **Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace** during the UNESCO's Internet Governance Forum (IGF) summit.
- The Paris Call invites all cyberspace actors to work together and encourage States to cooperate with private sector partners, researchers and civil society. **Hence, option C is correct.**

Internet Governance Forum

In 2003 and 2005, the United Nations organized the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The most critical outcomes from this landmark summit were the creation of the Internet Governance Forum.

IGF is a forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue under the aegis of UNESCO.

- It serves to bring different stakeholder groups together as equals, in discussions on public policy issues relating to the Internet.
 - The third summit was held at Hyderabad in 2006.
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Question 7:

Which one of the following reflects the most appropriate relationship between law and liberty?

1. If there are more laws, there is less liberty.
2. If there are no laws, there is no liberty.
3. If there is liberty, laws have to be made by the people.
4. If laws are changed too often, liberty is in danger.

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- Liberty means the individual can act as he pleases without being under any type of arbitrary or illegal restraint or control.
 - **Liberty does not mean the complete absence of all laws.**
 - Liberty exists only in an ordered state. The state frames law and the sovereign state operates through these laws.
 - Therefore, the existence of law is essential for the existence of liberty.
 - It is the law that protects liberty.
 - **Hence, option B is correct.**
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Question 8:

"It is a transitional type of climate found between the equatorial rainforests and hot deserts. Floods and droughts are common. Extreme diurnal range temperature is a characteristic feature. Prevailing winds of the region are the Trade Winds, which bring rain to the coastal regions. On-shore winds in summer bring rain. Off-shore winds in winter keep the climate dry and rainfall decreases from East to West. There is no distinct rainy season "

Which of the following regions is described in the above passage?

1. British Type
2. Mediterranean
3. Sudan Type
4. Monsoon

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

Savanna/Sudan Type

Above features best describe the Savanna/ Sudan or Tropical Wet and Dry climate. It is best developed in Sudan. It is also distributed in Africa (Kenya, Nigeria, Gambia), South America, Australia and India.

Features:

- Alternate wet and dry seasons similar to monsoon climate but annual rainfall is less.
On the whole, the annual precipitation (~100 cm annually) is less than the tropical monsoon climate & length of wet & dry seasons differs with the locality.
- Extreme diurnal range of temperature.
The savanna climate has a temperature range of 18°-30° C.
- The prevailing winds of the region are the Trade Winds.

Reasons for alternating wet and dry seasons in this type of climate:

- On-shore winds in summer bring rain.
- Off-shore winds in winter cause a dry climate.

Question 9:

With reference to the 'Reservations for Economically Weaker Sections', consider the following statements:

1. 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act introduces 10% reservation in employment for economically weaker sections.
2. Article 15 permits the Government to reserve seats in services for the economically weaker sections.
3. The identification of beneficiary is done on the basis of Socio-Economic and Caste Census.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 only
3. 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The **103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019** introduced 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of society for admission to **Central Government-run educational institutions and private educational institutions** (except for minority educational institutions), and for employment in Central Government jobs.
Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Article 15** of the Constitution prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the grounds of race, religion, caste, sex, or place of birth. However, the government may make special provisions for the advancement of **socially and educationally backward classes**, or for **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**.
 - The Act amended **Article 15** to additionally permit the government to provide for the advancement of **"economically weaker sections"**.
 - Further, up to 10% of seats may be reserved for such sections for **admission in educational institutions**. Such reservation will **not apply to minority educational institutions**.

- **Article 16** of the Constitution **prohibits discrimination in employment in any government office**. However, the government can **allow reservation for any “backward class of citizens”**, if they are **not adequately represented** in the services under the state.
 - The Act amended Article 16 to permit the government to reserve up to **10% of all posts for the “economically weaker sections”** of citizens.
 - Article 15 deals with reservation in the educational institution and **Article 16 mentions representation** in services under the state (employment). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The reservation of up to 10% for “economically weaker sections” in educational institutions and public employment will be in addition to the existing reservation.
- The central government will identify the **“economically weaker sections”** of citizens on the basis of **family income** and **other indicators of economic disadvantage**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Question 10:

‘Sovereignty’ mentioned in the Preamble to the Constitution of India signifies.

1. The complete political freedom and the supreme authority as a nation.
2. The constitutional authorities and organs of government derive their power only from the people.
3. Sovereignty rests with the Parliament of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- The Preamble to the Constitution of India declares India **“a sovereign socialist secular democratic republic”**. Being sovereign means **having complete political freedom and being the supreme authority**. It implies that India is internally all-powerful and externally free. It is free to determine for itself without any external interference (either by any country or individual) and nobody is there within to challenge its authority. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This **feature of sovereignty** gives us the dignity of existence as a nation in the international community. Though the Constitution does not specify where the sovereign authority lies but a mention of **‘We the People of India’** in the Preamble clearly indicates that **sovereignty rests with the people of India**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

This means that the constitutional authorities and organs of **government derive their power only from the people**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Question 11:

Consider the following statements about ‘the Charter Act of 1833’:

1. It provided for the establishment of a law commission.
2. It ended the administrative functions of the East India Company.
3. It lifted all the restrictions on European immigration.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 1 only
4. 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

Charter Act of 1833

- The **Charter Act 1833** enacted by the British Parliament, provided for the establishment of a **Law Commission** for consolidation and codification of Indian Laws. In 1835, **Lord Macaulay** was appointed as Chairman of the First Law Commission. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Features of the Act**
 - It made the Governor-General of Bengal as the Governor-General of India and vested in him all civil and military powers. **Lord William Bentick** was the first governor-general of India.
 - It deprived the governor of Bombay and Madras of their legislative powers. The Governor-General of India was given exclusive legislative powers for the entire British India.
 - It ended the activities of the East India Company as a **commercial body**, which became a purely administrative body. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - The Charter Act of 1833 attempted to introduce a system of open competition for selection of civil servants. However, this provision was negated after opposition from the Court of Directors.
 - The Act also **ended Company's monopoly over trade with China and in tea.**
 - All the **restrictions on European immigration and the acquisition of property** in India were lifted. Thus, the way was paved for the wholesale European colonisation of India. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 12:

With reference to 'Citizenship in India', consider the following statements:

1. In India, citizenship can be acquired both on the basis of birth and naturalisation.
2. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2015 merged the Person of Indian Origin (PIO) category with Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- According to the Citizenship Act, 1955, there are 5 ways in which Indian citizenship can be acquired: **birth, descent, registration, naturalisation and incorporation of territory.**
 - **Jus soli** is the most common means by which a person acquires citizenship of a nation. In this, the citizenship of a person is determined by the place where a person was born.
 - **Jus sanguinis** is used when a person acquires citizenship through their parents or ancestors. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The category **Overseas Citizenship of India** was introduced by the government in 2005. The Government of India via **Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2015** merged the **Person of Indian Origin (PIO)** category with OCI category in 2015. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Question 13:

Consider the following statements:

1. Ultima Thule is a natural satellite of Mars.
2. NASA's New Horizons spacecraft has found evidence of water on Ultima Thule.
3. The Kuiper belt is an asteroid belt lying between Mars and Jupiter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. 1 and 2 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- NASA's **New Horizons spacecraft** flew past the icy object nicknamed **Ultima Thule (TOO-lee)** in the Kuiper belt. It is the most distant place beyond the known world. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **New Horizons spacecraft** has found evidence for a unique mixture of methanol, water, ice and organic molecules on Ultima Thule's surface. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Kuiper Belt** is a region of the Solar System that exists beyond the eight major planets, starting from the orbit of Neptune. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Ultima Thule would have relics dating back to the solar system's origin 4.5 billion years ago. No spacecraft has visited anything so primitive. This will help in understanding the origins of our solar system.
- It has been renamed **Arrokoth**, or "sky" in the Native American Powhatan language, following a backlash over the previous name's Nazi connotations.
- The **Kuiper Belt** (also known as the Edgeworth–Kuiper belt) is a region of the Solar System that exists beyond the eight major planets, extending from the orbit of Neptune (at 30 AU) to approximately 50 AU from the Sun. (1 Astronomical Unit (AU) = distance between the Earth and the Sun).
It is similar to the asteroid belt, in that it contains many small bodies, all remnants from the Solar System's formation.

Question 14:

Which one of the following is not a feature of Indian federalism?

1. There is an independent judiciary in India.
2. Powers have been clearly divided between the Centre and the States.

3. The federating units have been given unequal representation in the Rajya Sabha.
4. It is the result of an agreement among the federating units.

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- According to Article 1 of the Indian Constitution, India is a Union of States.
- Dr Ambedkar, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, eulogized the term "Union of the States" on the plea that it indicated two important facts – (a) Federalism in India had not been the result of an agreement among the units, and (b) The constituent units of the Indian Federation had no right to secede from it.
- The features of Indian federalism are as follows:
 - **Dual Polity: The Constitution establishes a dual polity at the Centre and the States. Each is endowed with sovereign powers to be exercised in the field assigned to them respectively by the Constitution.**
 - **Written Constitution:** The Constitution of India is a written document and is also the lengthiest Constitution of the world.
 - **Division of Powers: The Constitution has divided the powers between the Centre and the States by providing the Union List, State List and the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule.** The residuary subjects are given to the Centre.
 - **The supremacy of the Constitution:** The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. The laws enacted by the Centre and the States must conform to its provisions.
 - **Independent Judiciary:** The Constitution establishes an independent judiciary headed by the Supreme Court.
 - **Bicameralism:** The Constitution provides for a bicameral legislature consisting of an Upper House (Rajya Sabha) and a Lower House (Lok Sabha). The Rajya Sabha represents the states of the Indian Federation and maintains the federal equilibrium by protecting the interests of the States against the undue interference of the Centre.
 - **Hence, option D is the correct.**

Question 15:

In the context of India, which one of the following is the correct relationship between Rights and Duties?

1. Rights are correlative with Duties.
2. Rights are personal and hence independent of society and Duties.
3. Rights, not Duties, are important for the advancement of the personality of the citizen.
4. Duties, not Rights, are important for the stability of the State.

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- According to the different Articles of the Indian Constitution, it is clear that Rights are correlative with Duties.
- This is evident from the relation between Article 21A and 51A(k).
 - **Article 21A** of the Indian Constitution states that the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.
 - **Article 51A(k)** states that it shall be the duty of every citizen to provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of 6 and 14 years. This reinforces the Fundamental Right mentioned under Article 21A

- **Article 43A** provides for, 'Participation of workers in the management of industries'. Thus, the state shall take steps, by suitable legislation or in any other way, to secure the participation of workers in the management of undertakings, establishments or other organisations engaged in any industry.
- **Article 48A**, which provides for the protection and improvement of the environment and safeguarding of forests and wildlife.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

Question 16:

The term 'Insider Trading' recently seen in the news refers to?

1. Buying or selling a publicly-traded company's securities using material information that is not yet published.
2. Selling of supplies by Public Sector Undertakings.
3. Buying or selling of agricultural commodities by Farmers' Producer Organisations directly from farmers.
4. Selling products developed by SHGs among themselves.

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- **Insider trading** refers to the practice of purchasing or selling a publicly-traded company's securities while in possession of material information that is not in the public domain.
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has decided to hold company promoters, irrespective of their shareholding status, responsible for violation of insider **trading norms** if they possess **unpublished price-sensitive information (UPSI)** regarding the company without any 'legitimate' purpose.
- SEBI has specified that the term "legitimate purpose" will include sharing of the UPSI in the ordinary course of business by an insider with partners, collaborators, lenders, customers, suppliers, merchant bankers, legal advisors, auditors, insolvency professionals or other advisors or consultants, provided that such sharing has not been carried out to evade or circumvent the prohibitions of these regulations. **Hence, option A is correct.**

Question 17:

Consider the following pairs:

	Desert	Ocean Current
1.	Sonoran	Gulfstream
2.	Atacama	Peruvian Current
3.	Namib	Agulhas Current

Which of the pairs given above is/are not correctly matched?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 1 and 3 only

4. 1, 2, and 3

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

Hot desert and Cold ocean current correlation

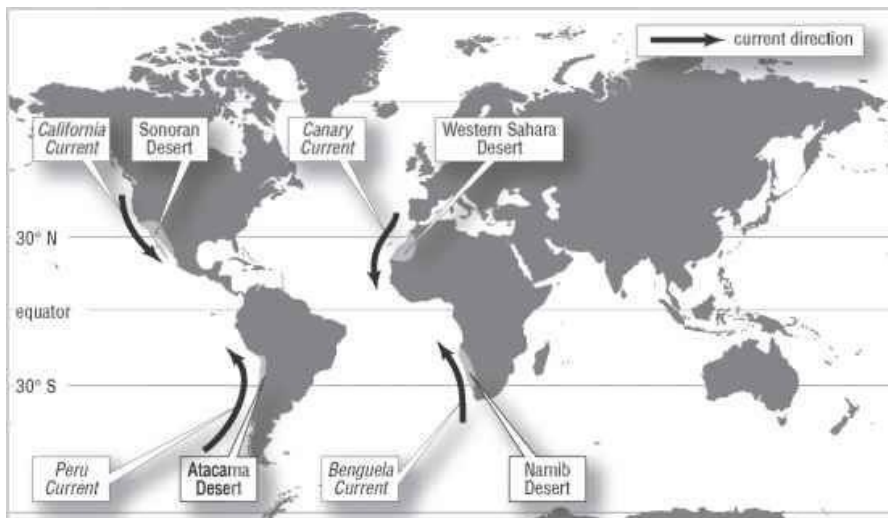
- All the deserts mentioned in the question lie (whole /partially) on the **eastern coast of the continent**. Cold ocean currents near 25 to 35-degree latitude (north and south) results into formation of **hot deserts**.
- Cold currents make the **overlying air as cold-dry air mass** which in turn causes the surrounding land as dry like a desert.

Gulf stream and Agulhas are warm ocean currents and moreover, they lie on the western coast of the continent. Therefore these currents **don't result in the formation of deserts**.

- The Humboldt Current, also called the Peru Current, is a **cold ocean current of low salinity** that flows in the north-west direction along the coast of South America.

The cooling influence on the climate of Chile, Peru and Ecuador. It is also largely responsible for the **aridity of the Atacama Desert in northern Chile and coastal areas of Peru** and also of the aridity of southern Ecuador.

- **Sonoran desert (North America)** is under the influence of **Californian Current** and **Namib desert (Africa)** is under the influence of **Benguela Current**. Hence, **option C is the correct answer**.



Question 18:

Consider the following statements:

1. An area with extensive mechanised cultivation of wheat.
2. Pastures affected by the local wind called Chinook.
3. An area with little maritime influence.
4. Rainfall between 25 cm to 75 cm.

The geographical features given above are associated with which of the following?

1. Canterbury Grasslands
2. Campos
3. Prairies

4. Llanos

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

Prairies

- Prairies are the **temperate grasslands of North America**. They cover parts of the United States of America and parts of Canada.
 - The Prairies have a **continental type climate** with extreme temperatures.
 - The **Rocky Mountains** bound them in the West and **Great Lakes** cover them in the east. Due to the absence of the north-south barrier, a **local wind 'Chinook'** blows here.
 - It rains moderately (25 cm to 75 cm) in this region and is ideal for the growth of grass.
 - The tributaries of **Mississippi drain** the prairies in the USA. On the other hand, the tributaries of the **Saskatchewan Rivers** drain the prairies of Canada.
 - Fertile soil brought by these rivers combined with **scientific methods** (use of combine harvester, crop sprayer) of cultivation has resulted in surplus wheat production. Due to this Prairies is called '**Granaries of the world**'.
 - **Canterbury grasslands** are temperate grasslands located in New Zealand. **Campos** (Brazil) & **Llanos** (Venezuela and Colombia) are tropical grasslands.
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Question 19:

Which of the following are regarded as the main features of the "Rule of Law"?

1. Limitation of powers
2. Equality before law
3. People's responsibility to the Government
4. Liberty and civil rights

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 and 3 only
2. 2 and 4 only
3. 1, 2 and 4 only
4. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The '**Rule of Law**' may be defined as a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with human rights norms and standards.
- It requires, as well, measures to ensure adherence to the principles of supremacy of law, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness and procedural and legal transparency.

- Key tenets of Rule of Law:
 - **Equality before law;**
 - Equal protection of law;
 - **Existence and preservation of liberty and civil rights;**
 - **Limitation of powers of executive and legislature;**
 - Responsibility of the government towards the masses.
 - **Hence, option C is correct.**
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Question 20:

With reference to the idea of fraternity in Preamble, consider the following statements:

1. It ensures the dignity of individuals.
2. It assures the unity and integrity of the nation.
3. The word integrity was inserted through the 44th Constitutional Amendment to the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

Fraternity means a sense of brotherhood. The Preamble declares that fraternity has to assure two things the **dignity of the individual** and the **unity and integrity of the nation**. The former is accomplished by recognising the moral equality of individuals, upheld through mutual respect, despite all our differences, of religious beliefs, caste, language, culture, ethnicity, class and gender. **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

The word 'integrity' has been added to the preamble by the **42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976)**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**



Prelims Refresher Program: Day 4 (Test-1)

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Question 21:

Which one of the following provisions of the Indian Constitution can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and the ratification by half of the states?

1. Election of the President
2. Fundamental Rights
3. Directive Principles of State Policy
4. Sixth Schedule—administration of tribal areas

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

Constitutional Amendment By Special Majority of Parliament and Consent of States

Those provisions of the Constitution which are related to the federal structure of the polity can be amended by a **special majority of the Parliament** and also with the consent of **half of the state** legislatures by a **simple majority**.

There is **no time limit** within which the states should give their consent to the Bill.

The following provisions can be amended in this way:

- **Election of the President and its manner.**
- The extent of the executive power of the Union and the states.
- Supreme Court and high courts.
- Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states.
- Any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule.
- Representation of states in Parliament.
- Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure (**Article 368 itself**). **Hence, option A is correct.**

By Special Majority of Parliament

The majority of the provisions in the Constitution need to be amended by a special majority of the Parliament, that is, **a majority of the total membership of each House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of each House present and voting.**

- The expression 'total membership' means the total number of members comprising the House **irrespective of the fact whether there are vacancies or absentees**. The provisions which can be amended by this way include:
 - **Fundamental Rights**
 - **Directive Principles of State Policy**
 - **All** other provisions which are **not** covered by the other two categories:
 - Simple majority
 - Special majority and consent of states
 - **Hence, statements B and C are not correct.**
 - Amendment to provisions related to the **5th and 6th Schedule** can be done by a **simple majority** of parliament. **Hence, statement D is not correct.**
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Question 22:

Consider the following:

1. The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987
2. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
3. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989
4. Ancient and Historical Monument and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1951

Which of the above-mentioned legislations was enacted by the Parliament to enforce the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)?

1. 1 and 2 only

- 2. 2 and 3 only
- 3. 1, 2 and 3 only
- 4. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

Directive Principles of State Policy	Legislation passed by Parliament to enforce DPSP
Article 39 A: To promote equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor.	The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 has established a nation-wide network to provide free and competent legal aid to the poor and to organise lok adalats for promoting equal justice.
Article 48 A: To protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife.	The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, have been enacted to safeguard the wildlife and the forests respectively.
Article 46: To promote the educational and economic interests of SCs, STs, and other weaker sections of the society and to protect them from social injustice and exploitation.	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, have been enacted to protect the SCs and STs from social injustice and exploitation.
Article 49: To protect monuments, places and objects of artistic or historic interest which are declared to be of national importance.	The Ancient and Historical Monument and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (1951) has been enacted to protect the monuments, places and objects of national importance.

Hence, option D is correct.

Question 23:

Regarding the basic structure of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. It restricts the Parliament's power to amend the Constitution under Article 368.
2. Concept of a welfare state forms part of the basic structure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- In the **Shankari Prasad case (1951)**, the Supreme Court ruled that the power of the Parliament to amend the Constitution under Article 368 also includes the power to amend Fundamental Rights.
- In the **Golak Nath case (1967)**, the Supreme Court ruled that the Fundamental Rights are given a 'transcendental and immutable' position and hence, the Parliament cannot abridge or take away any of these rights.
- In the **Kesavananda Bharati case (1973)**, the Supreme Court overruled its judgement in the Golak Nath case (1967). The Supreme Court formulated the concept of 'basic structure', it ruled that the **constituent power of Parliament under Article 368 does not enable it to alter the 'basic structure'** of the Constitution.

This means that the Parliament cannot abridge or take away a Fundamental Right that forms a part of the 'basic structure' of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- In **Kesavananda Bharati verdict**, there was no unanimity among judges about the basic structural features. Each judge laid out separately what he thought about the basic or essential features of the Constitution. Various features laid out as the basic structure of the constitution are mentioned below:
 - The mandate to build a **welfare state** contained in the Directive Principles of State Policy. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Unity and integrity of the nation
 - The supremacy of the Constitution
 - Sovereignty of India
 - Republican and democratic form of government
 - Secular character of the Constitution
 - Separation of powers between the legislature, executive and the judiciary
 - Federal character of the Constitution
-

Question 24:

Arrange the soil type which will be found along the Ganga river basin while moving from North to South throughout the course:

1. Terai
2. Bhabhar
3. Khadar
4. Bhangar

Which of the following is the correct sequence in order?

1. 4-3-2-1
2. 2-1-4-3
3. 3-4-1-2
4. 2-3-1-4

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The northern plains are formed by the alluvial deposits brought by the rivers. The average width of these plains varies between 150-300 km. The maximum depth of alluvium deposits varies between 1,000-2,000 m.

- From the north to the south, these can be divided into three major zones: the **Bhabar**, the **Terai** and the **Alluvial plains**. The alluvial plains can be further divided into the **Bhangar** and the **Khadar**.
 - **Bhabar** is a narrow belt ranging between 8-10 km parallel to the **Shivalik foothills** at the break-up of the slope.
 - As a result of this, the streams and rivers coming from the mountains deposit heavy materials of rocks and boulders, and at times, disappear in this zone.
 - South of the Bhabar is the **Terai belt**, with an approximate width of 10-20 km where most of the streams and rivers re-emerge without having any properly demarcated channel, thereby, creating marshy and swampy conditions known as the Terai. This has a luxurious growth of natural vegetation and houses varied wildlife.
 - The south of Terai is a belt consisting of old and new alluvial deposits known as the **Bhangar and Khadar** respectively. These plains have characteristic features of the mature stage of fluvial erosional and depositional landforms such as sand bars, meanders, oxbow lakes and braided channels. **Hence, option B is correct.**
-

Question 25:

The 'Sangrai dance' which was recently seen in news is performed by the local tribals of:

1. Tripura
2. West Bengal
3. Nagaland
4. Assam

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

Sangrai dance and Mog tribe

- Sangrai dance is performed by the **Mog tribal community from Tripura** on the occasion of Sangrai festival during the month of Chaitra (in April) of the Bengali calendar year. **Hence, option A is correct.**

- The Mog are Arakanese descendants who migrated to Tripura through the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Their language is grouped under the Tibeto-Chinese family which is also linked with Assam-Burmese section of language.

Almost all the people belonging to the Mog community are followers of **Buddhism**. The Mog Buddhists have a close affinity with Burmese Buddhism in all socio-cultural and religious aspects. Their major concentrations are at Sabroom and Belonia in South Tripura.

Question 26:

With reference to Fundamental Duties, consider the following statements:

1. Fundamental duties extend to both citizens and foreigners.
2. They are enforceable only by Parliament.
3. It helps the court in determining the constitutional validity of a law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 3 only
4. 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

The Fundamental Duties in the Indian Constitution are inspired by the Constitution of erstwhile USSR. They are inserted into the Constitution (**Article 51A**) by **42nd amendment act, 1976** on the recommendation of **Sardar Swaran Singh Committee**.

- Fundamental Duties are confined to citizens only and do not extend to foreigners. Fundamental Duties are the moral obligations of all citizens to help promote a spirit of patriotism and to uphold the unity of India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- They are also **non-justiciable**. The Constitution does not provide for its direct enforcement by the courts. Moreover, there is **no legal sanction against their violation**. However, the Parliament and state legislatures are free to enforce them by suitable legislation.
 - SC in **State of Gujarat v. Mirazpur Moti Kureshi Kassab Jamat**, the state prohibited the slaughter of cows and because of which petitioners were arguing that it violates their right to carry on free trade under Article 19(1)(g) of the Indian constitution.
 - The Supreme Court held that the State has the right to impose reasonable restrictions on its business in the interest of the public. The court further said that the restriction further promotes the objectives of Article 48 and 51-A of the Indian constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - They help the courts in examining and determining the **constitutional validity of a law**.

In 1992, the Supreme Court ruled that in determining the constitutionality of any law, if a court finds that the law in question seeks to give effect to a fundamental duty, it may consider such a law to be 'reasonable' in relation to Article 14 or Article 19 and thus save such law from unconstitutionality. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
-

Question 27:

Which of the following countries will be covered under the Farm to Port Project?

1. United Arab Emirates
2. Saudi Arabia
3. Qatar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. 1 and 2 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** and **Saudi Arabia** had decided to use India as a base to address their food security concerns. To implement this, India has announced a Farm-To-Port Project. It is similar to a special economic zone but in the style of a corporatized farm, where crops would be grown keeping in mind the requirements of the UAE and Saudi Arabia's market. **Hence, option C is correct.**

Question 28:

Which of the following statements is not correct regarding the amendability of the Indian Constitution?

1. Private members can introduce the Constitutional Amendment Bill.
2. The doctrine of the basic structure of the Constitution was adopted in Golak Nath Case (1967).
3. There is no time limit for the State Legislature to pass a Constitutional Amendment Bill.
4. The joint sitting of Parliament can not be held for the Constitutional Amendment Bill.

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

Article 368 in Part XX of the Constitution deals with the power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedures.

- **Article 368** provides for **two types** of amendments, that is, by a special majority of Parliament and the special majority of Parliament along with the ratification of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority.
- Amendment of certain provisions of the Constitution requires amendments by a simple majority of each house present and voting. These amendments are not deemed to be amendments under Article 368.
- The Constitutional Amendment Bill can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member and does not require prior permission of the President. **Hence, statement A is correct.**

- In the **Golak Nath case (1967)**, the Supreme Court ruled that the Fundamental Rights are given a 'transcendental and immutable' position and hence, the **Parliament cannot abridge or take away** any of these rights. A constitutional amendment act is also a law within the meaning of Article 13 and hence, would be void for violating any of the Fundamental Rights. In the **Kesavananda Bharati case (1973)**, (the Supreme Court overruled its judgement in the Golak Nath case 1967) and laid down a new doctrine of the '**basic structure**'. **Hence, statement B is incorrect.**
 - The Constitution does not prescribe the time frame within which the state legislatures should ratify or reject an amendment submitted to them. Also, it is silent on the issue of whether the states can withdraw their approval after the same. **Hence, statement C is correct.**
 - There is no provision for holding a joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament if there is a deadlock over the passage of a constitutional amendment bill. On the other hand, a provision for a joint sitting is made in the case of an ordinary bill. **Hence, statement D is correct.**
-

Question 29:

Which of the following rights is/are recognised as a Fundamental Right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution?

1. Right to Privacy
2. Right to Work
3. Right to Health

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 and 3 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- **Article 21** ensures every person's right to life and personal liberty. Both the terms, life and personal liberty have been given a very expansive and wide amplitude covering a variety of rights.

- The expression “life” has been broadly interpreted by the Supreme Court, which has given it an expansive scope. For example:
 - In August 2017, a nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court in ***Justice K. S. Puttaswamy (Retd) Vs Union of India*** unanimously held that Indians have a constitutionally protected **fundamental right to privacy** that is **an intrinsic part of life and liberty under Article 21. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Similarly, Right to Health is also implicit right under article 21. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - However, the **Right to work** is not a fundamental right in India. However, the state should endeavour to provide the right to work under Article 41 in part IV of the constitution (directive principle of state policy). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
-

Question 30:

Which of the following is/are correct regarding the Directive Principles of State Policy?

1. They resemble the ‘Instrument of Instructions’ enumerated in the Government of India Act of 1919.
2. They are non-justiciable in nature.
3. They can be examined in determining the constitutional validity of law by the court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 and 3 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 2 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

Directive Principles of State Policy

- The Directive Principles resemble the ‘Instrument of Instructions’ enumerated in the **Government of India Act of 1935**. The Instructions instrument was issued to the Governor-General and the Governors of the provinces of India by the British Government. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Directive Principles are **non-justiciable** in nature, that is, they are not legally enforceable by the courts for their violation. Therefore, governments cannot be compelled to implement them. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Directive Principles of State Policy (only for Article 39(b) and 39(c)) has been accorded precedence over the Fundamental Rights (Article 14 and Article 19).

The Directive Principles, though non-justiciable in nature, help the courts in examining and determining the constitutional validity of a law.

- The Supreme Court has ruled many a times that in determining the constitutionality of any law, if a court finds that the law in question seeks to give effect to a Directive Principle, it may consider such law to be 'reasonable' in relation to Article 14 (equality before law) or Article 19 (six freedoms) and thus save such law from unconstitutionality.
- **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 31:

With reference to river Teesta, consider the following statements:

1. The source of river Teesta is the same as that of Brahmaputra but it flows through Sikkim.
2. River Rangeet originates in Sikkim and it is a tributary of river Teesta.
3. River Teesta flows into the Bay of Bengal on the border of India and Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 3 only
2. 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **River Teesta/Tista originates from the Tso Lhamo lake of North Sikkim** Himalayas and the **Brahmaputra originates in the Kailash ranges of Himalayas. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Teesta runs downhill through Sikkim** and Darjeeling Hills and then meanders along the plains of West Bengal before entering into Bangladesh, where it flows into the river Brahmaputra at Fulchori. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Rangeet, the largest river in the State of Sikkim, is the main tributary of river Teesta** which originates in the Himalayan mountains of West Sikkim district. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Question 32:

With reference to Peninsular plateau, consider the following statements:

1. It was the result of the tectonic shifts of the Gondwana Land.
2. The eastern extension of plateaus is drained by Damodar river.
3. Karbi-Anglong Plateau is a part of the Deccan Plateau.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

Peninsular Plateau

- The **Peninsular plateau** is a tableland composed of the old crystalline, igneous and metamorphic rocks. It was formed due to the breaking and drifting of the **Gondwana land** and thus, making it a part of the oldest landmass. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

The oldest landmass, (the Peninsula part), was a part of the Gondwana land. The Gondwana land included India, Australia, South Africa, South America and Antarctica as one single landmass.
- The plateau has broad and shallow valleys and rounded hills. This plateau consists of two broad divisions, namely, the **Central Highlands** and the **Deccan Plateau**.
 - The part of the Peninsular plateau lying to the north of the Narmada river covering a major area of the Malwa plateau is known as the Central Highlands.
 - The Vindhya range is bounded by the Central Highlands on the south and the Aravallis on the northwest. The further westward extension gradually merges with the **sandy and rocky desert of Rajasthan**.

- The flow of the rivers draining this region, namely the Chambal, Sind, the Betwa and Ken is from southwest to northeast, thus indicating the slope. The Central Highlands are wider in the west but narrower in the east.

The eastward extensions of this plateau are locally known as the Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand. The Chotanagpur plateau marks the further eastward extension, drained by the **Damodar river. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The Deccan Plateau is a triangular landmass that lies to the south of the river Narmada. The Satpura range flanks its broad base in the north while the **Mahadev**, the **Kaimur hills** and the **Maikal range** forms its eastern extensions.
- The Deccan Plateau is higher in the west and slopes gently eastwards. An **extension of the Plateau** is also visible in the northeast– locally known as the **Meghalaya, Karbi-Anglong Plateau** and **North Cachar Hills**.
- It is separated by a fault from the Chotanagpur Plateau. Three Prominent hill ranges from the west to east are the **Garo, Khasi and Jaintia Hills**.
 - It is believed that due to the force exerted by the northeastward movement of the Indian plate at the time of the Himalayan origin, a huge fault was created between the Rajmahal hills and the Meghalaya plateau
 - Later, this depression got filled up by the deposition activity of the numerous rivers.
 - As a result, today the Meghalaya and Karbi Anglong plateau stand detached from the main Peninsular Block. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 33:

‘Thwaites Glacier’ recently seen in news is located in:

1. Antarctica
2. Arctic
3. Himalayas
4. Andes

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- Scientists have discovered **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** a gigantic cavity, almost 300 meters tall, growing at the bottom of the Thwaites Glacier in West Antarctica. A cavity indicates rapid decay of the ice sheet and acceleration in global sea levels due to climate change.

- It is a part of the Amundsen Sea, east of Mount Murphy, on the Walgreen Coast of Marie Byrd Land. **Hence, option A is correct.**



Question 34:

Which of the following share(s) borders with both the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf?

1. Iraq
2. Iran
3. Turkmenistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The **Caspian Sea** is bounded by **Kazakhstan** to the northeast, Russia to the northwest, Azerbaijan to the west, **Iran** to the south, and Turkmenistan to the southeast.
- Countries with a coastline on the Persian Gulf are (clockwise, from the north): Iran; Oman's Musandam exclave; the United Arab Emirates; Saudi Arabia; Qatar, on a peninsula off the Saudi coast; Bahrain, on an island; Kuwait; and **Iraq** in the northwest. **Hence, option B is correct.**



Question 35:

With reference to 'blaNDM-1', consider the following statements:

1. It is an Antibiotic-Resistant Gene.
2. It is found only in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

New Delhi Metallo-beta-lactamase-1(blaNDM-1)

- **New Delhi Metallo-beta-lactamase-1(blaNDM-1)** is Antibiotic-Resistant Gene (ARG) which results in multi-drug resistance (MDR) in microorganisms.
Superbug gene, 'blaNDM-1' has a strong resistance mechanism as it produces an enzyme called New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase-1. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- British scientists found the superbug -blaNDM-1 in New Delhi's public water supply. Since then, the resistant gene has been found in over **100 countries**, including new variants.
It was later detected in bacteria in India, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, and Japan. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The NDM-1 gene causes bacteria to produce an enzyme called a carbapenemase. Carbapenemase renders many preferred types of antibiotic ineffective, including carbapenems.
Carbapenems are a class of highly effective antibiotic agents commonly used for the treatment of severe or high-risk bacterial infections. This class of antibiotics is usually reserved for known or suspected multidrug-resistant (MDR) bacterial infections.

Question 36:

With reference to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), consider the following statements:

1. Land Degradation Neutrality aims to enhance food security.
2. SDG-16 aims to achieve land degradation neutrality.
3. Bonn Challenge aims to restore degraded land and ecological integrity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- According to **UNCCD, Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)** is defined as a “state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and **enhance food security** remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems”.
It is a process in which the value of the biophysical environment is affected by a combination of human-induced processes acting upon the land. It is viewed as any change or disturbance to the land perceived to be deleterious or undesirable. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) adopted LDN as the principal target of the Convention at COP12, in October 2015.
Target 15.3 of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** aims to achieve **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)** worldwide by 2030. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - **Bonn Challenge** is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world’s deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.
 - It was launched in 2011 by the **Government of Germany** and **IUCN**, and later endorsed and extended by the New York Declaration on Forests at the 2014 UN Climate Summit.
 - Bonn Challenge involves use of **Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR)** approach, which aims to restore ecological integrity and improving human well-being through multifunctional landscapes. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
-

Question 37:

What are the benefits of implementing the ‘Integrated Watershed Development Programme’?

1. Prevention of soil runoff
2. Linking the country’s perennial rivers with seasonal rivers
3. Rainwater harvesting and recharge of groundwater table

4. Regeneration of natural vegetation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2, 3 and 4 only
3. 1, 3 and 4 only
4. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The Integrated Watershed Development Programme (IWDP) is implemented by the Department of Land Resources of the Ministry of Rural Development.
 - **The main objective of IWDP is to restore ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil,** vegetative cover and water.
 - Watershed development refers to the conservation, regeneration and the judicious use of all the resources – natural (like land, water, plants, animals) and human – within the watershed area.
 - However, the linking of the country's perennial with seasonal rivers is **not done under the watershed development programme. Hence, option C is correct.**
-

Question 38:

Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty. Which of the following in the Constitution of India correctly and appropriately implies the above statement?

1. Article 14 and the provisions under the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution.
2. Article 17 and the Directive Principles of State Policy in Part IV.
3. Article 21 and the freedoms guaranteed in Part III.
4. Article 24 and the provisions under the 44th Amendment to the Constitution.

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- In 2017, a nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court (SC) in its verdict in Justice **K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India** case unanimously affirmed that the Right to Privacy is a Fundamental Right under the Indian Constitution.
 - **The SC bench held that privacy is a Fundamental Right as it is intrinsic to guarantee of life and personal liberty as provided under Article 21 of the Constitution.**
 - The bench also stated that the elements of privacy also arise in varying contexts from the other facets of freedom and dignity recognised and guaranteed by the Fundamental Rights contained in Part III of the Constitution. **Therefore, option C is the correct.**
-

Question 39:

Which principle among the following was added to the Directive Principles of State Policy by the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution?

1. Equal pay for equal work for both men and women
2. Participation of workers in the management of industries
3. Right to work, education and public assistance
4. Securing living wage and human conditions of work to workers

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act**, which is also called a Mini-Constitution, was introduced in 1976.

- The additions to the Directive Principles of State Policy through this amendment were:
 - **Incorporation of clause (f)**, in Article 39, which reads “The State shall direct its policy towards **securing that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity** and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.”
 - **New Article 39A**, which provides **equal justice and free legal aid** by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.
 - **Article 43A** provides for, ‘**Participation of workers in management of industries**’. Thus, the State shall take steps, by suitable legislation or in any other way, to secure the participation of workers in the management of undertakings, establishments or other organisations engaged in any industry. **Hence, option B is correct.**
 - **Article 48A**, which provides for the **protection and improvement of the environment and safeguarding forests and wildlife**.
-

Question 40:

Consider the following statements:

1. Freedom of the press is stated under Article 19 of the Constitution.
2. Freedom of speech and expression can be restricted on the grounds of the integrity of India and the security of the state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **Freedom of the press is not specifically mentioned in article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution.** Only ‘freedom of speech and expression’ is mentioned under it.

- In the Constituent Assembly Debates, it was made clear by Dr Ambedkar, Chairman of the Drafting Committee, that **no special mention of the freedom of the press** was necessary at all as the press and an individual or a citizen were the same as far as their right of expression was concerned. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - The framers of the Indian constitution considered **freedom of the press as an essential part of the freedom of speech and expression** as guaranteed in **Article 19 (1) (a)** of the Constitution.
 - In Romesh Thaper vs State of Madras and Brij Bhushan vs State of Delhi, the Supreme Court took it for granted the fact that the freedom of the press was an essential part of the right to freedom of speech and expression.
 - It was observed by Patanjali Sastri J. in Romesh Thaper that freedom of speech and expression included propagation of ideas, and that freedom was ensured by the freedom of circulation.
 - Under Article 19 (2) the State can impose **reasonable restrictions** on the exercise of the freedom of speech and expression on the grounds of **sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, contempt of court, defamation, and incitement to an offence. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
-



Prelims Refresher Program: Day 4 (Test-1)

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Question 41:

With reference to 'Proclamation of Emergency', consider the following statements:

1. It can be proclaimed on the ground of failure of constitutional machinery.
2. It violates the federal ethos of Indian Constitution.
3. This type of emergency has been declared thrice in our country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 2 only
4. 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

The Constitution envisages three types of emergencies, namely:

- **National Emergency** on the ground of **war** or **external aggression** or **armed rebellion (Article 352)**.

In the year 1978, the term '**internal disturbances**' was replaced by '**armed rebellion**' by 44th Constitutional amendment act.

- **State Emergency** (President's Rule) on the ground of failure of Constitutional machinery in the states (Article 356) or failure to comply with the directions of the Centre (**Article 365**).

- Financial Emergency on the ground of threat to the financial stability or credit of India (Article 360)

The Constitution uses the expression '**Proclamation of Emergency**' to denote the **National Emergency** under **Article 352**.

- An Emergency due to the failure of the constitutional machinery in the states (**Article 356**) is popularly known as '**President's Rule**'.

It is also known by two other names—'**State Emergency**' or '**Constitutional Emergency**'. However, the Constitution does not use the word 'emergency' for this situation. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- National Emergency empowers the Centre to give executive directions to a state on 'any' matter. Thus, the state governments are brought under the complete control of the Centre, though they are not suspended.

Thus, it converts the federal structure into a unitary one without a formal amendment of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- National Emergency has been declared in our country three times so far. For the first time, an emergency was declared on 26 October 1962 after China attacked our borders in the North East. It was lifted in January, 1968.

- For the second time, it was declared on 3 December 1971 in the wake of the second India Pakistan War and was lifted on 21 March 1977.
- While the second emergency, on the basis of **external aggression**, was in operation, **third** National Emergency (called internal emergency) was imposed on 25 June 1975. This emergency was declared on the ground of '**internal disturbances**'. It was lifted on 21 March 1977. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 42:

With reference to the Parliamentary system in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Prime Minister is de jure executive while the President is the de facto executive.
2. The advice tendered by the Council of Ministers is binding on the President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

The features of Parliamentary system of government in India

- The President is the nominal executive (***de jure*** executive or titular executive) while the Prime Minister is the real executive (***de facto*** executive). Thus, the President is the head of the State, while the Prime Minister is the head of the government. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - **Article 74** provides for a Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister to aid and advise the President in the exercise of his functions. The advice so tendered is binding on the President. The **42nd** and **44th Amendment Acts** of 1976 and 1978 respectively have made the ministerial advice **binding** on the President. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
-

Question 43:

The distinguishing feature of a federal government is:

1. The Central Government gives some power to the provincial governments.
2. Power is distributed among the legislature, executive and judiciary.
3. Elected officials exercise supreme power in the government.
4. Government power is divided between different levels of government.

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- In the federal system of government, the provincial government derives its power from the Constitution. While in unitary government there is no division of power. If the provincial government exists, it draws power from the Central government. **Hence, option A is not correct.**
- Distribution of power between the legislative, executive and judiciary can be a feature of both the Unitary as well as Federal System. It is not the distinguishing feature of a Federal system. **Hence, option B is not correct.**

- The Constitution is the supreme (or the highest) law of the land. The laws enacted by the Centre and the states must confirm to its provisions.
 - Otherwise, they can be declared invalid by the Supreme Court or the high courts through their power of judicial review.
 - Thus, the organs of the government (legislative, executive and judicial) at both the levels must operate within the jurisdiction prescribed by the Constitution.

Hence, option C is not correct.

- In the federal system of government, the power is divided between different tiers of government i.e Centre and State. **Hence, option D is correct.**

Federal Feature	Unitary Feature
Dual Government (i.e, national government and regional government)	Single government, i.e. the national government which may create regional governments
Written Constitution	Constitution may be written (France) or unwritten (Britain)
Division of powers between the national and regional government	No division of powers. All powers are vested in the national government
Supremacy of the Constitution	The constitution may be supreme (Japan) or may not be supreme (Britain)
Rigid Constitution	Constitution may be rigid (France) or flexible (Britain)
Independent judiciary	Judiciary may be independent or may not be independent
Bicameral legislature	Legislature may be bicameral (Britain) or unicameral (China)

Question 44:

Cyber laws fall under the purview of:

1. Union List
2. State List
3. Concurrent List

4. Residuary Subjects

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

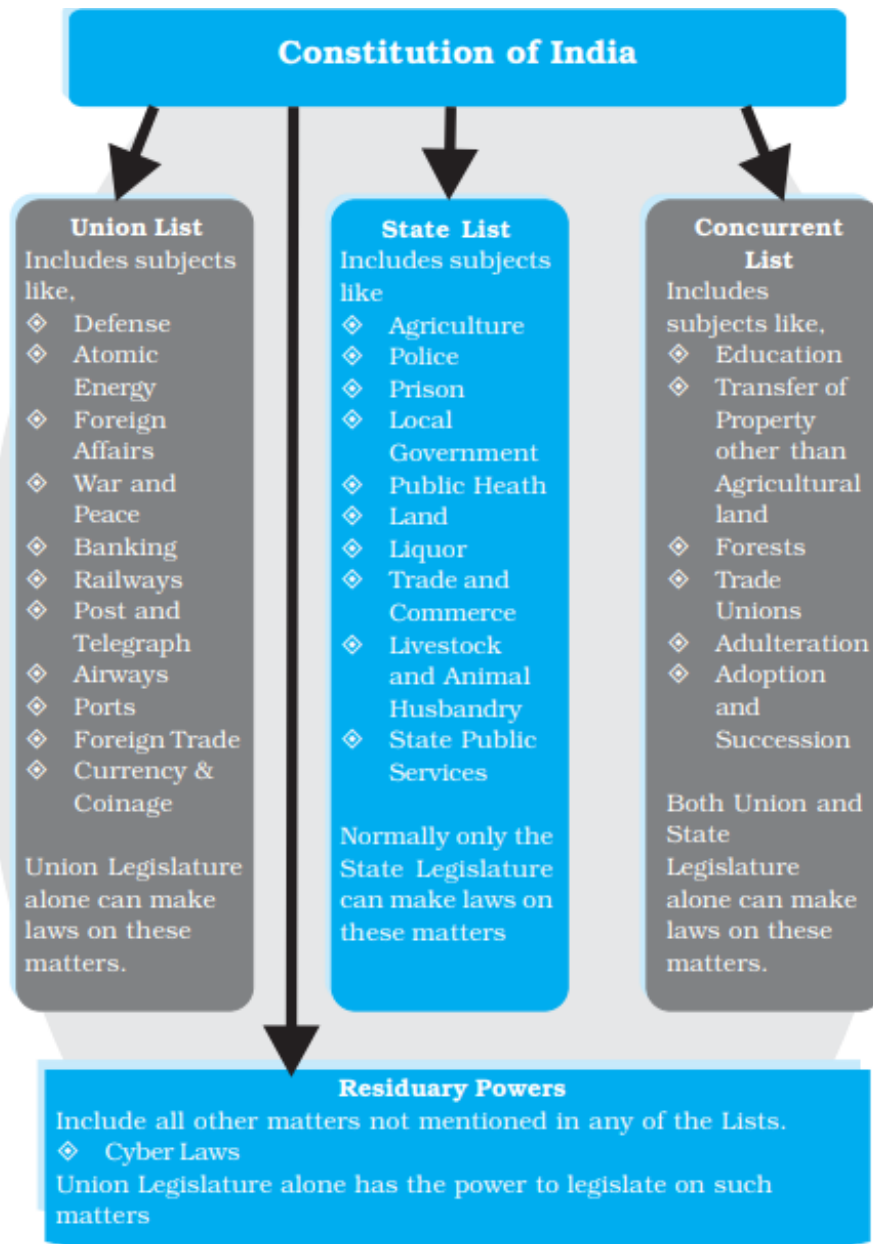
The Constitution of India divides subjects under three lists:

- **Union List:** Union government can frame laws.
- **State List:** State government can frame laws.
- **Concurrent List:** Both Central and State governments can frame laws.

All other subjects which are not mentioned in the above lists come under residuary power.

The Union government has the power to legislate on these matters. This provision is borrowed from **the Canadian Constitution**.

Cyber laws are not mentioned in any list of the Constitution, hence they fall under the purview of residuary subjects. Parliament under **Article 248** has **exclusive power** to make laws with respect to any matter not enumerated in the Concurrent or State List.



Question 45:

Consider the following statements:

1. In India, the Himalayas are spread over five States only.
2. Western Ghats are spread over five States only.
3. Pulicat Lake is spread over two States only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 3 only

3. 2 and 3 only

4. 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The **Indian Himalayan Region is spread over 11 states and 2 UTs**, namely, Jammu and Kashmir (UT), The Union Territory of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Assam and West Bengal. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - **Western Ghats range over six states**, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - **Pulicat Lake is the second largest brackish water body** after Chilika Lake (in Odisha) and is **shared by Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - **Hence, option B is correct.**
-

Question 46:

Recently in news, Vision Zero Conference is related to:

1. Achieving target of zero nuclear weapons
2. Achieving zero GHG emissions
3. Achieving zero chemical and biological weapons
4. Occupational Safety and Health

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- The International Conference 'Vision Zero' and its relevance to **Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)**, was held in Feb 2019, Mumbai.
 - 'Vision Zero' is based on the belief that all accidents, diseases and harm at work are preventable by promoting the three core values of safety, health and wellbeing. **Hence, option D is correct.**
-

Question 47:

Which of the following is/are the features of the Presidential system of government?

1. Dual executive
2. Separation of powers
3. Spoils system
4. Non-responsibility

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 and 4 only
3. 1 only
4. 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

The Features of the Presidential system are given below:

- **Separation of powers:** The three arms of the government i.e, legislature, executive and judiciary are independent of each other.
- **Responsibility of the Executive to the Legislature:** In the Parliamentary **system** the legislature gives birth to the Executive, the legislature has the authority to hold the Executive responsible for all its actions.
In the Presidential system the executive is not responsible to the legislature for its conduct.
- **Expert government:** The President can choose experts in various fields to head relevant departments or ministries. This will make sure that people who are capable and knowledgeable form part of the government.
Spoils system: The President can choose executives as per his will. This gives rise to the spoils system where people close to the President (relatives, business associates, etc.) get roles in the government.
- **Stability:** The term of the President is fixed and not subject to majority support in the legislative, he need not worry about losing the government.
There is no danger of a sudden fall of the government. There is no political pressure on the President to make decisions.
- **Less influence of the party system:** Political parties do not attempt to dislodge the government since the tenure is fixed.

- **Executive:** In the **Parliamentary system of government** there are two executives – the real executive and the nominal executive. The nominal executive is the head of state (President or monarch) while the real executive is the Prime Minister, who is the head of government.

In the Presidential system, there is a **single executive** which heads the government and state.

- **Hence, option D is correct.**
-

Question 48:

With reference to the Inter-State Council, consider the following statements:

1. It can be formed under Article 263 of the Constitution.
2. It is a recommendatory body.
3. It was first recommended by the Punchhi Commission.

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

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **Article 263** contemplates the establishment of an **Inter-State Council** to effect coordination among the states and between the Centre and states. Thus, the President can establish such a council if at any time it appears to him that the public interest would be served by its establishment. He can define the nature of duties to be performed by such a council and its organisation and procedure. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The council is a **recommendatory body** on issues relating to inter-state, Centre-state and Centre–Union Territories relations. It aims at promoting coordination between them by examining, discussing and deliberating on such issues. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations (1983–87)** made a recommendation for the establishment of a permanent Inter-State Council under Article 263 of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Question 49:

Regarding the statutory grants, consider the following statements:

1. Statutory grants are provided to all states every year.
2. They are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.
3. They are made on the recommendations of NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

Statutory Grants

- Under Article 275 of the Constitution, the Parliament is empowered to make grants to the states which are in need of financial assistance and **not to every state**. Beside, different sums may be fixed for different states. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- These sums are charged on **the Consolidated Fund of India** every year. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The statutory grants under Article 275 are given to the states on the recommendation of the **Finance Commission**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Question 50:

Which of the following are not necessarily the consequences of the proclamation of the President's rule in a State?

1. Dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly
2. Removal of the Council of Ministers in the State
3. Dissolution of the local bodies

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 and 2 only

2. 1 and 3 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **President Rule** is imposed in a State under **Article 356 of the Constitution**, if a situation arises in which the government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provision of the Constitution.
 - Every proclamation to impose President Rule shall be laid down before each house of Parliament and must get approval in two months from the date of issue.
If approved by both houses of Parliament then President Rule shall continue for 6 months and it can be renewed for a maximum of 3 years by approval of Parliament after every 6 months.
 - **Consequences of President Rule:**
 - The President can assume to himself all or any of the functions of the State Government or he may vest all or any of those functions with the Governor or any other executive authority.
 - **The President may dissolve the State Legislative Assembly or put it under suspension. Dissolution of Assembly is not necessary.** He may authorize the Parliament to make laws on behalf of the State Legislature.
 - **The Council of Ministers necessarily resigns from the office.**
 - **The local bodies are not affected by the proclamation of the President's rule.**
 - The Parliament can delegate the power to make laws for the State to **the President** or any other body specified by him when the State legislature is suspended or dissolved.
 - **Hence, option B is correct.**
-

Question 51:

Which of the following factors positively affect the Indian monsoon?

1. Differential heating and cooling
2. Shift of the ITCZ over Gangetic plain
3. High-pressure area in the Indian Ocean
4. El Nino Southern Oscillations

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 and 3 only
2. 2 and 4 only
3. 1 and 4 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- The monsoons are experienced in the tropical area roughly between 20° N and 20° S. The mechanism of the monsoon, is positively linked with the following factors:
 - The **differential heating and cooling of land and water creates** low pressure on the land mass of India while the seas around experience comparatively high pressure.
 - The shift of the position of **Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)** in summer, over the **Gangetic plain**. ITCZ is the equatorial trough normally positioned about 5°N of the equator. It is also known as the monsoon trough during the monsoon season.
 - The **presence of the high-pressure area**, east of Madagascar, approximately at 20°S of equator. The **intensity and position** of this high-pressure area affects the Indian monsoon.
 - The **Tibetan plateau gets intensely heated** during summer, which results in strong vertical air currents and the formation of low pressure over the plateau at about 9 km above sea level.
 - The **movement of the westerly jet stream** to the north of the Himalayas and the presence of the tropical easterly jet stream over the Indian peninsula during summer.

- The tropical eastern south Pacific Ocean experiences high pressure, the tropical eastern Indian Ocean experiences low pressure. But in certain years, there is a reversal in the pressure conditions and the eastern Pacific has lower pressure in comparison to the eastern Indian Ocean. This periodic change in pressure conditions is known as the **Southern Oscillation or SO**.
 - A feature connected with the SO is the **El Nino phenomenon** in which a warm ocean current that flows past the Peruvian Coast, in place of the cold Peruvian current, every 2 to 5 years. The changes in pressure conditions are connected to the El Nino. Hence, the phenomenon is referred to as ENSO (**El Nino Southern Oscillations**).
 - The difference in pressure over Tahiti (Pacific Ocean, 18°S/149°W) and Darwin in northern Australia (Indian Ocean, 12°30'S/131°E) is computed to predict the intensity of the monsoons. **If the pressure differences were negative, it would mean below average and late monsoons. ENSO does not positively affect monsoon.**
- Hence, option D is correct.

Question 52:

Consider the following statements:

1. The cold weather season over the north Indian plains is due to cyclonic disturbances.
2. The low-pressure systems originate over the Mediterranean Sea and western Asia and move to India.
3. The western cyclonic disturbance is important for Kharif cultivation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- The characteristic feature of the cold weather season over the northern plains in India is the inflow of **cyclonic disturbances** from the **west and the northwest**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- These low-pressure systems originate over the **Mediterranean Sea and western Asia** and move to India, along with the westerly flow. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - They cause the much-needed winter rains over the plains and snowfall in the mountains. Although the total amount of winter rainfall locally known as '**mahawat**' is small, they are of immense importance for the cultivation of '**rabi**' crops. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
-

Question 53:

Identify the location mentioned in the paragraph given below?

It is a national park and also a wildlife sanctuary. It is included in the UNESCO Natural World Heritage site list. It is categorized as a Project Tiger reserve, an elephant reserve and a biosphere reserve. It is located in the Himalayan foothills in Assam, it is contiguous with the border of Bhutan.

1. Manas National Park
2. Sariska Tiger Reserve
3. Sunderban Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Khangchendzonga National Park

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- **Manas National Park (MNP)** is a National Park, a Project Tiger reserve, an elephant reserve and a **biosphere reserve** in Assam.
 - It is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is spread across 850-sq km on the India-Bhutan border in Assam.
MNP has been the home of several rare and endangered species, including tigers, rhinos, swamp deer, and different species of birds.
 - It is located in the Himalayan foothills. It is contiguous with the **Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan**.
 - The MNP borders Bhutan in the north, and the forest stretches into the neighbouring country for over 1,000 square km. During the animal census, data by India and Bhutan is cross-checked and "**trans-boundary**" animals are indicated.
 - The **Manas river basin** is the largest in Bhutan, flowing north to south for 272 km in Bhutan and 104 km in Assam before joining the Brahmaputra and eventually joining the Bay of Bengal. **Hence, option A is correct.**
-

Question 54:

The Parliament of India acquires the power to legislate on any item in the State List in the national interest if a resolution to that effect is passed by the:

1. Lok Sabha by a simple majority of its total membership
2. Lok Sabha by a majority of not less than two thirds of its total membership
3. Rajya Sabha by a simple majority of its total membership
4. Rajya Sabha by a majority of not less than two-thirds of its members present and voting

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- States have complete jurisdiction over subjects of State List except for few circumstances.
 - According to Article 249 of Indian Constitution, **if the Rajya Sabha has declared, by a resolution, supported by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting**, that it is necessary in the national interest that Parliament should make laws with respect to any matter enumerated in the State List specified in the resolution, it shall be lawful for Parliament to make laws for the whole or any part of the territory of India with respect to that matter while the resolution remains in force.
 - **Hence, option D is correct.**
-

Question 55:

Bagru block printing is the traditional art of?

1. Maharashtra
2. Rajasthan
3. Madhya Pradesh
4. Andhra Pradesh

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

Bagru printing is one of the traditional techniques of printing practised by the Chippa

community of a Bagru village of **Rajasthan**.

- It is unique for its indigenous style of printing using **natural colours** with wooden blocks.
 - Recently, **Titanwala Museum** has been inaugurated in Bagru to showcase the Chhipa community's hand-block printing. **Hence, option B is correct.**
-

Question 56:

Which of the following is/are correct regarding the concept of circular economy?

1. A circular economy enhances natural capital by encouraging flows of nutrients within the system.
2. It is based on the concept of renewability of resources in the economy.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- A circular economy is an economic system of closed loops in which raw materials, components and products lose their value as little as possible, renewable energy sources are used and systems thinking is at the core.
- Circular economy enhances natural capital by **encouraging flows of nutrients** within the system and creating the conditions for regeneration of soil and other living systems. Whenever possible, the utility is provided virtually or as a service rather than as a physical product. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Circular economy optimizes resource yields by circulating products, components, and materials at their highest utility at all times, in both technical and biological cycles. This entails designing for refurbishing, remanufacturing, and recycling to keep products, components, and materials circulating and contributing to the economy. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Circular economy foster system effectiveness by revealing and designing out negative externalities.

The **negative externalities** of economic activity include land degradation; air, water, and noise pollution; release of toxic substances; and GHG emissions. A circular economy would reveal the cost of these externalities – in other words, outline their risks and potential economic impact.

Question 57:

Recently seen in the news, INSTEX is:

1. Remote sensing satellite developed by ISRO.
2. Financial Trading Mechanism between Iran and EU countries.
3. Security agreement between India and Singapore.
4. Navigation system being developed by Indonesia.

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

INSTEX stands for **Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges**. It is a Special Purpose Vehicle aimed at facilitating legitimate trade between European economic operators and Iran and thereby preserving the Iran Nuclear Deal.

- The INSTEX barter mechanism was established in January 2019.
It aims at circumventing U.S. sanctions against trade with Iran by bypassing dollar transactions.
 - The scope of INSTEX is initially confined to humanitarian goods such as medicine, medical devices and food, which aren't directly targeted by US sanctions.
-

Question 58:

Consider the following statements:

1. River Boards Act, 1956 mandated for the regulation and development of inter-state rivers and river valleys.
2. Water is listed under the Concurrent List of the Indian constitution.
3. Parliament can restrain the courts from adjudicating the inter-state water disputes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The **regulation and development of inter-state rivers and river valleys** were to be entrusted to various **River Boards** when the **River Boards Act** was enacted in 1956. The River Boards were designed to coordinate activities and resolve disputes. Under their mandate, the Boards are required to provide advice to the government on various issues related to rivers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - **Entry 17 under List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule** provides that:
 - Water i.e. water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power are subject to the provisions of Entry 56 of List I.
 - As such, the Central Government is conferred with powers to **regulate and develop inter-state rivers under Entry 56 of List I of the Seventh Schedule** to the extent declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest.
 - It also has the **power to make laws for the adjudication of any dispute** relating to waters of the inter-state river or river valley under Article 262 of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - **Article 262** of the Constitution provides for the adjudication of inter-state water disputes. It makes two provisions:
 - Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of the waters of any inter-state river and river valley.
 - Parliament may also **provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other courts** are to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
-

Question 59:

The 'Kawtchhuah Ropui heritage site' which was recently seen in the news is located in?

1. Mizoram
2. Assam

3. Manipur

4. Tripura

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered traces of ancient civilization in Vangchhia, a village in **Mizoram's Champhai** district bordering Myanmar. The site has been named as the **Kawtchhuah Ropui heritage site**.
 - Kawtchhuah Ropui heritage site is Mizoram's first site which is under the protected monuments of ASI. **Hence, option A is correct.**
-

Question 60:

Which of the following statements regarding laterite soils of India are correct?

1. They are generally red in colour.
2. They are rich in nitrogen and potash.
3. They are well-developed in Rajasthan and UP.
4. Tapioca and cashew nuts grow well on these soils.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

1. 1, 2 and 3
2. 2, 3 and 4
3. 1 and 4
4. 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- Laterite has been derived from the Latin word 'later' which means brick. The laterite soils are the result of **intense leaching due to tropical rains** as they develop in areas with high temperature and high rainfall.
 - Tropical rains erode lime and silica away, with **iron oxide and aluminium compound left behind**.
 - **Due to the excess presence of iron oxide and potash, the soil is generally red in colour. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The humus content of the soil is removed by bacteria that thrives in high temperature, making the soil **poor in organic matter, nitrogen, phosphate and calcium while iron oxide and potash are present in excess. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - Largely developed in peninsular plateau, laterite soil is spread in states of **Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and the hilly areas of Odisha and Assam. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - **Tapioca** is a starch extracted from the cassava plant, which prefers well drained soil such as red laterite loam, while **cashew nut** thrives in slightly acidic pH **carrying soil such as red sandy loam, lateritic soils and coastal sands. Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
-



Prelims Refresher Program: Day 4 (Test-1)

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Question 61:

Which one of the following statements is correct?

1. In India, the same person cannot be appointed as Governor for two or more States at the same time.
2. The Judges of the High Court of the States in India are appointed by the Governor of the State just as the Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President.
3. No procedure has been laid down in the Constitution of India for the removal of a Governor from his/her post.
4. In the case of a Union Territory having a legislative setup, the Chief Minister is appointed by the Lt. Governor on the basis of majority support.

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The **executive authority of a State is vested in the Governor**; and he is the constitutional or the nominal head of the State in the same way as President is the constitutional head of the Union.
- Article 153 of the Indian Constitution says that there shall be a Governor for each State. The 7th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1956 facilitated **appointment of the same person as Governor of two or more states**.
- Article 217 of the Indian Constitution **deals with the appointment and conditions of the office of a Judge of a High Court**.
 - Judges of the High Courts are appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, Governor of the State and also the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.
 - Thus, the **Governor does not appoint the judges** of the High Court.

- The Governor is not elected by the process of direct or indirect voting (like the Chief Minister, the Prime Minister or the President). The Governor of a particular state is **appointed directly by the President of India**, for a period of five years.
- Article 156 states that the Governor shall hold office during the pleasure of the President of India. The term of the Governor's office is normally 5 years, but it can be terminated earlier by the President.

There is no procedure mentioned in the Constitution of India for the removal of a Governor from his/her post. **Hence, option C is correct.**

- In the case of a Union Territory having a legislative setup, the Chief Minister and Ministers are **appointed by the President** and hold office during the pleasure of the President.

Question 62:

Consider the following statements:

1. Cabinet Committees are not mentioned in the Constitution.
2. The government recently constituted the Cabinet Committee on employment and skill development.
3. All the Cabinet Committees are headed by the Prime Minister of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- The Cabinet Committee was formed through the **Government of India Transaction of Business Rules, 1961**. It extended the executive arm of the Government. It assigned the task of conducting the business of it in an effective and convenient manner by reducing the workload of the cabinet.
 - **Cabinet Committees** are **extra-constitutional bodies**. There are two types of Cabinet Committees-**standing and ad-hoc**.
 - Standing Cabinet Committees are permanent whereas ad-hoc Cabinet Committees are temporary and deal with special issues. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In 2019, the government reconstituted six Cabinet Committees:
 - Appointments Committee of the Cabinet
 - Cabinet Committee on Accommodation
 - Cabinet Committee on Economic affairs
 - Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary affairs
 - Cabinet Committee on Political affairs
 - Cabinet Committee on Security
- Two new committees have also been formed:
 - Cabinet Committee on **Investment & Growth**.
 - Cabinet Committee on **Employment and Skill Development**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Barring the committees on Parliamentary Affairs and Accommodation**, all six committees are headed by the Prime Minister. The two remaining committees are chaired by the Home Minister. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Question 63:

'UNNATI' programme which was recently seen in the news is related to?

1. Innovative Learning Programme
2. Skill development
3. Nanosatellite development
4. Promotion of the MSME sector

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **Indian Space and Research Organization (ISRO)** has launched a **training programme UNNATI (UNISpace Nanosatellite Assembly & Training by ISRO)**.

- UNNATI is a capacity building programme on nanosatellite development. The programme provides opportunities to the participants **from developing countries** to strengthen their capabilities in assembling, integrating and testing nanosatellites.
 - It is an **ISRO initiative** to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50).
 - UNNATI programme is being conducted by **U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) of ISRO** for 3 years in 3 batches and has a target to benefit 90 officials from 45 countries.
 - The training comprises of theoretical course work on nanosatellite definition, utility, laws governing their impact on space debris, design drivers, reliability & quality assurance and hands-on training on assembly, integration, and testing of nanosatellites.
 - **Hence, option C is correct.**
-

Question 64:

With reference to President of India, consider the following statements:

1. The executive power of the Union is vested in the President.
2. The President has no discretionary powers.
3. The President is a part of the Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 only
4. 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- The Constitution vests all executive powers in the President. The President is a nominal executive or constitutional head of the State.
According to the Indian Constitution, the government is run in the name of the President. The President has to exercise his/her powers with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The President has a right to be informed of all important matters and deliberations of the Council of Ministers. There are at least three situations where the President can exercise the powers at his or her own discretion:
 - The President can send back the advice given by the Council of Ministers and ask the Council to reconsider the decision.
 - The President has a veto power by which he can withhold or refuse to give assent to bills (other than Money Bill) passed by the Parliament.
 - The President appoints the Prime Minister. In the case of the fractured mandate, the President exercises his discretionary power in judging who really may have the support of the majority or who can actually form and run the government.**Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - Under the Indian Constitution, the Parliament consists of:
 - The President
 - Rajya Sabha
 - Lok Sabha
 - The President is **not a member of the Parliament** but a bill passed by both the houses of Parliament cannot become a law without Presidential assent. Therefore, he forms an integral part of Parliament. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
-

Question 65:

Consider the following statements, with reference to Sundarbans mangrove forest:

1. It lies on the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers.
2. The area is spread across India and Bangladesh.
3. It is home to many rare and globally threatened wildlife species such as Royal Bengal Tiger, Gangetic dolphin, and Olive ridley turtles.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- The **Sundarbans mangrove forest**, one of the largest such forests in the world, lies across India and Bangladesh on the delta of the **Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers on the Bay of Bengal**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

The Sundarbans is a cluster of low-lying islands in the Bay of Bengal. The forest in India is divided into the **Sundarbans Tiger Reserve and 24 Parganas (South) Forest Division**, and together with the forest in Bangladesh's **Khulna Division** is the only mangrove forest in the world where tigers are found. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- Sundarbans mangrove forest is known for its wide range of fauna, including 260 bird species, the Bengal tiger and other threatened species such as the estuarine crocodile and the Indian python. It is home to many rare and globally threatened wildlife species such as the **estuarine crocodile, Royal Bengal Tiger, Water monitor lizard, Gangetic dolphin, and olive ridley turtles**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

Question 66:

Consider the following statements:

1. The Prime Minister holds office during the pleasure of the President.
2. The resignation of the incumbent Prime Minister automatically dissolves the Council of Ministers.
3. The Prime Minister recommends the dissolution of the Parliament to the President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 only
4. 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- The term of the Prime Minister is **not fixed and he holds office during the pleasure of the President**. However, this does not mean that the President can dismiss the Prime Minister any time. As long as the Prime Minister enjoys the majority support in the Lok Sabha, he cannot be dismissed by the President. However, if he loses the confidence of the Lok Sabha, he must resign or the President can dismiss him. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- The Prime Minister stands at the head of the Council of Ministers, the other ministers cannot function when the Prime Minister resigns or dies. In other words, **the resignation or death of the incumbent Prime Minister automatically dissolves the Council of Ministers** and thereby generates a vacuum. The resignation or death of any other minister, on the other hand, merely creates a vacancy which the Prime Minister may or may not like to fill. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The Prime Minister is the leader of the Lower House. In this capacity, he enjoys the following powers:
 - He advises the President with regard to summoning and proroguing of the sessions of the Parliament.
 - He can **recommend dissolution of the Lok Sabha** (NOT Parliament) to the President any time.
 - He announces government policies on the floor of the House. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
-

Question 67:

Which of the following is correct with reference to the office of Governor of State in India?

1. The office of Governor is a statutory office.
2. The oath of office to the Governor is administered by the President.
3. The Governor enjoys more discretionary powers than the President.
4. The Governor enjoys the security of tenure of 5 years.

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The Governor is the chief executive head of the State. He acts as an agent of the Central Government. He is appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

In 1979, the Supreme Court ruled that the office of Governor is not an employment under the Central Government. It is an **independent constitutional office** and is not under the control of or subordinate to the Central Government.
- The oath of office to the Governor is administered by the **Chief Justice of the concerned state high court** and in his absence, the senior-most judge of that court available.

- Apart from situational discretionary powers enjoyed by the President, the Governor enjoys the following **additional discretionary powers**:
 - Reservation of a bill for the consideration of the President.
 - Recommendation for the imposition of the President's Rule in the state.
 - Exercises his functions as the administrator of an adjoining Union territory (in case of an additional charge).
 - Determining the amount payable by the Government of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram to an autonomous Tribal District Council as royalty accruing from licenses for mineral exploration. **Hence, option C is correct.**
 - A Governor holds office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office. However, this term of five years is subject to the **pleasure of the President**. Further, he can resign at any time by addressing a resignation letter to the President.
-

Question 68:

With reference to Vice-President of India, consider the following statements:

1. He is the ex-officio Chairman of the Council of States.
2. He is not a part of Parliament.
3. The 11th Constitutional Amendment Act deleted the provision of the joint sitting of both the houses of Parliament for the election of Vice-President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **Article 63** of the Constitution of India provides that there shall be a Vice-President of India. Articles 64 and 89 (1) provide that the Vice-President of India shall be **ex-officio Chairman of the Council of States** i.e., Rajya Sabha and shall not hold any other office of profit. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

In the constitutional set-up, the holder of the office of Vice-President is part of the Executive but as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, **he is a part of Parliament.** He has thus a dual capacity and holds two distinct and separate offices. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- **Under Article 66(1)** of the Constitution, the Vice-President has to be elected by members of both Houses of Parliament assembled at a joint meeting. This procedure was removed by the **11th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1961.**

The words "members of both Houses of Parliament assembled at a joint meeting", was replaced by "members of an electoral college consisting of the members of both Houses of Parliament". **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 69:

Which of the following is/are the function/ functions of the Cabinet Secretariat?

1. Preparation of agenda for Cabinet Meetings
2. Secretarial assistance to Cabinet Committees
3. Allocation of Financial resources to the Ministries

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 2 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The Cabinet Secretariat functions directly under the Prime Minister's Office. The administrative head of the Secretariat is the Cabinet Secretary who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board.

- The business allocated to Cabinet Secretariat under Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 includes:
Secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees; facilitating a smooth transaction of business in Ministries/Departments; **preparing agenda for Cabinet meeting;** assist in decision-making in Government by ensuring Inter- Ministerial coordination, ironing out differences amongst Ministries/Departments and evolving consensus. **Hence, 1 and 2 are correct.**
 - **Allocating financial resources to the Ministries is not the function of the Cabinet Secretariat.** It is done by the Ministry of Finance through budget allocation. **Hence, 3 is not correct.**
-

Question 70:

Regarding the National Mineral Policy 2019, consider the following statements:

1. It introduces the Right of First Refusal.
2. It introduces the concept of Inter-Generational Equity.
3. The policy focuses on the use of coastal waterways.

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

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

The **National Mineral Policy 2019 aims** to have a **more effective, meaningful and implementable policy** that brings in further **transparency, better regulation, and enforcement, balanced social and economic growth** as well as **sustainable mining practices**. It replaces the **National Mineral Policy 2008**.

Key Features:

- Introduction of Right of First Refusal for reconnaissance permit and prospecting license (RP/PL holders).
 - **Right of First Refusal:** It is a contractual right under which a seller must give a party (such as a partner) an opportunity to match (within a specified timeframe) a price at which a third party agrees to buy a specified asset (such as a certain number of shares), on the same terms offered to the third party. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Encouraging the private sector to take up exploration.
 - Auctioning in **virgin areas for composite RP cum PL cum ML** on a revenue share basis.
 - Encouragement of merger and acquisition of mining entities.
 - Transfer of mining leases and creation of dedicated mineral corridors to boost private sector mining areas.
 - The 2019 Policy **proposes to grant the status of industry to mining activity** to boost financing of mining for the private sector and for acquisitions of mineral assets in other countries by the private sector.
 - It also mentions that long term import-export policy for minerals will help the private sector in better planning and stability in business.
 - The Policy also mentions rationalizing reserved areas given to PSUs which have not been used and to put these areas to auction, which will give more opportunity to the private sector for participation.
 - The Policy also mentions making efforts to **harmonize taxes, levies and royalty** with world benchmarks to help the private sector.
 - The 2019 Policy also introduces the concept of **Inter-Generational Equity** that deals with the well-being not only of the present generation but also of the generations to come and also proposes to constitute an inter-ministerial body to institutionalize the mechanism for ensuring sustainable development in mining. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The new policy focuses on the **use of coastal waterways and inland shipping** for evacuation and transportation of minerals and encourages dedicated mineral corridors to facilitate the transportation of minerals. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
-

Question 71:

Which one of the following best describes the commutation power of the President of India?

1. Reduction of period of sentence
2. Removal of both sentence and conviction
3. Substitution of punishment to a lighter form

4. Temporary stay on the execution of sentence

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

Article 72 of the Constitution empowers the President to grant pardons to persons who have been tried and convicted of any offence in all cases where the:

- Punishment or sentence is for an offence against a Union Law
- Punishment or sentence is by a court martial (military court)
- The sentence is a sentence of death

The pardoning power of the President includes the following:

- **Remission:** It implies reducing the period of a sentence without changing the character.
For example, the sentence of rigorous imprisonment for two years may be remitted to rigorous imprisonment for one year. **Hence, option A is not correct.**
 - **Pardon:** It removes both the sentence and the conviction and completely absolves the convict from all sentences, punishments and disqualifications. **Hence, option B is not correct.**
 - **Commutation:** It denotes the substitution of one form of punishment with a lighter form.
For example, a death sentence may be commuted to rigorous imprisonment, which in turn may be commuted to simple imprisonment. **Hence, option C is correct.**
 - **Respite:** It denotes awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded due to some special fact, such as the physical disability of the convict or pregnancy of a woman offender.
 - **Reprieve:** It implies a stay on the execution of a sentence (especially that of death) for a temporary period. Its purpose is to enable the convict to have time to seek pardon or commutation from the President. **Hence, option D is not correct.**
-

Question 72:

Identify the place where Agasthyakoodam peak is located?

1. Kerala
2. Telangana

3. Karnataka
4. Andhra Pradesh

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- K Dhanya Sanal, a defence Spokesperson, became the first woman to begin to scale 1,868-metre-tall Agasthyarkoodam - the second highest peak of Kerala – traditionally open only to men.

Recently, Kerala High Court lifted the ban preventing women from summiting Agasthyarkoodam.

- Anai Mudi is the highest peak in the Western Ghats and South India, at an elevation of 2,695 meters.
 - The local **Kani tribes** living on the foothills have opposed this. According to them, the mountain range is the holy abode of their deity '**Agastya Muni**' – a Hindu sage believed to be the guardian of the inhabitants. It is located in Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary, in Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve, Kerala.
 - **Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve** is under UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves. **Hence, option A is correct.**
-

Question 73:

With reference to the 'cabinet system', consider the following statement:

1. The term cabinet is mentioned in Article 75 of the Constitution.
2. It forms the part of the Council of Ministers.
3. The term Union cabinet was added in 1978 by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 3 only
4. 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- **Article 352** only defines the cabinet saying that it is 'the council consisting of the Prime Minister and other ministers of cabinet rank appointed under Article 75. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
Article 75 deals with the appointment of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers.
 - **The cabinet** is the extra-constitutional body based upon conventions. It is the supreme policy-making, highest decision making & supreme executive body of the central govt.
It is a smaller body and is the nucleus of the Council of Ministers. It consists of only the cabinet ministers. It is a part of the Council of Ministers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The word **Union cabinet** was inserted in **Article 352** of the Constitution by the **44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
-

Question 74:

Consider the following statements:

1. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted against the Governor of a State in any court during his term of office.
2. The emoluments and allowances of the Governor of a State shall not be diminished during his term of office.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **Article 361 of the Indian Constitution** provides certain immunities to the President of India and the Governor of the States:
- **No criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the President, or the Governor of a State, in any court during his term of office. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- No process for the arrest or imprisonment of the President, or the Governor of a State, shall issue from any court during his term of office.
 - No civil proceedings against the President, or the Governor, shall be instituted during his term of office in any court in respect of any act done by him in his personal capacity. However, after giving two months' notice, civil proceedings can be instituted against him during his term of office in respect of his personal acts done before or after entering the office.
 - **Article 158 states that the emoluments and allowances of the Governor shall not be diminished during his term of office. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
-

Question 75:

With reference to the 'Council of Ministers', consider the following statements:

1. They are appointed by the Prime Minister.
2. They are collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
3. The Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha.

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

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 only
4. 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

Article 75 says that the Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President and the other ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.

- The ministers shall hold office **during the pleasure of the President. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People (Lok Sabha). Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers, shall not exceed **15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha**. This provision was added by the **91st Amendment Act of 2003. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 76:

With reference to 'millets', consider the following statements:

1. It grows well in dry zones/rain-fed areas.
2. It is rich in gluten content.
3. It is good for individuals suffering from celiac disease.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- Millets are one of the oldest foods known to humans. These are the small-seeded hardy crops belonging to the ***Gramineae family*** which can grow well in **dry zones/rain-fed areas** under marginal conditions of soil fertility and moisture.
Millets are cultivated in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Gluten** is a general name for the **proteins** found in wheat, rye and barley. Acting as a glue that holds food together, Gluten helps foods maintain their shape.
 - Millets are rich in iron, copper, manganese, calcium, phosphorus, magnesium and B vitamins. They also come with antioxidants, flavonoids, certain amino acids and tryptophan.
 - Most of the millets are highly nutritious, **non-glutinous**, non-acid forming and easily digestible foods. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- **Celiac diseases** are also called celiac sprue or gluten-sensitive enteropathy. It is an immune reaction to eating gluten, which triggers an immune response in the small intestine. Over time, this reaction damages small intestine's lining and prevents it from absorbing some nutrients.

Millet ingestion helps in a slower release of glucose over a longer period of time.

Thus, **due to the low glycaemic index (GI)**, their habitual intake **reduces the risk of *diabetes mellitus***. Since, most of the millets are gluten-free, **individuals suffering from celiac disease** can easily incorporate various millets in their diets. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 77:

With reference to the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2017-18, consider the following statements

1. It was launched by the Central Statistics Office (CSO).
2. It measures quarterly changes of various labour market statistical indicators for urban areas only.
3. More than two-thirds of rural females are engaged in the agriculture sector.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** conducted by the **Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation** through the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- The PLFS has been designed to yield **annual estimates** of the labour force on employment and unemployment along with **quarterly estimates for the urban** areas only. But for rural areas, PLFS has been designed to yield only the annual estimates of the labour force on employment and unemployment. In short,
 - Quarterly survey (For urban areas only) – Captures only the current weekly status (CWS) data.
 - Annual survey (For both rural and urban areas) – Measures both the usual status (ps + ss) and CWS.

Hence, Statement 2 is correct.

The PLFS data indicates that **55% of rural males** and **73.2% of rural females** are engaged in the **agriculture sector**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 78:

Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in

1. Madhya Pradesh
2. Rajasthan
3. Uttar Pradesh
4. Punjab

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- **Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary (AWS)** located in the Fazilka District of Punjab which is an open sanctuary, spread across private land in several villages.
- The blackbuck was notified as the **State animal of Punjab in 1989** and its presence in the State is confined to AWS due to the unique habitat of semi-arid plains consisting of agricultural fields, intermittent fallow-barren lands, scattered sand dunes, sand mounds, and ridges.
- Blackbuck is a '**Least Concern**' species (IUCN Red List) but it faces a severe threat from stray cattle, stray dogs, barbed wire and habitat fragmentation due to change in land use and cropping patterns over the past few years. **Hence, option D is correct.**

Question 79:

With reference to the Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA), consider the following statements:

1. It is an international survey conducted by UNESCO.
2. It is designed to assess reading, mathematics, and science literacy of 15-year-old students.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The **Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA)** is an international **survey held every three years**, coordinated by the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- It was first conducted in the year 2000. The PISA test **does not assess students on their memory** but attempts to evaluate whether students can apply the knowledge they have gained through primary and secondary education.

It is a **competency-based test** designed to **assess the ability of the 15-year-old candidates** that measures their reading, mathematics, and science literacy every three years to apply their knowledge to real-life situations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Question 80:

Who among the following have held the office of the Vice-President of India?

1. Mohammad Hidayatullah
2. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
3. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy
4. Shankar Dayal Sharma

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1, 2, 3 and 4
2. 1 and 4 only

3. 2 and 3 only

4. 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **Mohammad Hidayatullah was the 11th Chief Justice of India from 1968 to 1970, and the sixth Vice President of India, from 1979 to 1984.** He had also served as the Acting President of India from 20th July 1969 to 24th August 1969 and from 6th October 1982 to 31st October 1982.
 - **Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed** was the **fifth President of India** from 1974 to 1977 and also the 2nd President of India to die in office. Zakir Hussain was the first President to die in office. **He did not serve as Vice President.**
 - **Neelam Sanjiva Reddy** was the **sixth President of India**, serving from 1977 to 1982. **He did not serve as Vice President of India.**
 - **Shankar Dayal Sharma** was the **ninth President of India**, from 1992 to 1997. Prior to his presidency, he had been the **eighth Vice President of India (1987-92).**
 - **Hence, option B is correct.**
-



Prelims Refresher Program: Day 4 (Test-1)

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Question 81:

Which of the following motions can be introduced only in Lok Sabha?

1. No-Confidence Motion
2. Privilege Motion
3. Adjournment Motion
4. Censure Motion

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 1, 3 and 4 only
4. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **No-Confidence Motion:** In a parliamentary system a no-confidence motion is a statement or vote that the government is no longer deemed fit to remain in office.
 - According to procedures, a no-confidence motion can be moved **only in Lok Sabha** (or state assembly as the case may be). It is **not allowed in Rajya Sabha**. **As per Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha**, any member of the house can move a no-confidence motion.
 - It is moved against the entire Council of Ministers and not individual ministers or private members.

- **Privilege Motion:** It is concerned with the breach of parliamentary privileges by a minister.
 - It is moved by a member when he feels that a minister has committed a breach of privilege of the House or one or more of its members by withholding facts of a case or by giving wrong or distorted facts.
 - Its purpose is to ensure the concerned minister.
 - The Constitution (Article 105) mentions two privileges, i.e. freedom of speech in Parliament and right of publication of its proceedings.
 - Rule No 222 in Chapter 20 of the **Lok Sabha rulebook** and correspondingly Rule 187 in Chapter 16 of the **Rajya Sabha rulebook** governs privilege.
 - A member may, with the consent of the Speaker or the Chairperson, raise a question involving a breach of privilege either of a member or of the House.
- **Adjournment Motion:** The adjournment motion is an extraordinary procedure which, if admitted, leads to setting aside the normal business of the House for discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance.
 - The right to move a motion for an adjournment of the business of the House is subject to the following restrictions:
 - It should raise a matter which is definite, factual, urgent and of public importance
 - It should not cover more than one matter
 - It should be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence and should not be framed in general terms
 - It should not raise a question of privilege
 - It should not revive discussion on a matter that has been discussed in the same session
 - It should not deal with any matter that is under adjudication by court
 - It should not raise any question that can be raised on a distinct motion.
 - Hence, it involves an element of censure against the government and therefore **Rajya Sabha is not permitted** to make use of this device. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Censure Motion:** A censure literally means an expression of strong disapproval or harsh criticism. Generally, it is the opposition against the policies of Government or an individual minister.
 - It is moved to censuring the council of ministers for specific policies and actions.
 - A censure motion can be moved in Lok Sabha or in a state assembly. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

Question 82:

With reference to the State Legislative Council, consider the following statements:

1. The strength of the legislative council is fixed by the Parliament.
2. One-twelfth of members are nominated by the Governor.
3. The members are elected through the system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote by secret ballot.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- The Parliament can create Vidhan Parishad (Legislative Council) in a State where it does not exist, if the Legislative Assembly of the State passes a resolution to this effect by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Assembly present and voting, and sends the resolution to the Parliament
The maximum strength of the council is fixed at one-third of the total strength of the assembly and the minimum strength is fixed at 40. However, the actual strength of a Council is fixed by Parliament. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Of the total number of members of a legislative council:
 - **1/3** are elected by the members of local bodies in the state like municipalities, district boards, etc
 - **1/3** are elected by the members of the legislative assembly of the state from amongst persons who are not members of the assembly
 - **1/12** are elected by graduates of three years standing and residing within the state
 - **1/12** are elected by teachers of three years standing in the state, not lower in standard than secondary school
 - **1/6** are nominated by the Governor from amongst persons who have special knowledge or practical experience in literature, science, art, cooperative movement and social service. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - The members are elected in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote. The process does not involve voting by secret ballot. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
-

Question 83:

What is the difference between "vote-on-account" and "Interim Budget"?

1. The provision of a "vote-on-account" is used by a regular Government while an "interim budget" is a provision used by a caretaker Government.
2. A "vote-on-account" only deals with the expenditure in Government's budget, while an "interim budget" includes both expenditure and receipts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- To keep the administration functioning, the **vote-on-account is passed after the general discussion on the budget**, as the **Appropriation Bill** and the **Finance Bill** take time to become an Act.
 - **Vote-on-account** is a permission to withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund of India usually for two months, equivalent to 1/6 th of the total budget. It involves only the expenditure side of the government. **It can be presented by a regular government or a caretaker government.**
 - When elections are scheduled a few months into a new financial year, the government seeks a vote-on-account usually for four months. The government presents an interim budget if it does not have the time to present a full budget or because the elections may be near. In the latter situation, propriety demands, i.e., the task of framing the full budget is left to the newly elected government.
The newly elected government has full freedom to change the estimates completely when the final Budget is presented. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - **The interim budget has a complete set of accounts, containing the receipt as well as expenditure.** The interim budget may be presented by a regular or caretaker government. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
-

Question 84:

Consider the following pairs:

Goals	Purpose
1. SDG Goal 1	No Poverty
2. SDG Goal 4	Zero Hunger
3. SDG Goal 5	Quality Education
4. SDG Goal 6	Cleaner Water and Sanitation

Which of the pairs given above are matched correctly?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 4 only
4. All of the above

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

In September 2015, the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Building on the principle of "leaving no one behind," the new Agenda emphasizes a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development for all.

- **GOAL 1: No Poverty. Hence, pair 1 is matched correctly.**
- GOAL 2: Zero Hunger
- GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being
- **GOAL 4: Quality Education. Hence, pair 3 is not matched correctly.**
- **GOAL 5: Gender Equality. Hence, pair 2 is not matched correctly.**
- GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation. **Hence, pair 4 is matched correctly.**
- GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality
- GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- GOAL 13: Climate Action

- GOAL 14: Life Below Water
 - GOAL 15: Life on Land
 - GOAL 16: Peace Justice and Strong Institutions
 - GOAL 17: Partnerships to Achieve the Goal
-

Question 85:

Regarding the passage of a Bill in the state legislature, consider the following statements:

1. The legislative assembly cannot override the legislative council.
2. In case of a bicameral legislature in the States, the Constitution provides for a joint sitting of the two houses for resolving the deadlock.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- When a Bill is passed by the legislative assembly and transmitted to the legislative council, the latter has four alternatives before it:
 - It may pass the Bill as sent by the assembly (i.e., without amendments)
 - It may pass the Bill with amendments and return it to the assembly for reconsideration
 - It may reject the Bill altogether
 - It may not take any action and thus keep the Bill pending
- If the council passes the Bill without amendments or the assembly accepts the amendments suggested by the council, the Bill is deemed to have been passed by both the Houses and the same is sent to the Governor for his/her assent.
- If the assembly rejects the amendments suggested by the council or the council rejects the Bill altogether or the council does not take any action for **three months**, then the assembly may pass the Bill again and transmit the same to the council.

- If the **council rejects the Bill** again or passes the Bill with amendments not acceptable to the assembly or does not pass the Bill within one month, then the Bill is **deemed to have been passed by both Houses** in the form in which it was passed by the assembly for the second time.
 - **The Constitution does not provide for the mechanism of the joint sitting of both the Houses** to resolve the disagreement between the two Houses over a Bill. Therefore, the ultimate power of passing an ordinary Bill is vested in the legislative assembly. **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are not correct.**
-

Question 86:

Regarding the powers of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. Any ordinary law needs to be passed by both the Houses of Parliament.
2. Lok Sabha exercises more powers in case of money bills.
3. The 'no confidence' motion can be introduced in Rajya Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 3 only
4. 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

Our Constitution does give the Rajya Sabha some special powers over the states. But on most matters, the Lok Sabha exercises supreme power.

- Any ordinary law needs to be passed by both the Houses. But if there is a difference between the two Houses, the final decision is taken in a joint session in which members of both the Houses sit together. Because of the larger number of members, the view of the Lok Sabha is likely to prevail in such a meeting. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Lok Sabha **exercises more powers in matters of a money bill**. Once the Lok Sabha passes the budget of the government or any other money-related law, the Rajya Sabha cannot reject it. The Rajya Sabha can only delay it by 14 days or suggest changes in it. The Lok Sabha may or may not accept these changes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Most importantly, the Lok Sabha controls the Council of Ministers. Only a person who enjoys the support of the majority of the members in the Lok Sabha is appointed as the Prime Minister.
 - If the majority of the Lok Sabha members say they have '**no confidence**' in the Council of Ministers, all ministers including the Prime Minister, have to quit. The Rajya Sabha does not have this power. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
-

Question 87:

Consider the following statements:

1. Demographic dividend indicates that more people have the potential to be productive and contribute to the growth of the economy.
2. The strong social infrastructure is key to reap the benefits of demographic dividend.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **Demographic dividend** occurs when the **proportion of working people** in the total population is high because this indicates that more people have the potential to be productive and contribute to the growth of the economy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India is home to the **world's youngest population** as half of its population is below the age of 25. It has also been estimated that demographic advantage in **India is available for five decades from 2005-06 to 2055-56**, longer than any other country in the world.
- This **demographic advantage** can be reaped only if education, skilling and employment opportunities are provided to the young population. India is committed to availing those advantages and strong social infrastructure is key to achieving them.
- To reap the benefits of demographic dividend, the Centre is committed to improving outcomes in education and skilling, and to provide employment and affordable healthcare to all. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Question 88:

Consider the following statements:

1. A statutory town is a place where at least 75% of the male working population is engaged in the non-agricultural sector.
2. Conversion of Census towns into Statutory town entitles them to Central assistance as per the guidelines of the 14th Finance Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The **2011 Census of India** defines towns of two types viz., Statutory town and Census town.
 - The **statutory town** is defined as all places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board etc.
 - A **census town** is one which is not statutorily notified and administered as a town, but nevertheless whose population has attained urban characteristics. They are characterized by the following:
 - Population exceeds 5,000
 - At least 75% of the main male working population is employed outside the agricultural sector. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - **Conversion of Census towns into Statutory town (Urban Local Bodies)** entitles them to Central assistance as per the guidelines of the **14th Finance Commission**. Under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), 50% weightage is given to the number of statutory towns in any State/UT in the allocation of funds among States/UTs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
-

Question 89:

Consider the following statements:

1. The Legislative Council of a State in India can be larger in size than half of the Legislative Assembly of that particular State.
2. The Governor of a State nominates the Chairman of the Legislative Council of that particular State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- According to **Article 171 of the Indian Constitution**, the total number of **members in the Legislative Council of a State having such a Council cannot exceed one-third of the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly of that State**. However, it should not be less than 40. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - **Article 182** of the Constitution **mandates the Legislative Council of the State** to choose two members from among themselves as Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Council. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - **Article 169 of the Constitution** deals with the **creation and abolition of legislative councils in the states**.
 - For the abolition of the Legislative Council of a State having such a Council or the creation of such a Council in a State, the Legislative Assembly of the State passes a resolution to that effect by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Assembly present and voting.
 - At present, 7 states-Uttar Pradesh, J&K, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Bihar are having a bicameral legislature consisting of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly.
 - **Hence, option D is correct.**
-

Question 90:

Consider the following statements:

1. Formalin is used to increase the shelf-life of fresh or chilled fish.

2. Formalin is non-carcinogenic in nature.
3. Formaldehyde exists in many animal and plant species as a product of their normal metabolism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The underlying motive of using formalin on fish (either as a dip or through ice laced/or made with formalin as an ingredient) is:
 - to extend the storage life of fresh or chilled fish
 - to artificially improve the sensory attributes i.e. appearance, so as to give a facade of fresh fish. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The **International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)** of WHO classifies formaldehyde as "**carcinogenic to humans**", with sufficient evidence for causing nasopharyngeal cancer in humans with occupational exposure, although no carcinogenicity is so far established through ingestion route. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Presence of formaldehyde in food at higher levels can lead to severe abdominal pain, vomiting, coma, renal injury and possible death. For food handlers, it can lead to sensory irritation of eyes and lungs, dermatitis and asthma.
 - **Formaldehyde exists** in many animal and plant species as a product of their normal metabolism. Formaldehyde is documented to be naturally present in many common food items, including fruits and vegetables, meats, fish, crustaceans and mushrooms etc.

In most marine fishes, formaldehyde is a natural breakdown product of a chemical known as **trimethylamine oxide (TMAO)** that exists in their bodies. Once the fish is harvested, TMAO breaks down into formaldehyde and dimethylamine in equal parts during the post-mortem. It can also accumulate in certain marine fish and crustaceans during frozen storage. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
-

Question 91:

Consider the following statements regarding the leader of opposition in Parliament:

1. The leader of opposition in Parliament is a statutory office.
2. The office of the leader of opposition is mentioned in the constitution.
3. They enjoy the status of a cabinet minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 only
3. 3 only
4. 1 and 3

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The main function of the leader of the opposition is to provide constructive criticism of the policies of the government and to provide an alternative government. The leader of the opposition in the houses of the Indian parliament is a **statutory post**.
 - The post is defined in the **Salaries and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977** as simply the leader of the numerically biggest party in opposition to the government and recognised as such by the Speaker/Chairman. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - According to parliamentary precedence, the leader of the opposition is appointed as per the 10% rule prescribed by GV Malvankar.
 - **According to Malvankar's rule**, the leader of the largest Opposition party having not less than **one-tenth seats** of the total strength of the House is recognised as the leader of the Opposition in that House.
 - The office of Leaders of Opposition is **not mentioned in the Constitution of India. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - According to the **Salaries and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977**, they are entitled to the salary, allowances and other facilities equivalent to that of a cabinet minister. But, they are not accorded the status of a cabinet minister. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
-

Question 92:

Which of the following are the functions of the Indian Parliament?

1. Judicial functions

2. Financial functions
3. Representation functions
4. Constituent Function

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 and 3 only
2. 2 and 4 only
3. 1 and 4 only
4. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

The Parliament is engaged in many functions as mentioned below:

- **Legislative Function:** The Parliament enacts legislations for the country. Despite being the chief law-making body, the Parliament often merely approves legislations. The actual task of drafting the Bill is performed by the bureaucracy under the supervision of the minister concerned.
- **Control of Executive and ensuring its accountability:** Perhaps the most vital function of the Parliament is to ensure that the executive does not overstep its authority and remains responsible to the people who have elected them.
- **Financial Function:** The Financial powers of the Parliament involve the grant of resources to the government to implement its programmes. The government has to give an account to the Legislature about the money it has spent and resources that it wishes to raise. The legislature also ensures that the government does not misspend or overspend. This is done through the budget and annual financial statements.
- **Representation:** Parliament represents the divergent views of members from different regional, social, economic, religious groups from different parts of the country.
- **Debating Functions:** The Parliament is the highest forum of debate in the country. There is no limitation on its power of discussion. Members are free to speak on any matter without fear. This makes it possible for the Parliament to analyse any or every issue that faces the nation. These discussions constitute the heart of democratic decision making.
- **Constituent Function:** The Parliament has the power of discussing and enacting changes to the Constitution. The constituent powers of both houses are similar. All constitutional amendments have to be approved by a special majority of both Houses.

- **Electoral Functions:** The Parliament also performs some electoral functions. It elects the President and Vice President of India.
 - **Judicial Functions:** The judicial functions of the Parliament include considering the proposals for the removal of the President, Vice-President and Judges of the High Courts and Supreme Court.
 - **Hence, option D is correct.**
-

Question 93:

Consider the following statements:

1. Delimitation aims to provide equal representation to equal segments of a population.
2. Article 82 empowers the Parliament to enact a Delimitation Act after every Census.
3. The 84th Amendment Act froze the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha up to the year 2026 based on the 2001 census.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- For the purpose of holding **direct elections to the Lok Sabha**, each state is divided into **territorial constituencies**. The constitution ensures that there is **uniformity of representation** in two respects:
 - between the different states, and
 - between the different constituencies in the same state.
- **Delimitation** is the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country to represent changes in population.
- It aims to provide **equal representation to equal segments of a population**.
 - A fair division of geographical areas so that one political party doesn't have an advantage over others in an election.
 - To follow the principle of "One Vote One Value". **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **Under Article 82**, the Parliament enacts a **Delimitation Act after every Census**. Once the Act is in force, the Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission. The first delimitation exercise was carried out by the President (with the help of the Election Commission) in 1950-51. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

The **Delimitation Commission Act** was enacted in 1952. Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002. There was no delimitation after the 1981 and 1991 Censuses.

- **Under Article 170**, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.
- The **42nd Amendment Act of 1976 froze the allocation of seats** in the Lok Sabha to the states and the division of each State into territorial constituencies till the year 2000 at the 1971 level.

Further, by the **84th Amendment Act of 2001**, this ban on readjustment was extended for another 25 years (i.e., up to the year 2026), without affecting the total number of seats **based on the 1971 census. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Question 94:

The term 'capability deprivation' is often used in which of the following context?

1. Measure food production
2. Economic growth strategy
3. Poverty estimation
4. Population growth

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

The **Capability approach** was first articulated by the Indian economist and philosopher **Amartya Sen** in the 1980s. It has been employed extensively in the context of human development, for example, by the United Nations Development Programme, as a broader, deeper alternative to narrowly economic metrics such as growth in GDP per capita. Here '**poverty**' is understood as **deprivation in the capability** to live a good life, and '**development**' is understood as **capability expansion. Hence, option C is correct.**

Question 95:

With reference to 'Strategic Petroleum Reserves' in India, consider the following statements:

1. It is an emergency fuel storage maintained for military use only.
2. It is managed by a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
3. India has the third largest Strategic Petroleum Reserve in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 3 only
4. 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- To ensure energy security, the Government of India decided to set up 5 million metric tons (MMT) of strategic crude oil storages at three locations namely, **Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur (near Udupi)**. These strategic storages would be in addition to the existing storages of crude oil and petroleum products with the oil companies and would serve as a cushion during any supply disruptions. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The construction of the Strategic Crude Oil Storage facilities is being managed by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), a Special Purpose Vehicle, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) under the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve (ISPR) refers to the emergency fuel storage maintained by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle - wholly owned subsidiary of Oil Industry Development Board under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- The government of India is planning to set up two more such caverns at Chandikhol (Odisha) and Udupi (Karnataka) as per phase II through Public-Private Partnership. This will give an additional 6.5 million tons of oil reserves.
- Thus, a total of 22 days (10+12) of oil consumption will be made available by ISPR.
- Crude oil from underground rock caverns (considered safest for storage of Hydrocarbons) can be supplied to refineries through pipelines and ships.

- Indian refiners also maintain crude oil storage (industrial stock) of 65 days. Thus, a total of 87 days (22 by ISPL + 65 by Indian refiners) of oil consumption will be made available in India after completion of Phase II by ISPR. This will be very close to the 90 days mandate by the IEA.
 - 3 Biggest 'Global Strategic Petroleum Reserves':
 - **The United States** is the world's largest holder of the crude reserve.
The United States maintains a strategic petroleum reserve in a complex of caves located along the Gulf Coast. At its maximum inventory, the U.S. reserve held 726.6 million barrels of oil.
 - **China:** it has the second largest reserves in the world. Its endeavor to store crude oil started relatively late, in 2007.
 - **Japan:** it has the third largest petroleum reserves at 324 million barrels.
 - **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
-

Question 96:

Which of the following special powers have been conferred on the Rajya Sabha by the Constitution of India?

1. To change the existing territory of a State and to change the name of a State.
2. To pass a resolution empowering the Parliament to make laws in the State List and to create one or more All India services.
3. To amend the election procedure of the President and to determine the pension of the President after his/her retirement.
4. To determine the functions of the Election Commission and to determine the number of Election Commissioners.

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- Rajya Sabha has been conceived as another chamber, the federal chamber, to cater to the needs and aspirations of units of the federation in Indian Union.
- The Rajya Sabha has been given two exclusive or special powers that are not enjoyed by the Lok Sabha.
- **It can authorise the Parliament to make a law on a subject enumerated in the State List (Article 249).**
- **It can authorise the Parliament to create new All- India Services common to both the Centre and States (Article 312).**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

Question 97:

Regarding the Principle of Non-refoulement, consider the following statements:

1. It guarantees that no one should be returned to a country where they would face torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.
2. India's refugee policy recognizes the principle of non-refoulement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- Under International Human Rights law, the **principle of non-refoulement** guarantees that no one should be returned to a country where they would face torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and other irreparable harm. This principle applies to all migrants at all times, irrespective of migration status. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India does not have any official refugee policy. Therefore, it does not recognize the principle of non-refoulement. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Question 98:

What will follow if a Money Bill is substantially amended by the Rajya Sabha?

1. The Lok Sabha may still proceed with the Bill, accepting or not accepting the recommendations of the Rajya Sabha.
2. The Lok Sabha cannot consider the Bill further.
3. The Lok Sabha may send the Bill to the Rajya Sabha for reconsideration.
4. The President may call a joint sitting for passing the Bill.

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- Money Bill is defined under **Article 110 of the Indian Constitution**. A Bill is said to be a Money Bill if it contains provisions related to taxations, regulations of the borrowing of money by the Government and expenditure from or receipt to the Consolidated Fund of India.
 - **Features of Money Bill**
 - It can be introduced only in the Lower House of the Parliament (Lok Sabha).
 - If any question arises whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not, the decision of the Speaker of the House of the People, thereon, shall be final and it cannot be questioned in any Court.
 - Thereafter, the Bill is placed in Rajya Sabha and Rajya Sabha can return the Bill with or without its recommendations.
 - **Lok Sabha, under Article 109 of the Constitution, has the option to accept or reject all or any of the recommendations made by Rajya Sabha.**
 - The Bill has to be returned within a period of 14 days from the date of its receipt by Rajya Sabha. Otherwise, it is deemed to have been passed by both the Houses. **The amendments suggested by the Rajya Sabha may or may not be accepted by the Lok Sabha.**
 - **Hence, option A is correct.**
-

Question 99:

Consider the following statements:

1. Trans fat lowers the level of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) and raises the high-density lipoprotein (HDL) levels.
2. Trans fat is used to enhance the flavour, texture and shelf life of processed foods.
3. FSSAI permits 30% of trans fatty acid in food products.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- Trans fat increases low-density lipoproteins (LDL), triglycerides and insulin levels and reduces beneficial high-density lipoproteins (HDL). The overall picture of trans fatty acids (TFA) implies a detrimental effect on health. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- There are two broad types of trans fats found in foods:
 - **Naturally-occurring Trans Fats:** They are produced in the gut of some animals and foods made from these animals (e.g., milk and meat products) may contain small quantities of these fats.
 - **Artificial Trans Fats:** Trans fatty acids are made through hydrogenation of oils, which solidifies them. They help to increase the shelf life of oils and foods and stabilise their flavours. Trans fats can be found in food and food products such as some margarine, biscuits, snack foods and french fries.
- Trans fats are easy to use, inexpensive to produce and last a long time. Trans fats give foods a desirable taste and texture. They help to increase the shelf life of oils and foods and stabilise their flavours. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- WHO calls on governments to use the **REPLACE** action package to eliminate industrially-produced *trans*-fatty acids from the food supply by 2023.
- In 2015, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) set the maximum level of trans fatty acids at 5% in food products from 10% earlier. It directed that the level of trans fats in food products must be disclosed on the label.
FSSAI had **proposed** to limit the maximum amount of trans fat in vegetable oils, vegetable fat and hydrogenated vegetable oil to **2%** to make India trans-fat free by 2022. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Question 100:

With reference to the Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. The term of office of members of the Rajya Sabha is fixed by the Constitution.
2. The election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
3. The election of the member from each state is fixed by the fourth schedule of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The Constitution has not fixed the term of office of **members of the Rajya Sabha** and left it to the Parliament. Accordingly, the Parliament in **the Representation of the People Act (1951)** provided that the term of office of a member of the Rajya Sabha shall be six years. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
The Act also empowered the president of India to curtail the term of members chosen in the first Rajya Sabha. In the first batch, it was decided by lottery as to who should retire. Further, the Act also authorised the President to make provisions to govern the order of retirement of the members of the Rajya Sabha.
 - The representatives of states in the Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected members of state legislative assemblies. The election is held in accordance with the system of **proportional representation** by means of the single transferable vote. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The number of members to be elected from each State has been fixed by the **fourth schedule** of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
-