

Prelims Refresher Programme : Day 7 - Test 2

QUESTION 1:

Consider the following statements:

1. Rosewood is included in Appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
2. Indian rosewood is listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- Rosewood is currently a part of **Appendix II of CITES**. India has proposed to remove rosewood (*Dalbergia sissoo*) from Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- *D. latifolia* or Indian rosewood is native to India and its IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List status is “**vulnerable**”. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The species grows at a very fast rate and has the capacity to become naturalized outside its native range, it is **invasive** in some parts of the world.

QUESTION 2:

Which of the following best describes WHO's MPOWER policy:

- (a) It aims to empower women financially through the promotion of medium-small and micro enterprises (MSMEs).
- (b) It is a set of six cost-effective measures that help countries reduce the demand for tobacco.
- (c) It is a set of guidelines on self-care interventions for health.
- (d) It is a policy for eliminating industrially-produced trans fats by 2023.

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- In line with the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), the WHO introduced the **MPOWER measures in 2008**.
 - WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) is the first international treaty negotiated under the auspices of the WHO.
 - It was adopted by the World Health Assembly on 21 May 2003 and entered into force on 27 February 2005.
 - The Convention represents a milestone for the promotion of public health and provides new legal dimensions for international health cooperation.
- MPOWER is a set of six cost-effective and high impact measures that help countries reduce demand for tobacco. **Hence, option B is correct.**
- These measures include:
 - Monitoring tobacco use and prevention policies.
 - Protecting people from tobacco smoke.

- Offering help to quit tobacco use.
 - Warning about the dangers of tobacco.
 - Enforcing bans on tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship.
 - Raising taxes on tobacco.
- MPOWER is the only source of information on the spread of the tobacco epidemic, as well as suggestions concerning specific actions for supporting the fight against this epidemic.

QUESTION 3:

Consider the following statements:

1. CRISPR is a tool used for genome editing.
2. Cas9 protein is an enzyme that acts as molecular scissors for cutting DNA strands.
3. CRISPR technology can only be used for gene editing of crops.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

- **CRISPR technology** is a simple yet powerful tool for **editing genomes**. It allows researchers to easily **alter DNA sequences** and modify gene function. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **protein Cas9** (or “CRISPR-associated”) is **an enzyme that acts like a pair of molecular scissors**, capable of cutting strands of DNA. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- CRISPR is used to treat an **inherited eye disorder that causes blindness**. The potential applications include correcting genetic defects, treating and preventing the spread of diseases in human beings and improving crops. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 4:

Consider the following statements:

1. Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) is caused by Lactobacillus bacteria.
2. AES is characterized by high fever and inflammation of the brain.
3. Low blood sugar is a major cause of death due to AES among young children.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

- Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) is a broad term involving several infections and affects young children. The syndrome can be caused by viruses, bacteria or fungi. In India, the most common cause is the **Japanese Encephalitis virus**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Acute encephalitis syndrome** is a severe case of encephalitis transmitted by mosquitoes and is characterized by **high fever** and **inflammation of the brain**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Hypoglycaemia or deficiency of glucose in the bloodstream is a commonly seen sign among patients of AES, and the link has been the subject of research over the years. **Low blood sugar** among young children with fever is the reason behind the deaths of young children. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 5:

With reference to Rufous-necked hornbill, consider the following statements:

1. Rufous-necked hornbill is found in the eastern part of India.
2. It is listed as an endangered species in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

- In India, these Rufous-necked hornbill species are distributed in the states of **northern West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Rufous-necked hornbill is listed in CITES Appendices I & II. The species is vulnerable and found in a number of protected areas in India, China, Thailand and Bhutan. It has **been listed as "Vulnerable" in the IUCN red list**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 6:

Consider the following pairs:

Shifting cultivation

1. Jhumming
2. Podu
3. Kuruwa
4. Koman

States

- Andhra Pradesh
North-east India
Jharkhand
Odisha

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

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

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

- **Shifting cultivation is primitive subsistence agriculture** that is practised on small patches of land with the help of primitive tools like hoe, dao and digging sticks, and family/community labour. This type of farming depends upon monsoon, natural fertility of the soil and suitability of other environmental conditions to the crops grown.
- These practices are known by different names in different regions:
 - Jhum in north-eastern states like Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland Pamlou in Manipur
 - Dipa in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh, and in Andaman and Nicobar Islands 'Bewar' or 'Dahiya' in Madhya Pradesh

- 'Podu' or 'Penda' in Andhra Pradesh
- 'Pama Dabi' or 'Koman' or 'Bringa' in Odisha
- 'Kumari' in the Western Ghats
- 'Valre' or 'Waltre' in South-eastern Rajasthan 'Khil' in the Himalayan belt
- 'Kuruwa' in Jharkhand

Hence, option (c) is correctly matched.

QUESTION 7:

With reference to the Bonda tribe, consider the following statements:

1. Bonda people only reside in the Malkangiri district of Odisha.
2. Bonda tribes are recognised as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.
3. These groups are known for practising sustainable shifting cultivation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- **Bonda tribe** lives in the isolated hill regions of the Malkangiri district of southwestern Odisha, India, near the junction of the three states of **Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Bonda tribe practices a unique form of **shifting cultivation** that enables the growth of many crop varieties while ensuring that the climate and forest are not harmed.
- **Shifting cultivation** like "**Dangar chas**" supplements nutrition to the food baskets of indigenous communities across the world without jeopardising the climate or causing forest loss.
- Bonda tribes are one of the **75 classified particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTG)** in the country. Birhor, Bondo, Didayi, Dongria-Kondh, Juangs etc. are the other particularly vulnerable tribal groups of Odisha. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Bonda tribe **practices a unique form of shifting cultivation** that enables the growth of many crop varieties while ensuring that the climate and forest are not harmed. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 8:

Which of the following is/are correct regarding 'Sahel region'?

1. The region marks the transition between the tropical biome in the south and desert in the north.
2. It stretches from the Red Sea in the East to the Atlantic Ocean in the West.
3. The Great Green Wall initiative was launched in the region to combat desertification.

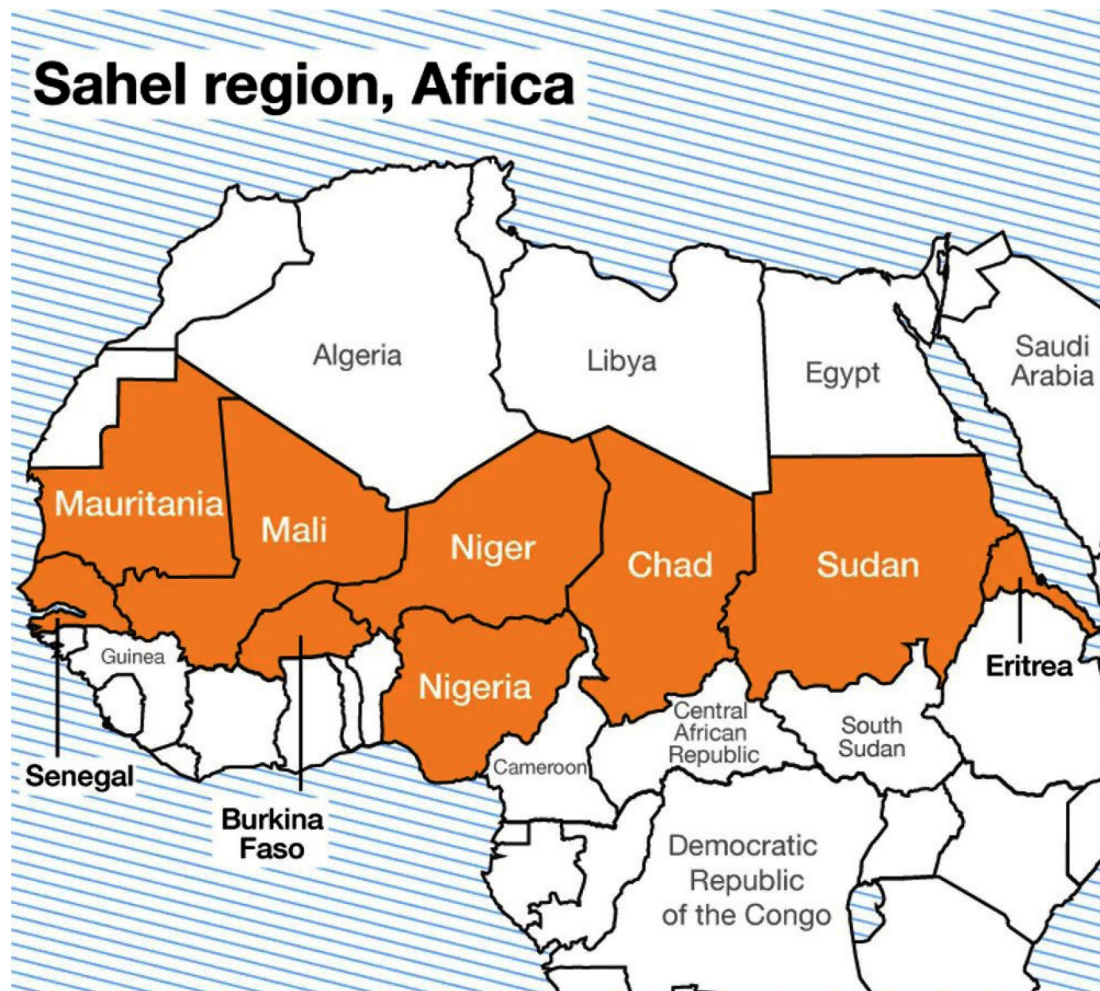
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

- The **Sahel region of Africa** is a 3,860-kilometre arc-like land mass lying to the immediate south of the Sahara Desert and stretching east-west across the breadth of the African continent.
- A largely semi-arid belt of barren, sandy and rock-strewn land, Sahel marks the **physical and cultural transition** between the continent's more fertile tropical regions **in the south and its desert in the north**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The geographical span of the Sahel stretches from **Senegal on the Atlantic coast**, through parts of **Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad** and **Sudan to Eritrea on the Red Sea coast**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Culturally and historically, the Sahel is a shoreline between the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. This means it is the site of interaction between Arabic, Islamic and nomadic cultures from the north, and indigenous and traditional cultures from the south.
- The **Great Green Wall was launched in 2007 to combat desertification** in the Sahel region. It is launched by the African Union. This initiative aims to restore Africa's degraded landscapes and transform millions of lives in one of the world's poorest regions. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.



QUESTION 9:

With reference to Compensatory Afforestation Fund, consider the following statements:

1. It is a national fund managed under consolidated fund of India.
2. It can be used for forest management and relocation of villages from protected areas.
3. The funds are shared between centre and state on an equal basis.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

- **Compensatory Afforestation (CAF) Act** says that the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette can create a special fund to be called the “**National Compensatory Afforestation Fund**” under the **public account of India**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The funds can be used for the treatment of catchment areas, assisted natural generation, **forest management**, wildlife protection and management, **relocation of villages from protected areas**, managing human-wildlife conflicts, training and awareness generation, the supply of wood saving devices and allied activities. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **Compensatory Afforestation (CAF) Act** was enacted to manage the funds collected for compensatory afforestation which till then was managed by ad hoc **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)**.

As per the rules, 90% of the CAF money is to be given to the states while 10% is to be retained by the Centre. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

QUESTION 10:

Consider the following statements:

1. Carbon sequestration is the process of removing CO₂ from the atmosphere and depositing it in a reservoir.
2. Human activities are influencing the ability of natural sink to store CO₂.
3. Carbon sequestration leads to ocean acidification.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

- Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the most commonly produced greenhouse gas. Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide. It is a method of reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere with the goal of reducing global climate change. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Human activities are altering the carbon cycle—both by adding more CO₂ to the atmosphere, by **influencing the ability of natural sinks, like forests**, to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere, and by **influencing the ability of soils to store carbon**. While CO₂ emissions come from a variety of natural sources, human-related emissions are responsible for the increase that has occurred in the atmosphere since the industrial revolution. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Carbon sinks** are natural (oceans and forests) and artificial deposits (certain technologies and chemicals) that absorb and capture CO₂ from the atmosphere and reduce its concentration in the air.
- The problem with natural carbon sinks is that they have a maximum limit, causing **ocean acidification when exceeded**. This acidification consists of a **decrease in the pH of the water** caused by the absorption of carbon dioxide.
- The acidification of the oceans negatively impacts species such as corals, algae, shellfish and molluscs, which are weakened and in many cases become ill and die. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

QUESTION 11:

Which of the following best describes the term 'Iatrogenics'?

- (a) It is a gene that has the potential to cause cancer.
- (b) It is a treatment caused by the application of nuclear medicine.
- (c) It is a process of rock formation inside the earth crust under extreme heat and pressure.
- (d) It is a treatment which causes more harm than benefits.

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

Iatrogenics is when a treatment causes more harm than benefit. As 'iatros' means healer in Greek, the word means "caused by the healer" or "brought by the healer." Iatrogenesis refers to any effect on a person, resulting from any activity of one or more other persons acting as healthcare professionals or promoting products or services as beneficial to health, **which does not support a goal of the person affected. Hence, Option D is correct.**

QUESTION 12:

With reference to 'BRIP Project', consider the following statements:

1. It offers the prospect of cleaning global online piracy.
2. It is a project of the World Intellectual Property Rights Organisation (WIPO).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

- As a project of the **World Intellectual Property Organisation or WIPO**, a UN body, the **BRIP Database** offers the prospect of cleaning up online piracy globally by putting together a giant blacklist of websites that infringe copyright.
- The project is based on a "follow-the-money" approach to copyright infringement which aims to choke the flow of money to illegal website operators. **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

QUESTION 13:

The Magellanic Clouds are visible from?

- (a) Northern hemisphere
- (b) Southern hemisphere
- (c) Both Northern & Southern hemisphere
- (d) Neither Northern nor Southern hemisphere

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- The **Magellanic Clouds** are comprised of two irregular galaxies, the **Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC)** and the **Small Magellanic Cloud (SMC)**, which orbit the Milky Way once every 1,500 million years and each other once every 900 million years. Lying only about 200,000 light-years away, they were the closest known galaxies to the Milky Way until recently, when the Sagittarius and Canis Major dwarf galaxies were discovered and found to be even closer.

- Ferdinand Magellan and crew, while on his audacious voyage to sail all the way around the globe observed two galaxies visible to the naked eye from the southern hemisphere, now known as the Magellanic Clouds. **Hence, option B is correct.**

QUESTION 14:

Consider the following statements about Compressed Biogas (CBG):

1. CBG has methane (CH₄) content of more than 90%.
2. CBG has calorific value and other properties similar to CNG and hence can be utilized as a green renewable automotive fuel.
3. GOBAR-DHAN scheme was launched by the Government of India to convert cattle dung and solid waste in farms to Bio-CNG (CBG) and compost.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

Government of India has released the **National Policy on Biofuels 2018** which emphasizes on the promotion of advanced Biofuels including CBG.

- The biogas is purified to remove hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), carbon dioxide (CO₂), water vapour and compressed as Compressed BioGas (CBG), which has **methane (CH₄) content of more than 90%.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The CBG can be transported through cylinder cascades or pipelines to retail outlets.
- CBG has **calorific value** and other properties similar to CNG and hence can be utilized as a green renewable automotive fuel. Thus, it can replace CNG in automotive, industrial and commercial areas, given the abundance of biomass availability within the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBAR-DHAN)** scheme was launched by the Government of India to convert cattle dung and solid waste in farms to Bio-CNG (CBG) and compost. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has notified Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for Bio-CNG.
- The **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas** has launched the **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)** initiative to promote Compressed Biogas as an alternative, green transport fuel.

QUESTION 15:

Which of the following are the characteristics of Organic Farming?

1. Protecting the long term fertility of soils by maintaining organic matter levels, encouraging soil biological activity.
2. Providing crop nutrients directly using external inputs of fertilizer.
3. Self-sufficiency in Nitrogen through the use of legumes and biological nitrogen fixation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

Organic farming is a method of a farming system which primarily aims at cultivating the land and raising crops in such a way as to keep the soil alive and in good health by the use of organic wastes and other biological materials along with beneficial microbes (biofertilizers).

Characteristics of Organic Farming

- Protecting the long term fertility of soils by maintaining organic matter levels, encouraging soil biological activity, and careful mechanical intervention. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Providing Crop nutrients indirectly using relatively insoluble nutrient sources made available to the plant by the action of soil microorganisms. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Self-sufficiency in Nitrogen through the use of legumes and biological nitrogen fixation as well as effective recycling of organic mate including crop residues and livestock manure. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Weed, disease and pest control by relying primarily on crop rotations, natural predator diversity, organic manuring, resistant varieties and limited (preferably minimal) thermal, biological and chemical intervention.

QUESTION 16:

Water treatment plants use technology that is both chemical and biologically safe and attractive in terms of colour, smell and taste. Which of the following are the prevalent technologies for water purification & treatment?

1. Capacitive deionization (CDI)
2. Ozonation
3. TeraFIL
4. Filtration

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

- **Capacitive deionization (CDI)**, is a technology in which a separator channel with a porous electrode on each side) removes ions from water.
- **Ozonation technique** is based on the ozone infusion into the water for chemical water treatment.
- In **Ultraviolet technology**, ultraviolet light used to kill microorganisms of water.
- A large majority of contaminants are removed in **reverse osmosis (RO) technology** through a semipermeable membrane.
- **TERAFIL** is a burnt red clay porous media used for filtration & treatment of raw water into clean drinking water. This technology has been developed by the Council of Scientific & industrial Research (CSIR).

- **OS-Community scale Arsenic Filter** is an organic arsenic filter which is developed by IIT Kharagpur.
- **Filtration methods** that may include rapid/slow sand filters which remove rust, silt, dust and other particulate matter from water and Solar water purification systems.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

QUESTION 17:

Consider the following statements:

1. The National Nutrition Council on India's Nutrition Challenges is headed by the Vice- Chairman of the NITI Aayog.
2. POSHAN Abhiyaan is implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
3. The POSHAN Abhiyaan is implemented with assistance from the World Bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- **POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission)** was launched by the government on March 8, 2018.
- POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to ensure service delivery and interventions by use of technology, behavioural change through convergence and lays-down specific targets to be achieved across different monitoring parameters.
- The **National Nutrition Council on India's Nutrition Challenges** was set up under the Poshan Abhiyaan.
 - It is headed by the Vice-Chairman of the NITI Aayog.
 - The Council is also known as the **National Council on Nutrition (NCN)**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **National Council on Nutrition (NCN)** was set up under the Poshan Abhiyaan. The NCN is headed by the Vice-Chairman of the NITI Aayog. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** is implementing the **POSHAN Abhiyaan**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - It provides policy directions to address nutritional challenges in the country and review programmes.
 - It is a national-level coordination and convergence body on nutrition.
 - \$200 million loans from the World Bank will be used for implementing the National Nutrition Mission. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

QUESTION 18:

With reference to the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, consider the following statements:

1. MSME sector encourages inclusive growth.
2. It has the potential to boost India's global export.
3. Owing to its capital intensive nature, it is facing stiff global competition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- The Micro, Small and Medium (MSME) sector is the most useful vehicle for **inclusive growth in India due to its inherent nature of large scale employment creation in the shortest possible time and dispersal of industries in rural, urban and rural areas**. The MSMEs are also very evenly distributed across the various states of the country. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **labour to the capital ratio in MSMEs and the overall growth in the sector is much higher than in the large industries**. It is estimated that in terms of value, the sector accounts for about 45% of the manufacturing output and 40% of the total exports of the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is **not a capital intensive sector**, the growth of MSME requires less capital. It is facing intense competition from Chinese goods which have a robust manufacturing base and low labour compliance obligations. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 19:

The term 'Powehi' is sometimes mentioned in news refers to?

- (a) An active volcano
- (b) An early human species
- (c) Black hole
- (d) Tropical cyclone

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

The **M87 black hole is officially designated as M87***, but it has also been given the name Powehi, which means "embellished dark source of unending creation" in the indigenous Hawaiian language. However, before the name is officially recognised by astronomers around the world, it must be approved by the International Astronomical Union (IAU). **Hence, option C is correct.**

QUESTION 20:

Which of the following are limbs (parts) of Ashtanga Yoga outlined by Patanjali?

1. Yama
2. Niyama
3. Dharana
4. Samadhi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

- **Ashtanga yoga** is a system of yoga recorded by the sage Vamana Rishi in the Yoga Korunta, an ancient manuscript. Ashtanga yoga literally means “**eight-limbed yoga**”, as outlined by the sage Patanjali in the Yoga Sutras.
- According to **Patanjali**, the path of internal purification for revealing the Universal Self consists of the following eight spiritual practices:
 - Yama [moral codes]
 - Niyama [self-purification and study]
 - Asana [posture]
 - Pranayama [breath control]
 - Pratyahara [sense control]
 - Dharana [concentration]
 - Dhyana [meditation]
 - Samadhi [absorption into the Universal]
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

Question 21:

Which of the following ensures judicial independence?

1. The Union Legislature has no role in the appointment of judges.
2. Judiciary is not financially dependent on the executive as well as legislature.
3. The judiciary is empowered to penalise for its contempt.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

The Indian Constitution has ensured the independence of the judiciary through a number of measures:

- The legislature is not involved in the process of appointment of judges. Thus, it was believed that party politics would not play a role in the process of appointments. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The judges have a fixed tenure. They hold office till reaching the age of retirement. Only in exceptional cases, judges may be removed. They have the security of tenure which ensures that judges could function without fear or favour.
- The judiciary is not financially dependent on either the executive or legislature. The Constitution provides that the salaries and allowances of the judges are not subjected to the approval of the legislature. It is charged on the **Consolidated Fund of India** and Consolidated Fund of the state. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The judiciary has the power to penalise those who are found guilty of contempt of court. This authority of the court is seen as effective protection to the judges from unfair criticism.

The Supreme Court can punish any person for its contempt. Thus, its actions and decisions cannot be criticised and opposed by anybody. This power is vested in the Supreme Court to maintain its authority, dignity and honour. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 22:

With reference to the 'curative petition', consider the following statements:

1. It serves as the final and last option for the parties to get justice in court.
2. It is generally heard in the chamber of judges in the absence of lawyers.
3. It can be filed in both the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

- In **Roopa Hurra v Ashok Hurra case (2002)**, the Supreme Court evolved the concept of a curative petition, which can be heard after a **review petition is dismissed**.
 - It is considered as the **last** and **final option** available for redressal of grievances in Court. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The scope of Curative Petition is narrower than Review Petition. Review Petitions are mostly filed invoking **Article 137** of the Constitution whereas Curative Petitions are filed under **Article 142** of the Constitution read with Supreme Court Rules, 1966.
 - The **objective** behind allowing curative petition is only to minimize any abuse of the processes of law and to cure gross miscarriage and lapses in the system of justice.
 - A curative petition is generally heard in the chamber of judges in the **absence of lawyers**. It is **only in rare cases** that such petitions are given an open-court hearing. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - They are filed to seek relief against the final judgement/order of the Supreme Court and after the dismissal of review petition by the Supreme Court. Therefore, they can be entertained by the Supreme Court only. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - To entertain the curative petitions, the Supreme Court has laid down certain specific conditions:
 - ◆ The petitioner will have to establish that there was a genuine violation of principles of natural justice.
 - ◆ The fear of the bias of the judge and judgement that adversely affected him.

QUESTION 23:

With reference to the Supreme Court of India, consider the following statements:

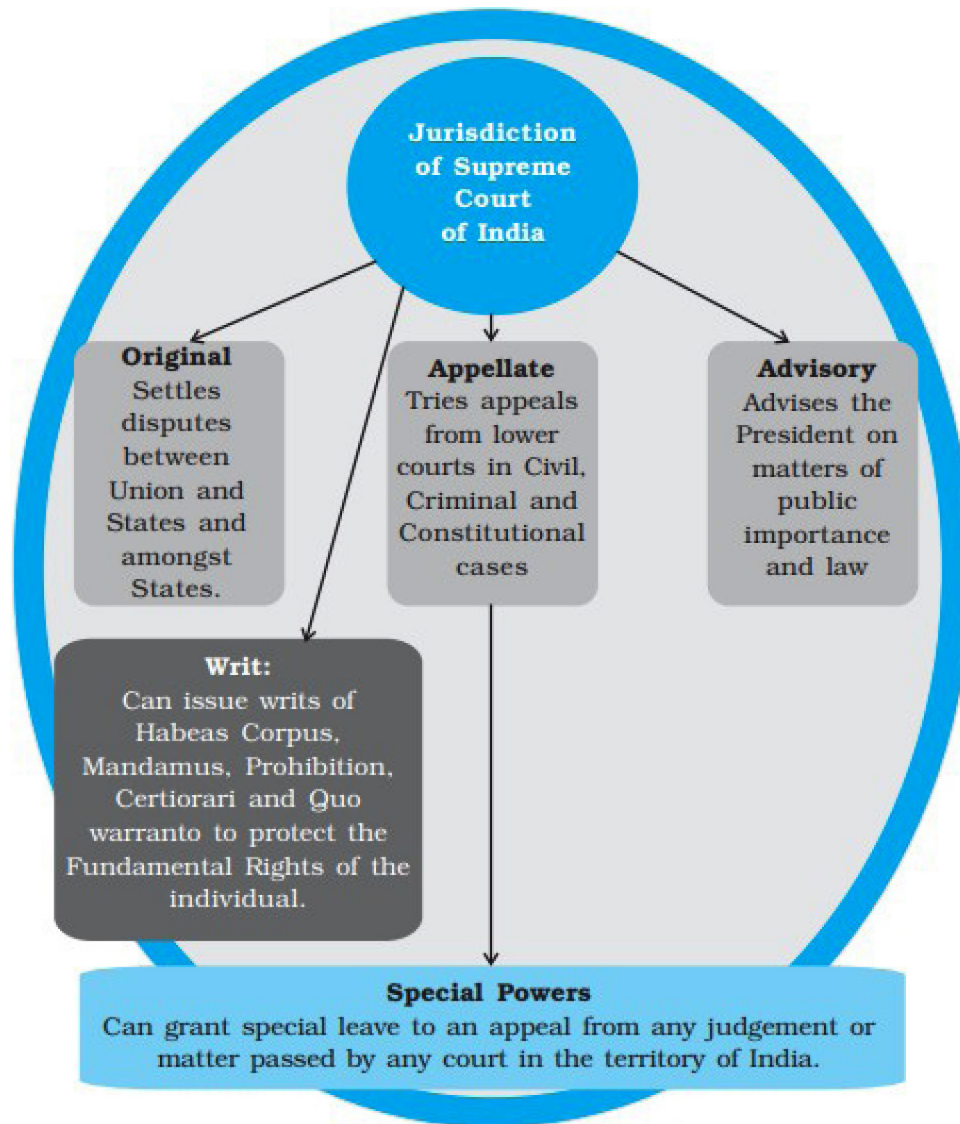
1. It has exclusive original jurisdiction over settling disputes between Centre and States.
2. Under advisory jurisdiction, the advice tendered by the Supreme Court is binding on the President.
3. The writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is wider than the High Courts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation



- As a federal court, the Supreme Court decides disputes between different units of the Indian Federation.
 - Centre and one or more states.
 - Centre and any state or states on one side and one or more states on the other. Between two or more states.
- In the above federal disputes, the Supreme Court has **exclusive original jurisdiction**.
 - Exclusive means, no other court can decide such disputes and original means, the power to hear such disputes in the first instance, not by way of appeal. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under **advisory jurisdiction (Article 143)**, the President of India may refer any question of law or public importance to the Supreme Court for its advice. But the Supreme Court is not bound to give advice.
 - In case, the advice or the opinion of the Court is sent to the President, he may or may not accept it. The advice of the Court is **not binding** on the President. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The writ is a written order from SC or HC that commands constitutional remedies for people against Fundamental Rights.
- The Supreme Court can issue writ only for violation of fundamental rights while High Courts are empowered to issue writs for violation of fundamental rights as well as for other purposes. Therefore, High Courts have wider writ jurisdiction than the Supreme Court. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 24:

With reference to the Lokpal, consider the following statements:

1. The office of Lokpal is a statutory body.
2. Jurisdiction of Lokpal does not include the Prime Minister and Members of Parliament.
3. The term of office for Lokpal is 5 years or till the age of 65 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

Lokpal and Lokayukta

- The **Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013** provided for the establishment of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for States.
 - These institutions are statutory bodies without any constitutional status.
 - They perform the function of an “ombudsman” and inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for related matters. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Jurisdiction of Lokpal includes **Prime Minister**, Ministers, **Members of Parliament**, Groups A, B, C and D officers and officials of Central Government. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **term of office** for Lokpal Chairman and Members is **5 years or till the age of 70 years**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 25:

With reference to the concept of ‘Judicial review’, consider the following statements:

1. It is an element of the basic structure of the Constitution.
2. It is derived from Article 13 of the Constitution of India.
3. It is not applicable on the administrative action of the state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

- **Judicial review** is the power of the judiciary to examine the **constitutionality of legislative enactments** and executive orders of both the Central and State governments.
 - On examination, if they are found to be violative of the Constitution (ultra vires), they can be declared as illegal, unconstitutional and invalid (null and void) by the judiciary. Consequently, they cannot be enforced by the Government.
- The Constitution confers the power of judicial review on the judiciary (both the Supreme Court as well as High Courts). Further, in *L. Chandra Kumar v Union of India* (1997) case, the Supreme Court has declared the power of judicial review as a basic feature of the Constitution. Hence, the power of judicial review cannot be curtailed or excluded even by a constitutional amendment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **Article 13(2)** of the Constitution of India prescribes that the Union or the States shall not make any law that takes away or abridges any of the fundamental rights, and any law made in contravention of the aforementioned mandate shall, to the extent of the contravention, be void.
 - The court can nullify or invalidate an action if it is deemed unconstitutional. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The judicial review over **administrative action** has evolved on the lines of common law doctrines such as '**proportionality**', '**legitimate expectation**', '**reasonableness**' and **principles of natural justice**.
- The Supreme Court of India and the various High Courts were given the power to rule on the **constitutionality of legislative as well as administrative actions** to protect and enforce the fundamental rights guaranteed in Part III of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 26:

Consider the following statements:

1. The Ninth Schedule was added through the first Constitutional Amendment in 1951.
2. The Ninth Schedule was added to protect land reforms from judicial review under Article 13 of the Constitution.
3. All the laws included in the Ninth Schedule are provided blanket immunity from judicial review.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- The First Amendment in 1951 along with **Article 31-B** marked the addition of the **Ninth Schedule to the Constitution**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This was intended to protect **land reform laws** from being challenged in courts on the grounds of violation of fundamental rights. According to Article 13(2) of the Constitution, the state shall not make any law that will be inconsistent with the fundamental rights. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In **IR Coelho vs State of Tamil Nadu, 2007** various laws placed in the Ninth Schedule were challenged on the grounds that laws violating fundamental rights should be struck down as "unconstitutional". The SC upheld the validity of Article 31-B and Parliament's power to place a particular law in the Ninth Schedule;

However, it held that laws placed in the Ninth Schedule were open to judicial scrutiny implying that such laws could not be entitled to blanket protection. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 27:

With reference to 'High Courts', consider the following statements:

1. The powers of High Court can be changed by State Legislature.
2. High Courts are not empowered to check the constitutional validity of Central laws.
3. The salaries and pension of High Court judges are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- The judiciary in a state consists of a High Court and a hierarchy of subordinate courts. The High Court occupies the top position in the judicial administration of a state.
 - The institution of High Court originated in India in 1862 when the High Courts were set up at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras.
- The jurisdiction and powers of a High Court specified in the Constitution **cannot be curtailed** both by the Parliament and the state legislature. But the jurisdiction and **powers of a High Court can be changed** both by the Parliament and the state legislature. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Article 131A** gave the Supreme Court exclusive jurisdiction to decide the constitutional validity of a Central law and thus deprived the High Courts of their jurisdiction in respect of the same.
 - **Article 226A** barred the High Courts from deciding the validity of any Central law.
 - **Article 32A** barred the Supreme Court from considering the constitutional validity of any State law in proceedings for the enforcement of fundamental rights unless the constitutional validity of any Central law was also in question in such proceedings.
 - However, **Article 32A, 131A, 226A were omitted by the 43rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1977. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The salaries and allowances of the judges, the salaries, allowances and pensions of the staff as well as the administrative expenses of a high court are charged on the consolidated fund of the state. Thus, they are non-votable by the state legislature.
 - It should be noted here that the **pension of a high court judge** is charged on the **Consolidated Fund of India** and not the state. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 28:

Consider the following statements:

1. District Judges have both judicial as well as administrative powers.
2. The sessions judge does not have the power to impose capital punishment.

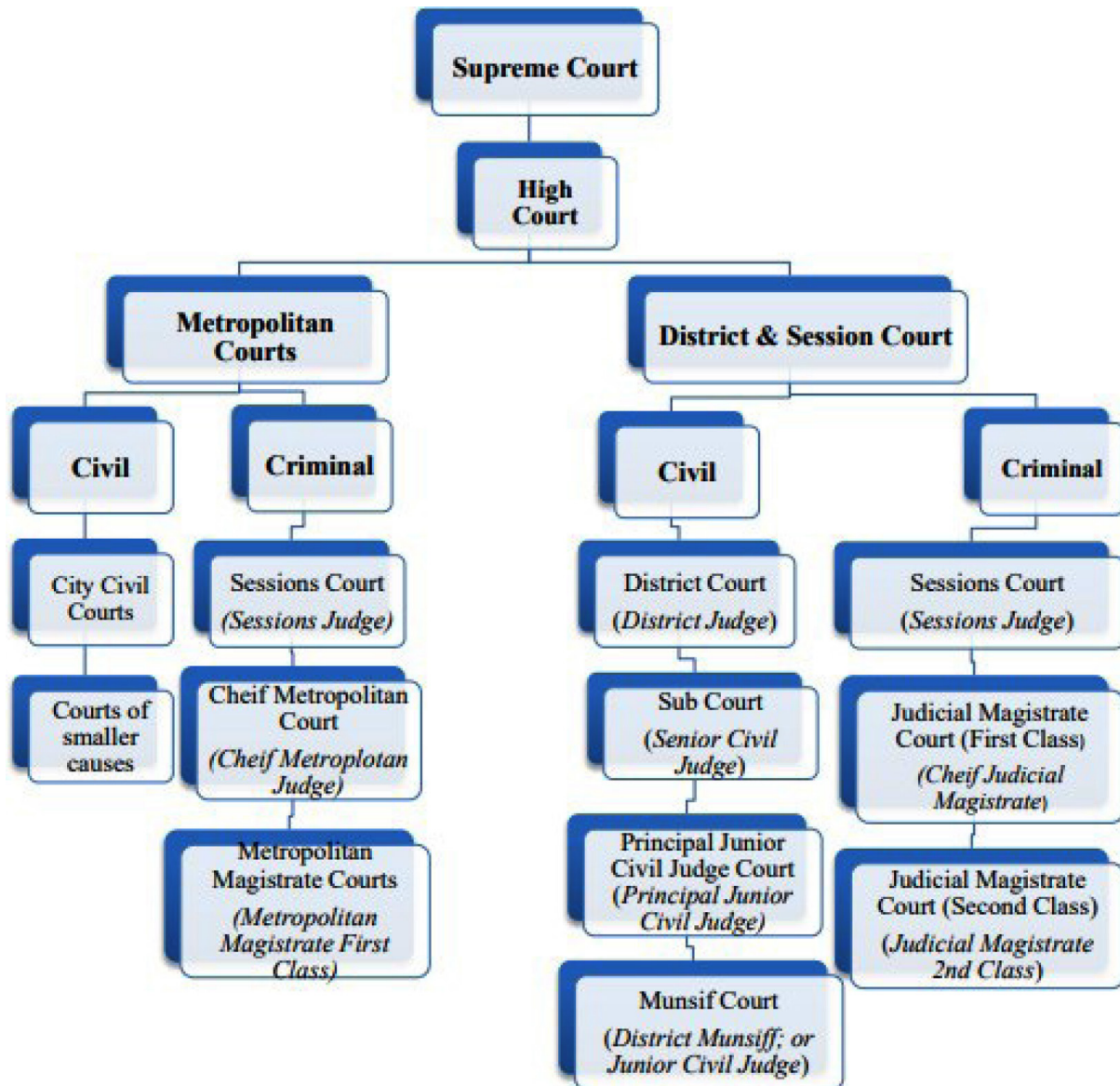
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

- District judge is the highest judicial authority in the district. He possesses original and appellate jurisdiction in both civil as well as criminal matters.
 - When he deals with civil cases, he is known as the **district judge**.
 - When he hears the criminal cases, he is called as the **sessions judge**.
- The district judge exercises both **judicial** and **administrative powers**. He also has **supervisory powers** over all the subordinate courts in the district. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The sessions judge has the power to impose any sentence including life imprisonment and capital punishment (death sentence).
 - However, a capital punishment passed by him is subject to confirmation by the High Court, whether there is an appeal or not. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**



Hierarchy of Courts in India

QUESTION 29:

With reference to 'Chagos Archipelago', consider the following statements:

1. It is an island group located in the South China Sea.
2. UK and China are involved in the dispute over the sovereignty of the Chagos Islands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

- The Chagos Archipelago, an island group in the central Indian Ocean, located about 1,000 miles (1,600 km) south of the southern tip of the Indian subcontinent. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- The UK and Mauritius are involved in the dispute over sovereignty of the Chagos Islands. Recently, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has asked the United Kingdom to return the Chagos Archipelago back to Mauritius. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**



QUESTION 30:

The 'Kalapani territory dispute' which was recently seen in the news is between?

- India and Bangladesh
- India and Pakistan
- India and China
- India and Nepal

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

- In the latest political map of India, India reiterated its claims on the region that Nepal considers as its territory in Darchula district.
- According to India, the historic Kalapani region forms part of the state of Uttarakhand.
- Kalapani is a valley that is administered by India as a part of the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand. It is situated on the Kailash Mansarovar route.
 - The Kali River in the Kalapani region demarcates the border between India and Nepal.



drishti

- The Treaty of Sugauli signed by the Kingdom of Nepal and British India (after Anglo-Nepalese War) in 1816 located the Kali River as Nepal's western boundary with India. The discrepancy in locating the source of the river led to boundary disputes between India and Nepal, with each country producing maps supporting their own claims. **Hence, option D is correct.**



QUESTION 31:

Identify the State of India where River Feni demarcates the boundary between India and Bangladesh?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Tripura
- (d) Mizoram

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

- The **Feni river** forms part of the India-Bangladesh border. It is a trans-boundary river with an ongoing dispute about water rights. **Hence, option C is correct.**
- The Feni River originates in South Tripura district and flows through **Sabroom town** and then enters Bangladesh. Muhuri River, also called Little Feni, from Noakhali District joins it near its mouth.
- **Sabroom in South Tripura**, in India, is only 18 to 20 kilometres from the Bay of Bengal, but it is a virtually landlocked territory.

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bangladesh on the withdrawal of 1.82 cusecs (cubic feet per second) of water from the Feni river by India for a drinking water supply scheme for Sabroom.

QUESTION 32:

With reference to 'Cutlass Express', consider the following statements:

1. It is a maritime exercise sponsored by U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM).
2. It was conducted to assess and improve maritime law enforcement capacity in Eastern Africa.
3. Indian Navy participated in CUTLASS Express exercise.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

- The Cutlass Express is an exercise sponsored by U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) and conducted by Naval Forces Africa (NAVAF). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The objective is to assess and improve maritime law enforcement capacity, promote national and regional security in eastern Africa, inform planning and operations, and shape security force assistance (SFA) efforts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Indian Navy participated in Cutlass Express exercise from 27 Jan to 06 Feb 2019. It demonstrates U.S. and partner nation commitment to regional stability and maritime security with participating nations including Somalia, Djibouti, Mauritius, Mozambique, Tanzania, Seychelles, the United States, Kenya, Canada, Georgia, Greece, Egypt, Madagascar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Comoros. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 33:

Consider the following statements:

1. Mission Shakti was launched to destroy a live satellite in low earth orbit.
2. India is the only country that has Anti-satellite weapons capabilities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

- India has tested the **Anti-Satellite System (A-SAT)** from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, an island off the coast of Odisha. The test was named **Mission Shakti**. It has successfully destroyed a **live satellite in the Low Earth Orbit** (an altitude of 300km). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Two types of A-SATs: Kinetic and Non-Kinetic A-SATs.
 - **Kinetic A-SATs**, like ballistic missiles physically strike an object in order to destroy it.
 - **Working:**
 - ◆ To destroy any satellite, firstly exact speed and location of the same needs to be known in real time.
 - ◆ Depending upon the speed of the satellite and also the orbit in which it is moving, an A-SAT missile is launched.

- The information about the position of satellite in the orbit is communicated to the missile in real time every second.
- Based on that information, the missile takes a path towards the satellite.
- The missile has a **Kinetic Kill Vehicle (KKV)** within it, which after sensing the satellite, hits it.
- **Non-Kinetic A-SATs** are the ones that use non-physical means to disable or destroy space objects, which include frequency jamming, blinding lasers or cyber attacks.
- The theoretical maximum range of A-SATs is limited which means satellites above **20,000 km are out of range.**
- India has become the fourth country after the **U.S., Russia and China** to have Anti- satellite weapons (ASAT) technology. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 34:

‘Triple billion target’ recently seen in the news is related to?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) International Monetary Fund
- (c) World Health Organization
- (d) World Economic Forum

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

The World Health Organization (WHO) has embarked on its new 5-year strategic plan, with an ambitious **triple billion target**: Ensuring that 1 billion more people benefit from universal health coverage, 1 billion more are protected from health emergencies and 1 billion improve their overall health. **Hence, option C is correct.**

QUESTION 35:

With reference to India’s Cooling Action Plan (ICAP), consider the following statements:

1. ICAP has been launched by the Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. The plan is in sync with India’s commitment to the Kyoto Protocol.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 or 2

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

- **India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)** has been launched by the **Ozone Cell** of Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The plan is in sync with India’s commitment to the **Montreal Protocol, 1987 (reduction of ozone-depleting substances)** as well as the Paris Agreement, 2015 to meet the challenges of climate change. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 36:

Consider the following statements regarding the programme YUva Vigyani KARYakram (YUVIKA):

1. This program is aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to school children.

2. It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Science & Technology and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

YUva Vigyani Karyakram (YUVIKA)

- The Program is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones with the intent of arousing their interest. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is an initiative of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. It is a residential training programme of around two weeks duration during summer holidays and it is proposed to select 3 students from each State/ Union Territory. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 37:

With reference to the 'Gram Nyayalaya Act', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. As per the Act, Gram Nyayalayas can hear only civil cases and not criminal cases.
- 2. The Act allows local social activists as mediators/conciliators.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- The objective of the **Gram Nyayalaya Act, 2008** is to provide for the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grassroots level for the purposes of providing access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of social, economic or other disabilities.
 - Their territorial jurisdiction extends to the whole of India **except the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and the tribal areas of Sixth Schedule status.**
- **As per the Act, Gram Nyayalayas can hear both civil cases and criminal cases. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- District Court in consultation with the District Magistrate, prepares a **panel consisting of the names of social workers at the village level, having integrity for appointment as Conciliators who possess such qualifications and experience as may be prescribed by the High Court. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- As per the provisions of the Act, the State Governments shall establish one or more gram nyayalayas for every Panchayat or group of contiguous panchayats at an intermediate level.
 - The Gram Nyayalayas are presided over by '**Nyayadhikari**', who has the same power and enjoys the same salary as well as the benefits of a First Class Judicial Magistrate.
 - ◆ Such a Nyayadhikari is to be appointed by the State Government in consultation with their respective High Court.

- The Nyayadhikaris shall be persons eligible to be appointed as First Class Magistrate and shall belong to the cadre of Nyayadhikaris created by the Governor in consultation with the High Court.
- The Act provides for **mobile courts**, which have the powers of both civil and criminal courts, to be held periodically in villages where the parties reside.
 - The Gram Nyayalayas shall not have jurisdiction in cases involving the government or any of its officials acting in their official capacity. They shall not **try any claim cognizable by revenue courts**.
 - The Gram Nyayalaya will not be bound by the rules of evidence provided in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 but shall be **guided by the principles of natural justice** and subject to any rule made by the High Court.
 - It may adjourn proceedings to allow for conciliation between parties, subject to rules made by the High Court.

QUESTION 38:

With reference to the National Legal Services Authority, consider the following statements:

1. Its objective is to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society on the basis of equal opportunity.
2. It issues guidelines for the State Legal Services Authorities to implement the legal programmes and schemes throughout the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

- The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
 - It seeks to provide **free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society** on the basis of equal opportunity and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief of the NALSA.
- **In every State, the State Legal Services Authority has been constituted to give effect to the policies and directions of the NALSA;** and to give free legal services to the people and conduct Lok Adalats in the State. **In every District, the District Legal Services Authority has been constituted to implement Legal Services Programmes in the District. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The **State Legal Services Authority** is headed by the Chief Justice of the respective High Court who is the Patron-in-Chief of the State Legal Services Authority.
 - The **District Legal Services Authority** is chaired by the District Judge of the respective district.

QUESTION 39:

Consider the following statements:

1. The Advocate General of a State in India is appointed by the President of India upon the recommendation of the Governor of the concerned State.
2. As provided in the Civil Procedure Code, High Courts have original, appellate and advisory jurisdiction at the State level.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- According to Article 165(1), **the Governor of each State appoints a person who is qualified to be appointed a Judge of a High Court as the Advocate-General for the State. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Article 165(2)** states that it shall be the duty of the **Advocate General to give advice to the Government of the State upon such legal matters**, and to perform such other duties of a legal character, as may from time to time be referred or assigned to him by the Governor, and to discharge the functions conferred on him by or under the Constitution or any other law for the time being in force.
- **Article 165(3)** states that the Advocate General shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor, and shall receive such remuneration as the Governor may determine.
 - The High Courts in India have been accorded some specific powers under the **Civil Procedure Code with respect to certain matters.**
 - **The High Courts have original, appellate and advisory jurisdiction at the State level.** Any matter referred to the High Court by any tribunal or subordinate court in regard to the question of **law comes under advisory jurisdiction of the High Court. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 40:

With reference to Lok Adalats, which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Lok Adalats have the jurisdiction to settle the matters at the pre-litigation stage and not those matters pending before any court.
- (b) Lok Adalats can deal with matters which are civil and not criminal in nature.
- (c) Every Lok Adalat consists of either serving or retired judicial officers only and not any other person.
- (d) None of the statements given above is correct.

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

- **National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA)** along with other Legal Services Institutions conducts Lok Adalats. Lok Adalat is one of the alternative **dispute redressal mechanisms, where disputes or cases pending in the court of law or at a pre-litigation stage are settled or compromised amicably. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - **Lok Adalats** have been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The award is final and binding on all parties and no appeal against such an award lies before any court of law.
- **Lok Adalats can deal with civil matters as well as criminal matters which are compoundable under any law.** They have no jurisdiction in respect of matters relating to divorce or matters relating to an offence not compoundable under any law. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Lok Adalat is presided over by a sitting or retired judicial officer as the chairman, with two other members, usually a lawyer and a social worker. **Hence, statement 3 is also not correct.**

QUESTION 41:

Consider the following statements:

1. The legislative assembly of Delhi was created through the 69th Constitutional Amendment.
2. The Parliament can make laws on any subject of all three lists for the union territories.
3. The legislative assembly of Delhi is entitled to make laws on State List only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

- The **69th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991** provided a special status to the **Union Territory of Delhi**, and redesignated it the **National Capital Territory of Delhi** and designated the administrator of Delhi as the **lieutenant (lt.) Governor**.
 - It created a legislative assembly and a council of ministers for Delhi. Previously, Delhi had a metropolitan council and an executive council. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Parliament can make laws on **any subject of the three lists** (including the State List) for the union territories. This power of Parliament also extends to **Puducherry, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir**, which have their own local legislatures. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **legislative power of Parliament for the union territories** on subjects of the State List remains unaffected even after establishing a local legislature for them.
 - But, the legislative assembly of Puducherry can also make laws on **any subject of the State List and the Concurrent List**.
 - Similarly, the legislative assembly of Delhi can **make laws on any subject of the State List** (except public order, police and land) and the **Concurrent List**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 42:

Consider the following statements:

1. The Scheduled Area is declared by the Parliament.
2. Every state having a scheduled area is required to establish tribes advisory council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

Article 244 in Part X of the Constitution envisages a special system of administration for certain areas designated as 'scheduled areas' and 'tribal areas'.

- As per the Constitutional provision under Article 244 (1), the specification of "Scheduled Areas" in relation to a State is by a notified order of the President, after consultation with the Governor of that State. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- The criteria for declaring any area as a “Scheduled Area” under the Fifth Schedule are:
 - The preponderance of tribal population Compactness and reasonable size of the area
 - A viable administrative entity such as a district, block or taluk
 - Economic backwardness of the area as compared to the neighbouring areas. These criteria are not spelt out in the Constitution of India but have become well established. The Constitutional Order relating to Scheduled Areas has been notified, since the year 1950 to 2007.
- **The various features of administration contained in the Fifth Schedule are as follows:**
 - **Executive Power of Centre & State:** The executive power of the Centre extends to giving directions to the states regarding the administration of such areas.
 - **Law applicable to Scheduled Areas:** The governor is empowered to direct that any particular act of Parliament or the state legislature does not apply to a scheduled area or apply with specified modifications and exceptions, with the approval of the President.
 - **Tribes Advisory Council:** Each state having scheduled areas has to establish a tribes advisory council to advise on welfare and advancement of the scheduled tribes.
 - ◆ It consists of 20 members, three-fourths of whom are to be the representatives of the scheduled tribes in the state legislative assembly. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 43:

Consider the following events:

1. Creation of Puducherry as a union territory
2. Statehood to Himachal Pradesh
3. Redesignation of Delhi as National Capital Territory of Delhi
4. Liberation of Dadra & Nagar Haveli from Portuguese

Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

- The Portuguese ruled Dadra & Nagar Haveli until its liberation in **1954**. The administration was carried on till 1961 by an administrator chosen by the people themselves. It was converted into a union territory of India by the 10th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1961.
- The territory of Puducherry comprises the former French establishments in India known as Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. The French handed over this territory to India in 1954.
 - It was administered as an ‘acquired territory’ till **1962**, then it was made a union territory by the 14th Constitutional Amendment Act.
- In **1971**, the union territory of **Himachal Pradesh** was elevated to the status of a state (18th state of the Indian Union).
- In **1992**, the **Union Territory of Delhi** was redesignated as the **National Capital Territory of Delhi** (without being conferred the status of a full-fledged state) by the **69th** Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991. **Hence, option D is correct.**

QUESTION 44:

Regarding the administration of the autonomous district councils under 6th Schedule, consider the following statements:

1. District Councils consist of only elected members.

2. District Councils are empowered to constitute village courts for settling disputes.
3. The President has the power to dissolve the district councils.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

The Constitution, under **Sixth Schedule**, contains special provisions for the administration of tribal areas in the four north-eastern states of **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura** and **Mizoram**.

The various features of administration contained in the Sixth Schedule are as follows:

- The **tribal areas** in the above four states have been constituted as **autonomous districts**, but they do not fall outside the executive authority of the state concerned.
- **The Governor** is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.
- Each autonomous district has a **district council** consisting of **30 members**, of whom **four are nominated** by the Governor and the remaining **26 are elected** on the basis of adult franchise. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - The district councils administer the areas under their jurisdiction. They can make laws on certain specified matters like land, forests, canal water, shifting cultivation, village administration, inheritance of property, marriage and divorce, social customs etc. But all such laws require the assent of the Governor.
 - The district and regional councils within their territorial jurisdictions can constitute **village councils** or **courts** for trial of suits and cases between the tribes. They hear appeals from them. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The jurisdiction of the high court over these suits and cases is specified by the governor.
 - The district council can establish, construct or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries, roads and so on in the district.
 - ◆ It can also make regulations for the control of money lending and trading by non-tribals. But, such regulations require the assent of the Governor.
 - ◆ The district and regional councils are empowered to assess and collect land revenue and to impose certain specified taxes.
- Governor can appoint a commission to examine and report on any matter relating to the administration of the autonomous districts or regions. He **may dissolve** a district or regional council on the recommendation of the commission. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 45:

With reference to the Panchayati Raj System, consider the following statements:

1. All the people of the village are members of the Gram Sabha.
2. Members of intermediate district levels are elected by the public through direct election.
3. The 73rd Amendment Act provided compulsory provision for reservation of seats for backward classes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- **Gram Sabha:** The **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act** provides for a Gram Sabha as the foundation of the panchayati raj system. It is a body consisting of **persons registered in the electoral rolls of a village** comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level.
 - Thus, Gram Sabha is a village assembly consisting of all the registered voters in the area of a panchayat. It may exercise such powers and perform such functions at the village level as the legislature of a state determines. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Election of Members and Chairpersons:** The **members of panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels** are elected **directly by the people**.
 - Further, the **chairperson of panchayats at the intermediate and district levels are elected indirectly** – by and from amongst the elected members thereof. However, the chairperson of a panchayat at the village level shall be elected in such manner as the state legislature determines. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Reservation of Seats:** The act provides for the reservation of seats for **scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in every panchayat** (i.e., at all three levels) in proportion of their population to the total population in the panchayat area.
 - Further, the state legislature provides for the reservation of offices of chairperson in the panchayat at the village or any other level for the SCs and STs.
 - The act provides for the reservation of **not less than one-third of the total number of seats for women** (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the SCs and STs). Further, not less than one-third of the total number of offices of chairpersons in the panchayats at each level shall be reserved for women.
 - The act also **authorises the legislature of a state** to make any provision for reservation of seats in any panchayat or offices of chairperson in the panchayat at any level in **favour of backward classes**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 46:

Which of the following Committees is/are related to the Panchayati Raj System?

1. Balwant Rai Mehta Committee
2. Ashok Mehta Committee
3. Raja Chelliah Committee
4. L.M. Singhvi Committee

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

- The **Balwant Rai Mehta Committee** was constituted in 1957 to examine the working of the Community Development Programme (1952) and National Extension Service (1953) and to suggest matters for its better working.
 - The main recommendations of the scheme includes establishment of the scheme of '**democratic decentralization**' and **establishment of a three tier Panchayati Raj System (PRI's)**.
- The **Ashok Mehta committee** was constituted in 1977 for **strengthening the declining Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI's) in India**.

- The key recommendations of the committee include Replacement of **the three tier system by a two tier system**, District should be made the first point for decentralization below state level, PRI's to have compulsory taxation powers, Regular Social auditing of PRI's, reservation of seats for SC, ST on the basis of their population.
- The **GVK Rao committee** was appointed by the planning commission in 1985 to oversee the **Administrative Arrangement for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Programmes**.
 - The key recommendations of the committee include **Zila Parishad (at the District level)** should play a pivotal role in the scheme of Democratic Decentralization, Regular conduct of elections for PRI's.
- **LM Singhvi committee** was appointed in 1986 by the Rajiv Gandhi government for the **Revitalization of Panchayati Raj Institutions** for Democracy and Development.
 - The committee made recommendations such as constitutional recognition of PRI's and Reorganization of villages in order to make the gram sabha more viable.
- In 1991, the Government set up the **Tax Reforms Committee** under the Chairmanship of **Raja J. Chelliah** to examine the then tax structure of the country and suggest the changes.
- Hence, option D is correct.

QUESTION 47:

Which of the following functional items is/are placed under the 'Eleventh Schedule' of Indian Constitution?

1. Family welfare
2. Public distribution system
3. Poverty alleviation programme
4. Khadi, village and cottage industries

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

Eleventh Schedule: It contains the following **29 functional items** placed within the purview of panchayats:

- Agriculture, including agricultural extension
- Land improvement, implementation of land reforms, land consolidation and soil conservation
- Minor irrigation, water management and watershed development Animal husbandry, dairying and poultry
- Fisheries
- Social forestry and farm forestry Minor forest produce
- Small-scale industries, including food processing industries
- **Khadi, village and cottage industries**
- Rural housing Drinking water Fuel and fodder
- Roads, culverts, bridges, ferries, waterways and other means of communication Rural electrification, including distribution of electricity
- Non-conventional energy sources
- **Poverty alleviation programme**
- Education, including primary and secondary schools Technical training and vocational education

- Adult and non-formal education Libraries
- Cultural activities Markets and fairs
- Health and sanitation including hospitals, primary health centres and dispensaries
- **Family welfare**
- Women and child development
- Social welfare, including welfare of the handicapped and mentally retarded Welfare of the weaker sections, and in particular, of the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes
- **Public distribution system**
- Maintenance of community assets.

Hence, option D is correct.

QUESTION 48:

With reference to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), consider the following statements:

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. India has ratified the Convention on International Civil Aviation.
3. Its headquarters are located in New York.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- The **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It was established in 1944 to manage the administration and governance of the **Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention)**. India is among its 193 members. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - India ratified this convention on 1st march 1947. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It's one of the objectives is to foster the planning and development of international air transport so as to ensure the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation throughout the world.
- It is headquartered in Montreal, Canada. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 49:

Consider the following statements:

1. Universal Postal Union (UPU) is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. India joined the UPU in 1950.
3. UPU regulates international mail exchange and fixes rates for international postal services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

- Universal Postal Union is the **specialized agency of the United Nations**. It was **established in 1874** and is the second oldest international organization worldwide after the International Telecommunication Union (1865). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - India joined the UPU in 1876. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Its headquarters are located in **Bern, Switzerland**, and consists of 192 member countries.
- It **frames rules for international mail exchange and fixes rates for international postal services**. It performs advisory, mediating and liaison roles, and provides technical assistance where needed. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Pakistan has stopped the exchange of postal mails with India since August 27, 2019. The decision was taken without any prior notice and is in direct contravention of international norms.
 - Other than the UPU, three agreements cover postal exchange between India and Pakistan – Exchange of Value Payable Article, 1948; Exchange of Postal Article, 1974; and International Speed Post Agreement, 1987.

Question 50:

With reference to Financial Action Task Force (FATF), consider the following statements:

1. It was an initiative of G-20 nations.
2. It develops measures to combat terror financing and financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
3. It releases a grey list which includes countries whose international financing is blocked.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an **inter-governmental body** established in **1989** during the **G7 Summit** in Paris. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Initially, it was established to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering. In October 2001, the FATF expanded its mandate to incorporate efforts to combat terrorist financing, in addition to money laundering.
 - In April 2012, it added efforts to counter the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- FATF releases two list:
 - **Grey List:** Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.
 - **Black List:** Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. Putting a country on the blacklist means shutting all doors to international finance for that country. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 51:

With reference to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), consider the following statements:

1. It is the second-largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations (UN).
2. India is one among the observer states of OIC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

- The **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** is the **second-largest inter- governmental organization**. The OIC was formed in 1969 after a summit in Rabat, the Kingdom of Morocco on 25 September 1969 following the fire in Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The term **intergovernmental Organization (IGO)** refers to an entity created by treaty, involving two or more nations, to work in good faith, on issues of common interest. In the absence of a treaty, an IGO does not exist in the legal sense.
 - The organization is the collective voice of the Muslim world. It endeavours to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.
 - It has 57 member states and 12 observers including the United Nations. India is not a member or observer state of the OIC. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 52:

Consider the following statements:

1. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) is mandated to act as the custodian of the Sendai Framework.
2. Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is proposed by India.
3. The headquarters of UNISDR are located in Geneva.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

- **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)** acts as the custodian of the **Sendai Framework**, supporting countries and societies in its implementation, monitoring and review of progress.
 - **UNISDR's Strategic Framework 2016-2021** has a vision to substantially reduce disaster risk and losses for a sustainable future with the mandate to act as the custodian of the **Sendai Framework**, supporting countries and societies in its implementation, monitoring and review of progress. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **Sendai Framework (2015-30)** was adopted at the **third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction**, held from March 14 to 18, 2015 in **Sendai, Miyagi, Japan**.
 - The present Framework applies to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks.
 - It aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors.
 - It is the successor instrument to the **Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005- 2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters**.
- India announced a global Coalition for **Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**, at the **UN Climate Action Summit 2019** held in **New York City, USA**, on September 23, 2019. It is developed through consultations with more than 35 countries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - CDRI which will act as a convening body that will pool best practices and resources from around the world for reshaping construction, transportation, energy, telecommunication and water so that building in these core infrastructure sectors factors in natural catastrophes.
 - CDRI envisions enabling a measurable reduction in infrastructure losses from disasters, including extreme climate events.
 - CDRI aims to enable the achievement of the objectives of expanding universal access to basic services and enabling prosperity as enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals, while also working at the intersection of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Climate Agreement.
 - CDRI will provide member countries **technical support and capacity development, research and knowledge management, and advocacy and partnerships** to facilitate and encourage investment in disaster-resilient infrastructure systems.
- The UNISDR was established in 1999 as a dedicated secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the **International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)**. It is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 53:

The 'TIR Convention' which was recently seen in the news is related to?

- (a) Heritage Conservation
- (b) Conservation of Migratory Species
- (c) International Transit System
- (d) Ozone Depleting Substances

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

- The **Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods** under cover of TIR Carnets, 1975 (TIR Convention), is an international transit system under the auspices of the **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)** to facilitate the seamless movement of goods within and amongst the Parties to the Convention.
- The first shipment under the **United Nations 'Transports Internationaux Routiers' (TIR) convention** had arrived in India from Afghanistan through Iran's Chabahar Port.
- India joined the TIR Convention (the United Nations Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under cover of TIR Carnets) on 15th June 2017. At present, there are 76 parties to the Convention, including the European Union.
 - TIR is a multilateral treaty that allows goods to be outlined in a TIR carnet and sealed in load compartments.

- FICCI has been appointed by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India as National Issuing & Guaranteeing Association for its operation in India.
- The system worldwide is managed by the International Road Transport Union (IRU), Geneva and overseen by the **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**. Hence, option C is correct.

QUESTION 54:

The term 'Normandy Format' sometimes seen in the news is related to

- (a) Diplomatic group
- (b) Crypto-currency
- (c) Cyber attacks
- (d) Mini satellites

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

Normandy format is also known as the Normandy contact group, or the Normandy Four is a diplomatic group of senior representatives of the four countries (Germany, Russia, Ukraine, and France) to resolve the war in Eastern Ukraine. **Hence, option A is correct.**

QUESTION 55:

The term "Kronos and Hoplight" which was recently seen in the news is related to?

- (a) An asteroid of Kuiper belt
- (b) Hypersonic missile developed by Russia
- (c) New missions by European Space Agency to study the Ganymede satellite of Jupiter.
- (d) Trojans Programs

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

- Kronos and Hoplight are Trojans. It is a program that pretends to be something it is not, and includes malicious additions.
- Trojans are commonly spread via email attachments, and once downloaded, can give attackers free reign to snoop and steal sensitive information like financial data, emails, and passwords.
 - Kronos first appeared online on a Russian underground forum in 2014. **Hence, option D is correct.**

QUESTION 56:

Which of the following is/are correct regarding 'Dholavira'?

1. It belonged to the mature Harappan phase.
2. The excavation suggests it as a rural establishment.
3. It is located in the Rann of Kutch.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

- The City of Dholavira located in Khadir island of the Rann of Kutch belonged to the mature **Harappan phase**.
 - It was once a thriving metropolis for 1200 years (3000 BCE-1800 BCE) and had access to the sea prior to the decrease in sea level. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The excavated site of Dholavira demonstrates the ingenuity of Harappan people to evolve a **highly organised system of town planning** with perfected proportions, interrelation of functional areas, street-pattern and an **efficient water conservation system** that supported life for more than 1200 years (3000 BCE to 1800 BCE) against harsh hot arid climate. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The site is located near the modern village of Dholavira (from where it received its name), in the Kutch District of Gujarat.
 - The 250-acre area of Dholavira sprawls across the Khadir island of the Great Rann of Kutch. The site is part of the **protected Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary** in India. The Tropic of Cancer also passes through Dholavira. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Recently, artefacts believed to be around 5,000 years old, dating back to the early Harappan phase, have been unearthed during an excavation in Khatiya village of Kutch in Gujarat.**

QUESTION 57:

Local self-government can be best explained as an, exercise in

- (a) Federalism
- (b) Democratic decentralisation
- (c) Administrative delegation
- (d) Direct democracy

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- **Democracy means decentralisation of power** and giving more and more power to the people. **Local self governments are looked upon as instruments of decentralisation and participatory democracy.**
- To examine the working of the Community Development Programme (1952) and the National Extension Service (1953) and to suggest measures for their better working, the Government of India appointed a committee in January 1957 under the chairmanship of Balwant Rai Mehta.
- The committee submitted its report in November 1957, and recommended the establishment of the scheme, of **'democratic decentralisation', which ultimately came to be known as Panchayati Raj or unit of Local Self Government.** Hence, option B is correct.

QUESTION 58:

The fundamental object of the Panchayati Raj system is to ensure which among the following?

1. People's participation in development
2. Political accountability
3. Democratic decentralization
4. Financial mobilization

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

- The most fundamental objective of the **Panchayati Raj system is to ensure people's participation in development and democratic decentralization.**
- Financial mobilization is not the fundamental objective of Panchayati Raj, although it seeks to transfer finances and resources to the grass-root government.
- Establishment of Panchayati Raj Institutions does not automatically lead to political accountability. **Hence, option C is correct.**

QUESTION 59:

The Government enacted the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act in 1996. Which one of the following is not identified as its objective?

- (a) To provide self-governance
- (b) To recognize traditional rights
- (c) To create autonomous regions in tribal areas
- (d) To free tribal people from exploitation

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

- On the basis of the report of the **Bhuria Committee, 1995**, the Parliament enacted the **Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA)** to extend Part IX (i.e. the Panchayats) of the Constitution with certain modifications and exceptions to the Schedule V areas.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is the nodal Ministry for implementation of the provisions of PESA in the States.
 - PESA empowered the grass-root institution of Gram Sabhas, comprising every person above 18 years (included in electoral roll) **to carry out the core functions.**
 - State Legislature too had to conform to the principle of three-tier system of governance as enshrined in Part IX of the Indian Constitution.
 - State Legislature too had to conform with customary law, social and religious practices and traditional management practices of community resources and had to ensure that the mandate of the Gram Sabha prevails.
- Executive functions endowed to Panchayati Raj institutions constitute approval of plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development and issuance of a certificate for utilisation of funds by the Panchayat.
- **Matters such as ownership of forest produce, sale of intoxicants, organisation of village markets and regulation of mines fall under Gram Sabhas and Panchayats.**
- The power to annul decisions of the Gram Sabha rests with the Gram Sabha itself.
- **The Sixth Schedule deals with creation of autonomous regions of tribal areas** and empowers the Governor to create, organize or diminish the areas whereas PESA deals with improving the mandate of grass-root level institution in areas mentioned under Fifth Schedule. **Hence, option C is correct.**

QUESTION 60:

If a Panchayat is dissolved, elections are to be held within

- (a) 1 month
- (b) 3 months
- (c) 6 months
- (d) 1 year

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

- Panchayat is defined as an institution of self-government for the rural areas, constituted under Article 243B of the Constitution.
 - **Articles 243B** of Part IX of Indian Constitution provides for constitution of Panchayats at village, intermediate and district levels.
 - **Article 243 C** states that the Legislature of a State may, by law, make provisions with respect to the composition of Panchayats.
- It mandates that all the seats in a Panchayat shall be filled by persons chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the Panchayat area and, for this purpose, each Panchayat area shall be divided into territorial constituencies in such manner that the ratio between the population of each constituency and the number of seats allotted to it shall, so far as practicable, be the same throughout the Panchayat area.
- According to Article 243 E (1), every Panchayat, unless sooner dissolved under any law for the time being in force, shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and no longer.
 - **Article 243E (3)(b) mandates that it is necessary to hold elections within six months in the case of dissolution of a Panchayat.**
 - **Hence, option C is correct.**

QUESTION 61:

Which of the following is not correct regarding the Election Commission of India?

- (a) It is an autonomous constitutional authority.
- (b) It has advisory jurisdiction in the matter of disqualification of members of Parliament and State Legislatures.
- (c) The Election Commission was made the multi-member body in 1950.
- (d) Election commissioner is removed from office only on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

- The Election Commission was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950.
- **Article 324 to 329 of the constitution** deals with powers, function, tenure, eligibility, etc of the commission and the members.
- The Election Commission of India is an **autonomous constitutional authority** responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
 - The body **administers elections** to the **Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies** in India, and the **offices of the President and Vice President** in the country.
- **Functions of Election Commission include:**
 - Election Commission of India **superintendents, direct and control** the entire process of conducting elections to Parliament and Legislature of every State and to the offices of President and Vice-President of India.
 - The most important function of the commission is to **decide the election schedules** for the conduct of periodic and timely elections, whether general or bye-elections.
 - It prepares **electoral roll, issues Electronic Photo Identity Card (EPIC).**
 - It decides on the location polling stations, assignment of voters to the polling stations, location of counting centres, arrangements to be made in and around polling stations and counting centres and all allied matters.
 - It **grants recognition to political parties & allots election symbols** to them along with settling disputes related to it.

- The Commission also has **advisory jurisdiction** in the matter of post-election disqualification of sitting members of Parliament and State Legislatures.
- It issues the Model Code of Conduct in elections for political parties and candidates so that no one indulges in unfair practice or there is no arbitrary abuse of powers by those in power.
- It sets limits of campaign expenditure per candidate to all the political parties and also monitors the same.
- Originally the commission had only one election commissioner but after the **Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989**, it has been made a multi-member body. The commission consists of one Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.
- The SC in '**S.S. Dhanoa vs Union of India (1991)**' case held that "The chief election commissioner does not appear to be primus inter pares, i.e. first among equals, but he is intended to be placed in a distinctly higher position"
 - In **T.N. Seshan vs Union of India (1995)**, the SC held that the CEC and ECs are equal. CEC is given the **power of recommending the removal of ECs** with the intention of shielding them and not to use it against them. CEC cannot use its suo moto as he is equal to them.
- Hence, option C is correct.

QUESTION 62:

Consider the following statements:

1. The Central Information Commission (CIC) is a constitutional body.
2. The tenure of Chief Information Commissioner is decided by the Parliament.
3. The CIC is appointed by the President of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- The **Central Information Commission** was established by the Central Government in 2005. It was constituted through an Official Gazette Notification under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005). Hence, it is a **statutory body, not a constitutional body. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - The Central Information Commission is a high-powered independent body which inter alia looks into the complaints made to it and decide the appeals. It entertains complaints and appeals pertaining to offices, financial institutions, public sector undertakings, etc., under the Central Government and the Union Territories.
- The **Right to Information Act, 2005** specified the tenure, terms of service and salaries of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) at the central and state levels, in the parent law.
 - The **Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019** amended the Right to Information Act, 2005. It removed these provisions and stated that **the central government will notify the term and quantum of salary through rules.**
 - The Right to Information Rules, 2019 were notified on October 24, 2019. These rules set out the tenure, terms of service and salaries of the CIC and ICs at the state and central levels.
 - The CIC and ICs (at the central and state level) will hold office for a term of three years. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners. They are appointed by the **President on the recommendation of a committee** consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of the single largest party in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister. They should be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 63:

With reference to 'Anti-defection law', consider the following statements:

1. The 52nd Amendment Act added the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution.
2. The disqualification under the Tenth Schedule is not subject to judicial review.
3. A nominated member of a House is disqualified if he joins any political party within six months of taking his seat in the House.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- The **52nd Amendment Act of 1985** provided for the disqualification of the members of Parliament and the state legislatures on the grounds of defection from one political party to another.
 - For this purpose, it made changes in four Articles (**101, 102, 190 and 191**) of the Constitution and added a new Schedule (**the Tenth Schedule**) to the Constitution. This act is often referred to as the anti-defection law. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The disqualification on the ground of defection does not apply in the following two cases:
 - If a member goes out of his party as a **result of a merger of the party** with another party. A merger takes place when two-thirds of the members of the party have agreed to such a merger.
 - If a member, after being elected as the presiding officer of the House, **voluntarily gives up the membership** of his party or rejoins it after he ceases to hold that office. This exemption has been provided in view of the dignity and impartiality of this office.
- The provision of the Tenth Schedule pertaining to the exemption from disqualification in case of the split by one-third members of the legislature party has been deleted by the **91st Amendment Act of 2003**.
 - The law allows a party to merge with or into another party provided that at least **two-thirds of its legislators are in favour of the merger**. In such a scenario, neither the members who decide to merge nor the ones who stay with the original party will face disqualification.
- Any question regarding disqualification arising out of defection is to be decided by the presiding officer of the House. Originally, the act provided that the decision of the presiding officer is final and cannot be questioned in any court.
 - However, in **Kihoto Hollohan case (1993)**, the Supreme Court declared this provision as unconstitutional on the grounds that it seeks to take away the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and the high courts.
 - It held that the presiding officer, while deciding a question under the Tenth Schedule, functions as a tribunal. Hence, his decision like that of any other tribunal is **subject to judicial review** on the grounds of mala fides, perversity, etc. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- The nominated member of a House **becomes disqualified** for being a member of the House **if he joins any political party after the expiry of six months** from the date on which he takes his seat in the House. This means that **he may join any political party within six months of taking his seat** in the House **without inviting this disqualification**. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

QUESTION 64:

Consider the following statements:

1. Tribunals were created through the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.
2. Administrative Tribunal follows the principles of natural justice.
3. Article 262 of the Constitution mandates Parliament to adjudicate inter-state river disputes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

- Tribunals were not part of the original constitution, it was incorporated in the Indian Constitution by **42nd Amendment Act, 1976**.
 - **Article 323-A** deals with Administrative Tribunals.
 - **Article 323-B** deals with tribunals for other matters. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under **Article 323 B**, the Parliament and the state legislatures are authorised to provide for the establishment of tribunals for the **adjudication of disputes** relating to the following matters:
 - Taxation
 - Foreign exchange, import and export
 - Industrial and labour
 - Land reforms
 - A ceiling on urban property
 - Elections to Parliament and state legislatures Food stuff
 - Rent and tenancy rights
- **Characteristics of Administrative Tribunals**
 - Administrative Tribunal is the creation of a **statute**.
 - An Administrative Tribunal is vested in the judicial power of the State and thereby performs **quasi-judicial functions** as distinguished from pure administrative functions.
 - Administrative Tribunal is bound to act judicially and follow the principles of **natural justice**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - It is required to act openly, fairly and impartially.
 - An Administrative Tribunal is not bound by the strict rules of **procedure and evidence prescribed by the civil procedure court**.
- **Article 262:** The Indian Constitution mandates a role for the Parliament in adjudicating conflicts surrounding inter-state rivers that arise among the state/regional governments.
 - It states that – Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution or control of the waters of, or in, any inter State river or river valley. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 65:

With reference to the Finance Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It upholds fiscal federalism in the country.
2. The Chairman of the Finance Commission should be the judge of the Supreme Court.
3. The 15th Finance Commission is mandated to use 2011 Census data.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

- The Finance Commission is a **Constitutionally mandated body** that is at the centre of **fiscal federalism**. **Article 280** of the Constitution of India provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi-judicial body.
 - It is constituted by the President of India every fifth year or at such an earlier time as he considers necessary.
- **The core responsibility is:**
 - To evaluate the state of finances of the Union and State Governments. Recommend the **sharing of taxes between Union and State**.
 - It lays down the principles determining the **distribution of taxes among States**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Constitution authorises the Parliament to determine the qualifications of members of the commission and the manner in which they should be selected. The Finance Commission consists of a chairman and 4 other members. They hold office for such a period as specified by the President in his order.
- **The Chairman** should be a person having **experience in public affairs** and the four other members should be selected from amongst the following:
 - A judge of the high court or one qualified to be appointed as one.
 - A person who has specialised knowledge of finance and accounts of the government.
 - A person who has wide experience in financial matters and in administration.
 - A person who has special knowledge of economics. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The **15th Finance Commission** was constituted in **2017** under the **Chairmanship** of **NK Singh**.
 - Till 14th Finance commission, 1971 Census data was used. But the **15th commission** is mandated to use the population data of **Census 2011** while making its recommendations.
 - ◆ This has been opposed by many Southern States on the grounds that they have performed better in controlling their population over the decades.
 - ◆ The use of Census 2011 data may result in the reduced fund to them.
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

QUESTION 66:

Consider the following statements about National Commission of Backward Classes:

1. It has been given constitutional status by 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018.
2. It investigates and monitors all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes.
3. The chairman and members are appointed for the term of 5 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- The statutory National Commission for backward classes has been accorded constitutional status by the **102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018**. It inserted **Article 338B** in the Constitution which provides for a Commission for the **socially and educationally backward classes**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- **Composition:** The Commission consists of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and **three other Members**. They shall be appointed by the **President by warrant under his hand and seal**.
 - **Chairperson:** He shall be appointed from amongst **eminent socio-political workers belonging to the socially and educationally backward classes**.
 - **Vice-Chairperson and Member:** They shall be appointed from amongst persons of ability, integrity and standing who have had a record of selfless service to the cause of justice for the socially and educationally backward classes.
 - ◆ At least two of them shall be appointed from amongst persons belonging to the socially and educationally backward classes.
 - At least one member shall be appointed from amongst women.
- **Resignation and Removal:** The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and any other Member submit their resignation to the President.
- The Commission shall have the power to **regulate its own procedure**.
- The Commission has all the powers of a **civil court**.
- **Functions of the Commission**
 - To investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - To inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the socially and educationally backward classes.
 - To participate and advise on the socio-economic development of the socially and educationally backward classes and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and any State.
- **Term of Office:** The Chairperson and member shall hold office for a term of three years from the date on which they assume office.
 - They shall not be eligible for appointment for **more than two terms**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

QUESTION 67:

In India, other than ensuring that public funds are used efficiently and for intended purpose, what is the importance of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)?

1. CAG exercises exchequer control on behalf of the Parliament when the President of India declares national emergency/financial emergency
2. CAG reports on the execution of projects or programmes by the ministries are discussed by the Public Accounts Committee.

3. Information from CAG reports can be used by investigating agencies to press charges against those who have violated the law while managing public finances.
4. While dealing with the audit and accounting of government companies, CAG has certain judicial powers for prosecuting those who violate the law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The **function of the Public Account Committee is to examine the annual audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)**, which are laid before the Parliament by the President. In the fulfilment of its functions, the committee is assisted by the CAG. In fact, the CAG acts as a guide, friend and philosopher of the Committee. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **CAG does not have any control** over the finance during financial emergencies. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **CAG does not have the power to prosecute those who violate the law**, but it can demand clarification regarding accounts. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
- **The investigating agencies have used the findings of CAG in a number of cases including the 2G case.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 68:

With reference to the 'National Human Rights Commission of (NHRC)', consider the following statements:

1. The retired Chief Justice of India can only be the Chairperson of NHRC.
2. The Chairman and other members are appointed for a term of 5 years.
3. It can act suo-moto to inquire into any violation of human rights.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

- The National Human Rights Commission is a **statutory body**. It was established in 1993 under a legislation enacted by the Parliament, namely, the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
 - The commission is the watchdog of human rights in the country, that is, the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the international covenants and enforceable by courts in India.
- The **Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019**, provides.
 - A person **who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court** is also made eligible to be appointed as Chairperson of the Commission in addition to the person who has been the Chief Justice of India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- **It reduces the term of the Chairperson** and Members of the National Commission and the State Commissions from five to three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Functions:**
 - To intervene in any proceeding involving an allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court.
 - To visit jails and detention places to study the living conditions of inmates and make a recommendation.
 - To review the constitutional and other legal safeguards for the protection of human rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation. To study treaties and other international instruments on human rights and make recommendations for their effective implementation.
 - To undertake and promote research in the field of human rights.
 - To inquire into any violation of human rights or negligence in the prevention of such violation by a public servant, either **suo motu** or on a petition presented to it or on an order of a court. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 69:

With reference to Borneo Island, consider the following statements:

1. The territory is politically divided among three countries.
2. Indonesia has recently decided to relocate its capital on Borneo Island.
3. The Island lies in the equatorial region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

- **Borneo Island** is located in the southwestern part of the **Pacific Ocean**. It is the **third-largest** island in the world, surpassed in size by only Greenland and New Guinea.
 - The Island is bounded by the South China Sea to the northwest, the **Sulu Sea** to the northeast, the **Celebes Sea** to the east, and the **Java Sea** to the south.
- **Borneo Island** is politically divided among three countries: **Indonesia, Malaysia** and **Brunei**. Indonesia constitutes the largest political component of the island.
 - It is also the only island on the planet divided among three countries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Indonesia is shifting its capital Jakarta, from its richest **Island of Java** to the forest Island of Borneo. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Makassar Strait separates Borneo from the island of Celebes (Sulawesi) to the east and southeast, and a series of shallow seas and straits lie between Borneo and the island of Sumatra to the west.
- The Equator passes through the Indonesian part of Borneo Island. The **climate is equatorial – hot and humid** with a fairly distinct division into two seasons, consisting of a wet monsoonal period between October and March and a relatively drier, calmer period of summer for the rest of the year. The average annual rainfall is about 150 inches (3,800 mm). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**



QUESTION 70:

Consider the following pairs:

Disputed Territory

1. Gaza Strip
2. West Bank
3. Golan Heights

Countries Involved

- Israel and Egypt
- Israel and Syria
- Israel and Jordan

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

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

- In June 1967, a six day war broke out between Israel and the Arab states of Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Following years of diplomatic friction and skirmishes between Israel and its neighbors, Israel Defense Forces launched preemptive air strikes that crippled the air forces of Egypt and its allies.
- Israel then staged a successful ground offensive and seized **the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip from Egypt, the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria.**
- The brief war ended with a U.N.-brokered ceasefire, but it significantly altered the map of the Mideast and gave rise to lingering geopolitical friction.
- **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**



QUESTION 71:

Consider the following pairs:

Movements	Country
1. Yellow Vests Movement	France
2. School Climate Strike	Sweden
3. Umbrella Revolution	Indonesia

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

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- The **yellow vests movement** is a populist, grassroots political movement for economic justice that **began in France in October 2018**.
 - The movement was initially motivated by rising fuel prices and a high cost of living; it claims that a disproportionate burden of the government's tax reforms was falling on the working and middle classes, especially in rural and peri-urban areas.
 - The protesters have called for lower fuel taxes, a reintroduction of the solidarity tax on wealth, a minimum-wage increase, the implementation of Citizens' initiative referendums, among other things. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **#FridaysForFuture** is a movement that began in August 2018, after 15 years old **Greta Thunberg** sat in front of the **Swedish parliament** every school day for three weeks, to protest against the lack of action on the climate crisis. She posted what she was doing on Instagram and Twitter and it soon went viral.
 - On the 8th of September, Greta decided to continue striking every Friday until the **Swedish policies** provided a safe pathway well under 2-degree C, i.e. in line with the Paris agreement. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

- The **Umbrella Movement** was a political movement that emerged during the **Hong Kong democracy protests of 2014**. Its name arose from the use of umbrellas as a tool for passive resistance to the Hong Kong Police's use of pepper spray to disperse the crowd during a 79-day occupation of the city demanding more transparent elections, which was sparked by the decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC) of 31 August 2014 that prescribed a selective pre-screening of candidates for the 2017 election of Hong Kong's chief executive. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

QUESTION 72:

'Tulagi Island' which was recently seen in the news is located in?

- (a) Pacific Ocean
- (b) Indian Ocean
- (c) Atlantic Ocean
- (d) Southern Ocean

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

- A Beijing-based company which has close ties to the Chinese Communist Party has secured exclusive development rights for the entire **Island of Tulagi** and its surroundings.
- Tulagi is an island within the Solomon Islands, which are located in the South Pacific, directly between Australia and the U.S.
 - It was the administrative seat (from 1893) of the British **Solomon Islands Protectorate** until it was destroyed by the Japanese (1942) during World War II.
- The move has alarmed U.S. officials who see the island chains of the South Pacific as crucial to keep China in check and protect important sea routes. **Hence, option A is correct.**



QUESTION 73:

Consider the following statements regarding 'Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)':

1. It is under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
2. It is responsible for the approval of Drugs and conduct of clinical trials in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation

- **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)** is under **Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.
 - The CDSCO is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- CDSCO is responsible for approval of Drugs, **the conduct of clinical trials**, laying down the standards for Drugs and control over the quality of imported drugs in the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 74:

Which of the following is/are the advantage of the 'developing country status' in WTO?

1. Right to restrict imports to ease Balance of Payment (BoP) difficulties.
2. Non-reciprocal preferential treatment.
3. Special and Differential Treatment.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

Developing Country Status in WTO

- There are no WTO definitions of "developed" and "developing" countries. Members announce for themselves whether they are "developed" or "developing" countries.
 - However, other members can challenge the decision of a member to make use of provisions available to developing countries.
- The WTO Agreements contain special provisions which give developing countries special rights. These provisions are referred to as **"Special and Differential Treatment" (S&D)** provisions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The special provisions include:
 - **Longer time periods** for implementing agreements and commitments,
 - Measures to increase trading opportunities for developing countries,
 - Provisions requiring all WTO members to safeguard the trade interests of developing countries,
 - Support to help developing countries build the capacity to carry out WTO work, handle disputes, and implement technical standards, and
 - Provisions related to least-developed country (LDC) Members.

- Benefits to Developing Countries in the WTO:
 - The Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (also known as “the WTO Agreement”) specifies that international trade should benefit the economic development of developing and least-developed countries.
 - General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) – gives developing countries **the right to restrict imports**, if doing so would promote the establishment or maintenance of a particular industry, or assist in cases of balance-of-payments difficulties. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Part IV of the GATT includes provisions on the concept of **non-reciprocal preferential treatment** for developing countries, i.e. when developed countries grant trade concessions to developing countries they should not expect the developing countries to make matching offers in return. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 75:

Recently, the Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded for resolving border disputes between two neighbouring countries. These two countries lie in which region:

- (a) Nordic Region
- (b) Baltic Region
- (c) Horn of Africa
- (d) Carribean Region

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

The Nobel Peace Prize for 2019 has been awarded to **Abiy Ahmed Ali, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia** for his **decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict** with neighbouring Eritrea.

- In 1993, Eritrea broke from its federation with Ethiopia, becoming an independent country that was located strategically at the mouth of the **Red Sea on the Horn of Africa**.
- War broke out between the two countries over the control of the **town of Badme**.
- In June 2000, the two countries signed an Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities, followed by a Peace Agreement.
- The above agreement formally ended the war and established a Boundary Commission to settle the dispute.
- The Commission gave its “final and binding” ruling in 2002 and **Badme was awarded to Eritrea**.
- However, Ethiopia refused to accept the decision and the border issues kept erupting in clashes.
- The Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed broke the nearly two-decade stalemate, announcing that Ethiopia would abide by the full terms of the 2000 agreement.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**



QUESTION 76:

Consider the following statements:

1. India has a trade balance in its favour with most of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) member nations.
2. RCEP accounts for almost one-third of global Gross Domestic Product.
3. RCEP is being envisaged under the aegis of the World Trade Organisation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- India has a trade deficit with most of the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** member nations despite having separate bilateral Free Trade Agreements with them. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- RCEP accounts for **almost one-third** of global Gross Domestic Product. In 2017, the 16 prospective signatories (including India) accounted for a population of 3.4 billion people with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of US\$ 21.4 trillion, about half of the world population and 39 per cent of the world's GDP. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The RCEP is a mega-regional free trade agreement which is being negotiated amongst 16 countries (Including India) and aims to cover goods, services, investments, economic and technical cooperation, competition and intellectual property rights. While the World Trade Organization (WTO) deals with the global rules of trade between nations. **WTO and RCEP are independent of each other. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 77:

Consider the following statements:

Attorney General of India can

1. take part in the proceedings of the Lok Sabha
2. be a member of a committee of the Lok Sabha
3. speak in the Lok Sabha
4. vote in the Lok Sabha

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

- The Attorney General is the chief legal advisor of the Government of India. He is appointed by the President of India under Article 76(1) of the Indian Constitution.
- He has the right of audience in all courts of India on behalf of the Government. **He has the right to participate and to speak in any parliamentary proceedings. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- He **can also be a member** of a parliamentary committee of the Lok Sabha and **has the right to speak** in committee of which he is the member. **Hence, statements 2 and 3 are correct.**
- The Attorney General **cannot vote in the Parliament** as well as any parliamentary committee of which he is a member. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

QUESTION 78:

Which one of the following statements is correct regarding the office of Comptroller and Auditor-General of India?

- (a) It is responsible only to the Parliament.
- (b) It compiles and manages the accounts of both Central and State governments.
- (c) It controls the issue of money from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- (d) It submits its annual reports to Parliament.

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG)

- **Article 148** provides that there shall be a **Comptroller and Auditor-General of India** who shall be **appointed by the President** by warrant under his hand and seal and shall only be removed from office in like manner and on like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- The office of CAG is modelled on the office of Auditor General of India under **Government of India Act, 1935**. The role of CAG is to uphold the Constitution of India and the laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration.
 - He compiles and maintains the accounts of **state governments**. In **1976**, he was relieved of his responsibilities with regard to the compilation and maintenance of accounts of the Central Government due to the separation of accounts from audit, that is, departmentalisation of accounts.
- The Constitution of India visualises the CAG to be Comptroller as well as Auditor General. However, in practice, the CAG is fulfilling the role of an Auditor-General only and not that of a Comptroller.
 - CAG has **no control over the issue of money** from the Consolidated Fund, the executive can draw money from the public exchequer without the approval of CAG.
- The CAG submits three audit reports to the **President – audit report on appropriation accounts, an audit report on financial accounts, and the audit report on public undertakings**. The President lays these reports before both the Houses of Parliament.
- The CAG is an agent of the Parliament and conducts audit of expenditure on behalf of the Parliament. Therefore, he is responsible only to the Parliament. **Hence, option A is correct.**

QUESTION 79:

Who among the following constitutes the National Development Council?

1. The Prime Minister
2. The Chairman, Finance Commission
3. Ministers of the Union Cabinet
4. Chief Ministers of the States

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- The National Development Council was set up on August 6, 1952.
- It is neither a constitutional nor a statutory body. It is an apex body to take decisions on matters related to approval of five year plans of the country.
- It is presided over by the **Prime Minister of India** and includes all **Union Cabinet Ministers, Chief Ministers of all the States**, Administrators of Union Territories and members of the erstwhile Planning Commission. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**

QUESTION 80:

Consider the following statements:

1. Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was set up during the Prime Ministership of Lal Bahadur Shastri.
2. The Members for CAT are drawn from both judicial and administrative streams.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- The CAT has been established in 1985 under Article 323A of the Constitution for adjudication of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or other authorities under the control of the Government.
 - **It was set up during the Prime Ministership of Rajiv Gandhi. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The CAT has been established as a **specialist body consisting of Administrative Members and Judicial Members** who by virtue of their specialized knowledge are better equipped to dispense speedy and effective justice.
 - The Tribunal is guided by the principles of natural justice in deciding cases and is not bound by the procedure, prescribed by the Civil Procedure Code and is empowered to frame its own rules of procedure and practice.
 - Under the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985, the Tribunal has been conferred with the power to exercise the same jurisdiction and authority in respect of contempt of itself as a High Court. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Initially the decision of the Tribunal could be challenged only before the Supreme Court by filing Special Leave Petition. However, in Chandra Kumar Case (1997), the Supreme Court held that the appeal against the orders of a Tribunal could not be made directly in the Supreme Court and an aggrieved person should first approach the concerned High Court.
- An aggrieved government employee can also appear personally before the Tribunal.

QUESTION 81:

Recently seen in the news, the Doctrine of Essential practices is related to which of the following issues?

- (a) Protection of state from external aggression
- (b) Decriminalising Homosexuality
- (c) Sabrimala Temple entry case
- (d) Abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

- **Indian Young Lawyers Association vs State of Kerala (Sabarimala Temple Entry case)**, saw conflicting arguments on the relevance of the doctrine of Essential practices to determine whether menstruating women have the right to worship at the Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala, Kerala.
- The Doctrine of Essential Practice is a test evolved by the Supreme court to **protect only such religious practices which were essential and integral to the religion**.
 - The petitioners challenged the validity of the rule prohibiting women of menstruating age (between ten and 50 years of age) from entering the temple and argued that it is not an essential part of religion.
 - The petitioners also argued that the **act of prohibition** (prohibiting women of menstruating age) **is void and unconstitutional** as such practices are not only repugnant to the basic dignity of a woman as an individual but also violative of the fundamental rights guaranteed under **Articles 14, 15, 21 and 25** of the Constitution.
- Historically, the essential practices doctrine has helped the Indian Supreme Court decision which religious practices are eligible for constitutional protection.
- The court held that the term “religion” will cover all rituals and practices “integral” to a religion, and took upon itself the responsibility of determining the essential and non-essential practices of a religion.

QUESTION 82:

With reference to Adultery, consider the following statements:

1. Adultery law was violative of gender equality.
2. The Supreme Court has struck down section 497 of the Indian Penal Code.
3. Adultery is based on the Doctrine of Coverture.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

Adultery

- The act of adultery is a voluntary sexual act between a married person and someone other than that person's current spouse or partner.
- **Section 497 of the IPC** mandates that whoever has sexual intercourse with the wife of another man, **without the consent or connivance of that man**, such sexual intercourse not amounting the offence of rape is guilty of the offence of adultery and shall be punished.
- Under Section 497, a married woman could not bring forth a complaint under Section 497 IPC when her husband engaged in a sexual activity with an unmarried woman. This, adultery law is violative of gender equality. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In **Joseph Shine vs Union of India case 2018**, a five-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra declared **Section 497 of the Criminal Procedure Code** as unconstitutional. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Coverture** is a legal doctrine whereby, upon marriage, a woman's legal rights and obligations were subsumed by those of her husband.
 - The Supreme Court held that the **husband is not the master of wife and legal** sovereignty of one sex over other sex is wrong. Therefore, Section 497 of IPC is unconstitutional. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 83:

With reference to Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019 consider the following statements:

1. An individual can now be declared as a terrorist.
2. The amendment empowers National Investigating Agency to seize properties connected with terrorism.
3. Investigation of cases under the act may be conducted by officers of the rank of Inspector of police or above.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

- Under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019, the central government may designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation if it: (i) commits or participates in acts of terrorism, (ii) prepares for terrorism, (iii) promotes terrorism, (iv) is otherwise involved in terrorism.
- The Act additionally empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists on the same grounds. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- According to amendment Act, if the investigation is conducted by an officer of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the approval of the Director-General of NIA would be required for seizure of such property. **Hence, statement 2, is correct.**
- The amendment empowers the **officers of the NIA – of the rank of Inspector or above**, to investigate cases. Before the amendment such investigation of cases was to be conducted by officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police or above. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 84:

With reference to the Right to Information (Amendment) Act 2019, consider the following statements:

1. The amendment has empowered the Central Government to determine the status, salary and tenure of the Central Information Commissioners (CICs).
2. It has brought the Office of Chief Justice of India (CJI) under the purview of RTI Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

- The **Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019**, prescribed that the salaries, allowances and other terms of service of the Chief Information Commissioner and the Information Commissioners “shall be prescribed by the Central Government”.
 - Also, the appointment will be “for such a term as may be prescribed by the Central Government”.**Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- In **Central Public Information Officer (Supreme court of India) vs Subhash Chandra Agarwal case 2019**, the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India ruled that the office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) would come under the ambit of the **Right to Information Act**, as CJI is a **public authority** under the RTI Act.
 - CJI has been brought under the RTI not through an amendment in RTI Act but rather by a ruling of Supreme Court of India. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 85:

With reference to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), consider the following statements:

1. NIA was setup in 2008 through an executive resolution.
2. It can take suo motu cognisance of terrorist activity in any part of India.
3. It also has the mandate to curb Cybercrime, human trafficking and counterfeit currency or banknotes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

- The National Investigation Agency is a state agency established by the Government of India to combat terror in India. It was established by the National Investigation Agency Act 2008, not through an executive resolution. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- NIA is empowered to take suo motu cognisance of terrorist activity in any part of India and to register a case, to enter any state without needing permission from its government, and to investigate and arrest people. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **NIA Act was amended in 2019, and the following** offences were brought under the purview of NIA.
 - Human Trafficking (Sections 370, 370A of IPC, 1860)
 - Counterfeit Currency or Banknotes
 - Manufacture or sale of prohibited arms (Section 25[1AA] of Arms Act, 1959)
 - Cybercrimes (Section 66F of IT Act 2000)
- **Hence, statement 3 is also correct.**

QUESTION 86:

Consider the following pairs:

Index	Issued by
1. Democracy Index	Economist Intelligence Unit
2. Global Innovation Index	World Intellectual Property Organisation
3. Global Hunger Index	UNICEF

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

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- The **Democracy Index** (began in 2006) is prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit. It provides a snapshot of the state of democracy worldwide in 165 independent states and two territories.
 - **India is ranked at the 51st spot in Democracy Index 2019.**
- The Global Innovation Index (GII) ranks the innovation performance of some 130 countries and economies around the world. It is co-published by **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**, Cornell University and INSEAD.
 - The report provides an annual ranking of the innovation capabilities and performance of economies around the world.
 - **India is ranked at 52nd spot in GII 2019.**
- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is an international tool designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at global, regional, and national levels.
 - The GHI was published by the US based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Germany based Welthungerhilfe and the Irish NGO Concern Worldwide.
 - In 2018, IFPRI stepped aside from its involvement in the project and the GHI became a joint project of Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide.
 - **India is ranked at 102nd spot in the GHI 2019.**

QUESTION 87:

Consider the following pairs:

Reports	Prepared By
1. Global Environment Outlook Report	United Nations Environment Program
2. Global Financial Stability Report	International Monetary Fund
3. Global Gender Gap Report	World Economic Forum

Which of the pair(s) given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

Reports:

- The Global Environment Outlook is often referred to as UN Environment's flagship environmental assessment. The first publication was in 1997.
- The Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) is a semiannual report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that assesses the stability of global financial markets and emerging-market financing.
- The Global Gender Gap Report was first published in 2006 by the World Economic Forum. The Global Gender Gap Index is an index designed to measure gender equality.

QUESTION 88:

Consider the following statements:

- 1. Reservation in Educational Institutions
- 2. Reservation in Public Employment
- 3. Reservations in Promotions

Which of the above-stated categories of Reservation are provided to any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens in India?

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

Reservation in Educational Institutions

- **Under Article 15(5)**, the state is empowered to make any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the scheduled castes or scheduled tribes regarding their **admission to educational institutions** including private educational institutions, whether aided or unaided by the state, except the minority educational institutions. This provision was added by the **93rd Constitutional amendment Act**.
- To give effect to this provision, the **Centre government enacted the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006. Hence statement 1 is correct.**

Reservation in Public Employment

- Under Article 16(4), the State is empowered to make any special provision in appointments or posts in favour of any backward class that is not adequately represented in the state services.
- Reservation in public employment is derived from this article.
- **Hence, statement 2 is correct**

Reservation in Promotions

- 77th Amendment Act, 1995 added a new provision i.e. Article 16 (4A) that empowers the State to provide for reservation in promotions of any services under the State in favour of the SCs and STs that are not adequately represented in the state services.
- Article 16 (4A) only provides provision for reservation in promotion for SC/ST not for any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens.
- **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 89:

Consider the following:

1. Delhi Dialogue
2. Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement
3. Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure
4. Look East policy

Which of the above elements are linked to India-ASEAN relations?

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

- The **Delhi Dialogue** is a premier annual track 1.5 event (diplomacy involving both officials and non officials of two states) to discuss politico-security, the economic and socio-cultural engagement between India and **ASEAN**. It started in 2009. **Hence, statement 1 is linked to India-ASEAN relations.**
- Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement or Free trade agreement between India-ASEAN has been signed in 2010. **Hence, statement 2 is linked to India-ASEAN relations.**
- The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism. Hence, statement 3 is not linked to India-ASEAN relations.
- India's Look East policy is an effort to cultivate extensive economic and strategic relations with the nations of Southeast Asia to bolster its standing as a regional power. It was developed and enacted during the government of Prime Minister Narsimha Rao (1991–1996). **Hence statement 4 is linked to India-ASEAN relations.**

QUESTION 90:

With reference to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, consider the following:

1. N.K. Singh committee was established for review of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.
2. It mandated the Medium-term Fiscal Policy Statement.
3. It aims to bring down the Effective Revenue deficit to 3% of GDP.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act

- N.K. Singh is the Chairman of the review committee for FRBM Act, 2003, under the Ministry of Finance.
 - It has recommended a debt-to-GDP ratio of 38.7% for the central government, 20% for the state governments together and a fiscal deficit of 2.5% of GDP (gross domestic product), both by the financial year 2022-23. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Statements mandated under the FRBM Act
 - The Central Government shall lay in each financial year before both houses of Parliament the following statements of the fiscal policy along with the annual financial statement and demands for grants:
 - ◆ The Medium-term Fiscal Policy Statement
 - ◆ The Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement
 - ◆ The Macro-Economic Framework Statement
 - Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- According to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, the fiscal deficit should be 3% of GDP, whereas the target of reducing effective revenue deficit is 0% of GDP. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 91:

With reference to the CITES, consider the following:

1. It is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals.
2. It is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
3. It is also known as the Geneva convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals. It is an international agreement to regulate worldwide commercial trade in wild animal and plant species. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It also restricts trade in items made from such plants and animals, such as food, clothing, medicine, and souvenirs.
- It was signed on March 3, 1973 (Hence world wildlife day is celebrated on March 3) and is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Secretariat – Geneva (Switzerland).
- CITES is legally binding on state parties to the convention, which are obliged to adopt their own domestic legislation to implement its goals.
- CITES is also known as the **Washington Convention**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 92:

Consider the following:

1. Cartagena Protocol
2. Montreal Protocol
3. The Nagoya Protocol

Which of the above protocols are related to the Convention on Biological Diversity?

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was one of the key agreements adopted at **the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro**.

- The Convention on Biological Diversity is the **international legal instrument for “the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources”** that has been ratified by 196 nations.
- Convention Under CBD
 - **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety 1993:** The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement which aims to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity.

- **The Nagoya Protocol 2010:** The Nagoya Protocol deals with access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- The Montreal Protocol 1987 deals with substances that **deplete the Ozone Layer** is an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that are responsible for ozone depletion.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

QUESTION 93:

Consider the following:

1. COMCASA
2. INF treaty
3. New START treaty

The above treaties/agreements are related to:

- (a) USA
- (b) European Union
- (c) SAARC
- (d) ASEAN

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

India and the US recently signed the **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)**.

- COMCASA will facilitate access to advanced defence systems and enable India to optimally utilize its existing US-origin platforms.
- It paves the way for the transfer of **communication security** equipment from the US to India.
- It will facilitate **“interoperability”** between Indian and US forces – and potentially with other militaries that use US-origin systems for secured data links.

Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty was signed by the United States and the Soviet Union in 1987 to eliminate and permanently forgo all of their nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometers.

New START treaty was signed between the United States and the Russian Federation in 2010 which puts a cap on the number of deployed warheads as well as getting rid of obsolete warheads from the Cold War era. **Hence, option A is correct.**

QUESTION 94:

Consider the following pairs:

Probe/Mission	Related to
1. DKIST	Sun
2. BEPICOLOMBO	Mercury
3. Punch Mission	Venus
4. OSIRIS REX	Moon

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

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

- **DKIST:** The Daniel K Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST) is designed to image the surface of the Sun in unprecedented detail and help scientists address fundamental questions about solar physics. DKIST is placed at a vantage point 3000 meters up on the summit of Haleakala on the Hawaiian island of Maui. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **BEPICOLOMBO:** The European Space Agency (ESA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) sent two probes on a joint mission called BepiColombo to Mercury, the closest planet to the Sun. The spacecraft will reach Mercury by 2025. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **PUNCH:** NASA's PUNCH (Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere) Mission is focused on understanding the transition of particles from the Sun's outer corona to the solar wind that fills interplanetary space. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
- **OSIRIS REX:** NASA's OSIRIS REX (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer) mission aims to study asteroid Bennu, collect a sample and return it to Earth in 2023. Bennu asteroid is a pristine carbon-rich asteroid which may have molecules of carbon and water, both of which are necessary for life. Thus, OSIRIS REX will help understand the origin and evolution of the solar system. **Hence, pair 4 is not correctly matched.**

QUESTION 95:

With reference to the Reservations in India, consider the following:

1. Economic backwardness cannot be a ground for reservation.
2. Claiming reservation is a fundamental right of the socially and educationally backward classes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

- 103rd Constitution Amendment Act 2019, introduced **economic reservation by amending Articles 15 and 16**. It inserted **Article 15 (6) and Article 16 (6)** in the Constitution to allow reservation for the economically backward in the unreserved category. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Supreme Court in **Mukesh Kumar vs The State Of Uttarakhand case 2020**, held that Reservation provisions allowed in the Constitution are derived from "enabling provisions" and are not rights as such.
- It argued that under 16(4) and 16(4A), neither they are basic right to reservations nor a duty by the State government to provide it. Under these articles, reservation will be provided if in the **opinion of the state**, a particular class is not adequately represented in the services under the State. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 96:

With reference to Asia Reassurance Initiative Act, which of the following is correct?

- (a) It calls for USA's increased engagement in the Indo-Pacific region.
- (b) It calls for China's multilateral engagement with ASEAN nations on the South China Sea.
- (c) It seeks to provide statutory backing to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
- (d) Indian Ocean has been declared as a Zone of Peace by India.

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

- The USA has enacted the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA), which calls to bring back fresh focus to American priorities in the Indo-Pacific and and strengthened support, including arms sales, for U.S. allies in the region. **Hence, option A is correct.**
- The act develops a long-term strategic vision and a comprehensive, multifaceted, and principled United States policy for the Indo-Pacific region.
- The act authorises the spending of \$1.5 billion over a five-year period to enhance cooperation with America's strategic regional allies in the region.
- The act calls for countering China's influence (illegal construction and militarization of artificial features in the South China Sea and coercive economic practices) to undermine the international system.

QUESTION 97:

Consider the following statements:

1. Under Ramsar Convention, it is mandatory on the part of the Government of India to protect and conserve all the wetlands in the territory of India.
2. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 were framed by the Government of India based on the recommendations of the Ramsar Convention.
3. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 also encompass the drainage area or catchment regions of the wetlands as determined by the authority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (b)

Explanation

- Under the Ramsar Convention, it is not mandatory on the part of the contracting parties to protect and conserve all the wetlands in their territory. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Clause 3 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, states that the wetlands categorised as Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention as specified in the Schedule shall be regulated under these rules. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management Rules), 2010, '**Wetland**' means an area of marsh, peatland or water, natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water, the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters and includes all inland waters such as lakes, reservoir, tanks, backwaters, lagoon, creeks, estuaries and man-made wetland and the zone of direct influence on wetlands that is to say the **drainage area or catchment region of the wetlands as determined by the authority.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 98:

What is/are the importance/importances of the 'United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification?

1. It aims to promote effective action through innovative national programmes and supportive international partnerships.
2. It has a special/particular focus on South Asia and North Africa regions, and its Secretariat facilitates the allocation of major portion of financial resources to these regions.
3. It is committed to bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating the desertification.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : (c)

Explanation

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, established in 1994, is the sole legally binding international agreement linking the environment and development to sustainable land management.

- It specifically addresses the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the dry-lands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and people can be found.
- The focus of the Convention is to get community support to combat desertification and follow the decentralized approach.
- It aims to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa. Hence, 2 is not correct.
- It seeks to take effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Parties should ensure that decisions on the design and implementation of programmes to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought are taken with the participation of the populations and local communities and that an enabling environment is created at higher levels to facilitate action at national and local levels. **Hence, 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 99:

Proper design and effective implementation of UN REDD+ Programme can significantly contribute to:

1. Protection of biodiversity
2. Resilience of forest ecosystems
3. Poverty reduction

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (d)

Explanation

- In 2010, as set out in the Cancun Agreements at COP 16, REDD became REDD+ which stands for countries' efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.
- REDD+ has the potential to contribute for following:
 - Climate change mitigation and poverty alleviation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - Conserving biodiversity and sustaining vital ecosystem services. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Resilience of forest ecosystems. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 100:

With reference to 'Agenda 21', sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a global action plan for sustainable development.
2. It originated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : (a)

Explanation

- 'Agenda 21', the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Statement of principles for the Sustainable Management of Forests was adopted by more than 178 Governments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It is a comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organizations of the United Nations System, governments, and major groups in every area in which human impacts the environment and sustainable development. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The full implementation of 'Agenda 21', the programme for further implementation of 'Agenda 21' and the commitments to the Rio principles were strongly reaffirmed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002.