



Prelims Refresher Programme: Day 54 (Test-19)

QUESTION 1:

With reference to the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), which of the following is/are correct?

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme which aims at employment generation.
2. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is the implementing Agency at the National Level of the scheme.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a credit linked subsidy programme administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India.
- PMEGP is a central sector scheme and not a centrally sponsored scheme. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), is the nodal agency at national level for implementation of the scheme. At state level the scheme is implemented through KVIC, KVIB and District Industries center. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 2:

With reference to National Cadet Corps (NCC), consider the following statements:

1. The NCC falls under the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It was formed in 1976 on the recommendation of Swaran singh Committee.

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

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- The **National Cadet Corps(NCC)** falls under the **purview of the Ministry of Defence** and is headed by a Director General of three-star military rank. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The NCC was **formed in 1948 (on the recommendation of H. N. Kunzru Committee-1946)**, and has its roots to British era uniformed youth entities like University Corps or University Officer Training Corps. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 3:

Which of the following Initiatives have been launched to promote Women in Science?

1. Vigyan Jyoti Scheme

2. GATI Scheme
3. KIRAN Scheme

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- **Vigyan Jyoti Scheme** is launched by the Department of Science & Technology (DST).
 - It is intended to create a level-playing field for the meritorious girls in high school to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in their higher education.
 - It also offers exposure for girl students from the rural background to help to plan their journey from school to a job of their choice in the field of science.
- The **Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI)** will develop a comprehensive Charter and a framework for assessing Gender Equality in STEM.
- **Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN) Scheme** is started by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) aimed to bring gender parity in the Science & Technology sector by inducting more women talent in the research & development domain.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

QUESTION 4:

Which of the following criterias will be included to evaluate performances in Swachh Survekshan 2021?

1. Segregation of waste into Wet, Dry and Hazard categories.
2. Construction and Demolition waste processing.
3. Percentage of increase in tree cover annually.
4. Sanitation status of cities.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- Recently, a new category of awards titled 'Prerak Dauur Samman' has been announced as part of Swachh Survekshan 2021.
 - The Prerak Dauur Samman has a total of five additional subcategories namely, Divya (Platinum), Anupam (Gold), Ujjwal (Silver), Udit (Bronze) and Aarohi (Aspiring).
 - In Swachh Survekshan 2020, cities are evaluated on the criteria of 'population category' but **for 2021, they will be categorised on the basis of six select indicator wise performance criteria.**
 - ◆ **Segregation of waste into Wet, Dry and Hazard categories.**
 - ◆ Processing capacity against wet waste generated.
 - ◆ Processing and recycling of wet and dry waste.
 - ◆ **Construction and Demolition waste processing.**

- ◆ Percentage of waste going to landfills.
- ◆ **Sanitation status of cities.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

QUESTION 5:

With reference to 'ARIIA Rankings', consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Education.
2. It focuses on innovation and entrepreneurship development in high education institutions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- **Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) Rankings** is an initiative of the **Ministry of Education. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Government of India will systematically rank all the major higher educational institutions and universities in India on indicators related to "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development" amongst students and faculties. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Major Indicators For Rankings are as follows:
 - Budget & Funding Support.
 - Infrastructure & Facilities.
 - Awareness, Promotions & support for Idea Generation & Innovation.
 - Promotion & Support for Entrepreneurship Development.
 - Innovative Learning Methods & Courses.
 - Intellectual Property Generation, Technology Transfer & Commercialization.
 - Innovation in Governance of the Institution.

QUESTION 6:

With reference to 'Bondas tribe', consider the following statement:

1. It is a part of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) found in Odisha.
2. It is a member of the Austroasiatic tribal group.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- Bondas tribes are one of the 13 **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) found in Odisha.** There are a total of 75 PVTGs in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Bondas are members of a **group of Austroasiatic tribes**, they are believed to be part of the first wave of migration out of Africa about 60,000 years ago. They are the first forest settlers in India.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

QUESTION 7:

With reference to Constitutional Provisions for Women Representation in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), which of the following is/are correct?

1. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 mandates 33.3% reservation for women in PRIs across the country.
2. Article 15 (3) of the Constitution of India empowers the State to make special provisions for women.
3. Article 243D provides that one-fourth of the total number of seats and offices of the Chairpersons in PRIs at each level shall be reserved for women.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below.

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) All of them

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 mandates 33.3% reservation for women in PRIs across the country. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Article 15 (3) to the Constitution of India empowers the State to make special provisions for women. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Article 243D provides that **one-third of the total number of seats** and offices of the Chairpersons in PRIs at each level shall be reserved for women. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 8:

With reference to the Genome India Project, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is inspired by the Human Genome Project (HGP 1990-2003)
2. Genomes can be defined as an organism's complete set of DNA, including all of its genes.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- Genome India Project is inspired by the Human Genome Project (HGP 1990-2003), an international programme that led to the decoding of the entire human genome. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Genome can be defined as "an organism's complete set of DNA, including all of its genes and it is all the genetic matter in an organism. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 9:

With reference to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a statutory body established under Regional Rural Bank Act 1976.

2. It supervises Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and helps them develop sound banking practices.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- It is a statutory body established in 1982 under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It supervises Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and helps them develop sound banking practices and integrate them to the CBS (Core Banking Solution) platform. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 10:

Super App has been recently in the news. What does it represent?

- (a) An umbrella app offering various digital services and products
- (b) Crypto-currency exchange
- (c) Cybersecurity tool
- (d) Ransomware

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- A super app is an omnichannel digital platform, i.e.- a platform developed by a company offering various services and products under one umbrella.
- The concept of the super app first emerged in China and southeast Asia where internet companies like WeChat, Go-Jek and Grab evolved their apps into versatile feature apps.
- There are two concepts of super app emergence:
 - **Customer Traffic to Services:** These companies used the opportunity of customer traffic on their platforms that originally came as social media by offering additional services leading to increased revenue realisations.
 - **Services to Target Customer:** The traditional business conglomerates with a large portfolio with a presence in shopping malls, grocery and entertainment are building digital assets. These businesses observe high customer footfall and high repeat purchase frequency.
- **Hence, option is A is correct.**

QUESTION 11:

Which of the following are main reasons responsible for the occurrence of Landslides:

1. Construction and developmental activities in the region
2. Shifting cultivation
3. Characteristics of the material

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- Landslide is defined as the movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope.
- They are a type of mass wasting, which denotes any downward movement of soil and rock under the direct influence of gravity.
- Landslides are caused due to three major factors: **Geology, Morphology, and Human activity**.
 - Geology refers to **characteristics of the material**. The earth or rock might be weak or fractured, or different layers may have different strengths and stiffness.
 - Morphology refers to the structure of the land. For example, slopes that lose their vegetation to fire or drought are more vulnerable to landslides.
 - ◆ Vegetation holds soil in place, and without the root systems of trees, bushes, and other plants, the land is more likely to slide away.
 - **Human activity** which includes agriculture (including **Shifting agriculture**) and **construction and developmental activities** increase the risk of a landslide. **Hence, option D is correct.**

QUESTION 12:

With reference to Pulikkalli, which of the following is/are correct?

1. Pulikkali is a recreational folk art from the state of Kerala.
2. It is performed on the occasion of new year in Kerala.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- Pulikkali is a recreational folk art from the state of Kerala. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Puli means Leopard/Tiger and Kali means Play in Malayalam. The main theme of this folk art is tiger hunting with participants playing the role of tiger and hunter.
- Performers paint their bodies like tigers and hunters and dance on streets to the beats of traditional percussion instruments such as thakil, udukku and chenda.
- It is performed on the fourth day of Onam celebrations. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 13:

With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, which of the following is/are correct?

1. It was formerly known as the National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement.
2. It is India's Highest Civilian Honour bestowed upon exceptional achievers under the age of 15.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar was formerly known as the National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is India's Highest Civilian Honour bestowed upon exceptional achievers under the age of 18. **Hence statement 2 is not correct**
 - These awards are given by the President of India in the week preceding Republic Day every year.
 - The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is given under two categories which are Bal Shakti Puraskar and Bal Kalyan Puraskar.

QUESTION 14:

With reference to Bhavishya portal, consider the following statements:

1. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
2. This portal will help in integrating the electronic Pension Payment Order (e-PPO) with Digi Locker.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- Bhavishya portal is an online Pension Sanction and Payment Tracking System implemented by the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- This portal will help in **integrating the electronic Pension Payment Order (e-PPO) with DigiLocker**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Bhavishya portal will provide an option to retiring employees, to link their Digi-locker account with their "Bhavishya" account and obtain their e-PPO in a seamless manner.
- The decision has been taken to enhance ease of living of central government civil pensioners.
- e-PPO is generated through the Public Finance Management System (PFMS).

QUESTION 15:

With reference to Export Preparedness Index 2020, consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the World Economic Forum.
2. It scrutinizes the regulatory framework for export of different countries.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- **Export Preparedness Index (EPI)** report 2020 is released by the **NITI Aayog** in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- Its aim is to identify challenges and opportunities, enhance the effectiveness of government policies and encourage a facilitative regulatory framework for export of India and its states. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - The index took into consideration 11 pillars viz. export promotion policy; institutional framework; business environment; infrastructure; transport connectivity; access to finance; export infrastructure; trade support; R&D infrastructure; export diversification; and growth orientation.
 - Gujarat has topped the overall EPI 2020 followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

QUESTION 16:

With reference to 'Association of Renewable Energy Agencies of States (AREAS)', consider the following statement:

1. AREAS is a nodal agency for interaction between various central government bodies in the renewable energy sector.
2. Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy is the President of the AREAS.

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

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- Association of Renewable Energy Agencies of States (**AREAS**) is a **State Nodal Agencies (SNAs) for Renewable Energy (RE)** interact and learn from each other's experiences and also share their best practices and knowledge regarding technologies and schemes/programmes. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy (NRE) is the Patron of the Association and **Secretary, Ministry of NRE (MNRE) is the ex-officio President** of the Association. All SNAs are members of the Association. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- AREAS is registered under Society Registration Act, 1860.

QUESTION 17:

With reference to the distribution of legislative power in the Indian constitution, consider the following statements:

1. Article 246 enshrines distribution of legislative power between the Union and the states.
2. States have exclusive power to make laws with respect to residuary subjects.
3. Law on the matter of state list can only be framed by the states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- **Article 246** adopts a threefold distribution of legislative power between the Union and the states.

The subject-wise distribution of this power is given in the three lists of the Seventh Schedule of the constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- List-I- the Union List
- List-II- the State List
- List-III- the Concurrent List
- The power to make laws with respect to residuary subjects i.e. the **matters which are not enumerated in any of the three lists** is exclusively vested in the Parliament. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The state legislature has powers to make laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the State List. However, **there are special instances where Parliament can make laws on state list** such as during a national emergency, giving effect to the International agreement. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 18:

Consider the following statements:

1. Indian constitution does not recognise religious minorities.
2. Article 29 of constitution provides the right to conserve distinct language, script or culture to minorities only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- The term **“Minority”** is not defined in the Indian Constitution. However, the Constitution recognises religious and linguistic minorities. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Article 29** provides that any section of the citizens residing in any part of India having a distinct language, script or culture of its own, shall have the right to conserve the same.
 - It grants protection to both religious minorities as well as linguistic minorities.
 - However, the Supreme Court held that the scope of this **article is not necessarily restricted to minorities only, as use of the word ‘section of citizens’** in the Article includes minorities as well as the majority. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Article 30 says all minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
 - The protection under Article 30 is confined only to minorities (religious or linguistic) and does not extend to any section of citizens (as under Article 29).

QUESTION 19:

Which of the following social reformers formed Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham (SJPS)?

- (a) K.S.Naamboripad
- (b) Periyar E. V. Ramasamy
- (c) Mahatma Ayyankali
- (d) Mahatma Jyotiba Phule

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- The Prime Minister of India paid tribute to social reformer Mahatma Ayyankali on his 157th birth anniversary.
- **Ayyankali** (1863-1914), born in Kerala, was a leader of the lower castes and Dalits. With his efforts, Dalits got the freedom to walk on public roads, and Dalit children were allowed to join schools. He formed Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham (SJPS) to work for low castes. **Hence, option C is correct.**
- Efforts to organise the “depressed classes” and particularly the untouchable castes predated the nationalist movement, having begun in the second half of the nineteenth century.

QUESTION 20:

With reference to National Mission For Financial Inclusion, which of the following is/are correct?

1. This scheme is also known as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.
2. It offers unbanked persons easy access to banking services and awareness about financial products.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- Prime Minister of India had announced Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana as the National Mission on Financial Inclusion in his Independence Day address on 15th August 2014. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It aims to ensure comprehensive financial inclusion of all the households in the country by providing universal access to banking facilities. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 21:

With reference to Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), consider the following statements:

1. It is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising ten countries of Southeast Asia headquartered at Brunei.
2. ASEAN Plus Three is a regional forum held annually as the East Asia Summit.

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

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- **The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** is a regional organization which was established to promote political and social stability amid rising tensions among the Asia-Pacific's post-colonial states.
 - The regional organization comprises ten countries in Southeast Asia and headquartered at **Jakarta**, Indonesia. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **ASEAN Plus Three** was the first of attempts for further integration to improve existing ties of Southeast Asia with East Asian countries of China, Japan and South Korea.



- This was followed by the larger **East Asia Summit (EAS)** as **ASEAN Plus Six**, which included ASEAN Plus Three as well as India, Australia, and New Zealand. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 22:

With reference to BIPOC, which of the following is/are correct?

1. It is a movement which asks for the end of trade war and bipolar world.
2. The term is used to reinforce the collective experience of people and unite them.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- The acronym BIPOC stands for “black, Indigenous and people of color.
- It is a movement that urges to acknowledge the diversity in skin color, race, and hair and advocates for inclusivity and representation across all areas of life, from politics to skin care. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- The term is used to reinforce the collective experience between Black and Indigenous people and to unite them. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 23:

Consider the following statements:

1. Article 47 of the Indian constitution provides protection to persons with disability.
2. The subject of ‘relief of the disabled and unemployable’ is specified in the state list of the Seventh Schedule of the constitution.

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

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Constitutional Provisions for Persons with Disability:

- **Article 41 of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)** states that the State shall make effective provision for securing right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, within the limits of its economic capacity and development. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The subject of ‘relief of the disabled and unemployable’ is specified in the **state list of the Seventh Schedule** of the constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 24:

With reference to the Kavkaz 2020, consider the following statements:

1. It is a multinational tri-services exercise to be conducted in Russia.

2. SCO member countries are participating in this exercise.
3. India will also participate in this military exercise.

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 only

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- Kavkaz-2020 is a **multinational tri-services exercise** to be conducted in Russia. It is part of a four-year exercise cycle of the Russian army. Previous editions of the exercise were held in 2012 and 2016.
 - In 2020 it will be conducted in the Astrakhan province of Southern Russia. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and Central Asian countries would be participating in this multilateral exercise. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India has withdrawn its participation from Kavkaz 2020, citing Covid-19 as the official reason. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 25:

With reference to State Election Commissions, consider the following statements:

1. They are governed mainly by the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
2. In preparation electoral rolls for local body elections it is necessary to coordinate with the Election Commission of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- Each State Election Commissions (SEC) are governed by a separate state Act. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - Some state laws allow the SEC to borrow and use the Election Commission of India's voter's rolls for the local body elections.
- In others, the state commission uses the EC's voters list as the basis for the preparation and revision of rolls for municipality and panchayat elections.
- Few states have their own electoral rolls and do not adopt EC's roll for local body polls like those of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The SECs can supervise municipal and panchayat elections. They are free to prepare their own electoral rolls for local body elections, and this exercise does not have to be coordinated with the EC. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 26:

With reference to the Election Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution has barred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government.
2. The election commissioner cannot be removed from office without the recommendation of the chief election commissioner.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- The **Election Commission of India** is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India. The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country (**Article 324**).
 - The Election Commission shall consist of the chief election commissioner and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the President may from time to time fix.
 - Presently, it consists of the Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.
- The Constitution has **not prescribed the qualifications** (legal, educational, administrative or judicial) of the members of the Election Commission.
- The Constitution has **not specified the term of the members** of the Election Commission.
- The Constitution **has not debarred the retiring election commissioners** from any further appointment by the government. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Any other election commissioner or a regional commissioner cannot be removed from office except on the recommendation of the chief election commissioner. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 27:

Irula, Muduka and Kurumba tribes belong to which of the following states/region:

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) Andaman and Nicobar
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- 'Irula, Muduka and Kurumba' tribes belong to **India state of Kerala** and reside in the Western ghats. **Hence, option A is correct.**
- The Kerala State government is carrying out a unique programme called "**Namath Basai**" of teaching tribal children in their mother tongue.
 - It offers pre-recorded classes through a YouTube channel in three tribal languages in Attappady valley in Palakkad District Kerala.
 - These languages belong to the Irula, Muduka and Kurumba tribes.
- **Kurumba Tribe**
 - Popularly known as Mala Pulayans, Hill Pulayans and Pamba Pulayans.
 - Traditional occupation : Foraging and shifting cultivation

- Skilled in manufacture of baskets and mats
 - Religion: Animism (belief in spirituality of objects, places, and creatures) and Totemism (Worship of any species of plants or animals thought to possess supernatural powers)
- **Irula or Irular Tribe**
- Occupation: Agriculturists
 - Grow Paddy, Ragi, dhal, plantains, chillies and turmeric
 - Religion: The majority worship Vishnu under the name of Rangaswami and Siva without differentiation.
 - Some practice animism and worship the tiger.
- **Mudugars or Muduka**
- Have social divisions at kal (clan) level.
 - Traditional Occupation: Food gatherers and hunters.
 - Religion: Hinduism

QUESTION 28:

With reference to Indian Bison, consider the following statements

1. It is endemic to North-East India.
2. Its IUCN status is vulnerable.
3. It is the tallest species of wild cattle.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) Neither 1 and 2

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- Indian Bison or Gaur is native to **South and Southeast Asia**. In India, they are found in Nagarhole, Bandipur, Masinagudi National Parks and BR Hills. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Conservation Status of Indian Bison:
- **Vulnerable** in IUCN Red List.
 - It is also included in the Schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.
 - **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is the tallest species of wild cattle found in India and largest extant bovine. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 29:

With reference to flavonoids molecules, consider the following statements:

1. They can be derived from plants.
2. They are used in treatment of cancer.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- Recently, scientists have found the first synthetic route for producing **flavonoids molecules** related to the treatment of **tuberculosis and chikungunya**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- These molecules have so far been isolated from plants only and are found to inhibit tuberculosis and chikungunya. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Flavonoids are part of the polyphenol class of phytonutrients (plant chemicals) found in almost **all fruits and vegetables**. Along with carotenoids (organic pigments), they are responsible for the vivid colours in fruits and vegetables.
- Polyphenols have historically been used in Chinese and Ayurvedic medicine and are associated with skin protection, brain function, blood sugar and blood pressure regulation.

QUESTION 30:

With reference to 'Harit Path' mobile app, which of the following is/are correct?

1. It has been developed by the National Highway Authority of India.
2. It aims to monitor species details of every plant along the national highways.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has developed a mobile App, 'Harit Path' to facilitate creation of Green Highways across the country. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The app has been developed by NHAI to monitor location, growth, species details and more for each and every plant under all plantation projects along the national highways. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 31:

Consider the following pairs:

Theatre Form	State
1. Bhand Pather	Kashmir
2. Bhavai	Gujarat
3. Jatra	Bengal

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

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

Different Forms of Traditional Theatres:

- **Bhand Pather: Kashmir**
- Nautanki: Uttar Pradesh
- **Bhavai: Gujarat**
- **Jatra: Bengal**
- Maach: Madhya Pradesh
- Bhaona: Assam
- Dashavatar: Konkan and Goa Regions
- Tamaasha: Maharashtra
- Krishnattam, Koodiyaattam and Mudi yettu: Kerala
- Yakshagana: Karnataka
- Therukoothu: Tamil Nadu
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

QUESTION 32:

Nuakhai Juhar has been recently in the news. What does it represent?

- (a) Agricultural Festival
- (b) Ritual of Sati in Western India
- (c) Largest tribal gathering
- (d) Coast guard exercise to save fishermen during cyclone Amphan

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- Nuakhai Juhar is an agricultural festival, also called Nuakhai Parab or Nuakahi Bhetghat. It is celebrated to welcome the new crop of the season.
- Nuakhai is a combination of two words that signifies eating of new rice as 'nua' means new and 'khai' means eat.
- This is the festival of Western Odisha, southern Chhattisgarh and adjoining areas of Simdega (Jharkhand).
- Farmers offer the first produce from their lands to Goddess Samaleswari, the famous 'Mother Goddess' of Sambalpur district of Odisha.
- Nuakhai festival traces its origin to the Vedic period in Panchyajna. One among them was Pralambana yajna which means the cutting of new crops and offering them to the mother goddess.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

QUESTION 33:

With reference to National Council for Transgender Persons, which of the following is/are correct?

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. It aims to ensure that transgender welfare boards are set up in the National capital and the metropolitan cities only.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has constituted the National Council for Transgender Persons, under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. It is a statutory body. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- It aims to ensure that transgender welfare boards are set up in all States and essential needs of the transgender community, like housing, food, healthcare and education are met. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 34:

With reference to Electoral Bonds, which of the following statements is/are NOT correct?

1. Electoral Bond is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties.
2. State Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for fifteen days from the date of issuance.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below.

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- Electoral Bond is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore without any maximum limit.
- State Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for fifteen days from the date of issuance. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 35:

A draft titled, 'Drinking water supply quality management system requirements for piped drinking water supply service' has been recently prepared by which of the following?

- (a) Bureau of Indian Standard.
- (b) Niti Ayog
- (c) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- (d) None of them

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- Recently, the Bureau of Indian Standard has prepared a draft standard for the supply system of piped drinking water.
- The draft has been titled as 'Drinking water supply quality management system requirements for piped drinking water supply service'.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

QUESTION 36:

With reference to National Green Tribunal, Consider the following statements:

1. It has been established drawing inspiration from Article 21 of the Constitution.
2. It follows the principles of Natural Justice.

Which of the statements given is/ are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- National Green Tribunal is a specialised body set up under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- **It draws inspiration from India's constitutional provision of Article 21**, which assures the citizens of India the right to a healthy environment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Original Jurisdiction of NGT is related to matters of "substantial question relating to the environment" and "damage to the environment due to specific activity".
 - **It follows principles of Natural Justice. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 37:

With reference to the galaxy AUDFs01, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It has been discovered using AstroSat.
2. This galaxy is located in the Hubble Extreme Deep field.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- Recently a team from the Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) has discovered one of the earliest galaxies called AUDFs01 using AstroSat. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The galaxy is located in the **Hubble Extreme Deep field**, which is a portion of space that contains approximately 5,500 galaxies and is 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 38:

With reference to dwarf galaxies, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Dwarf galaxies are the most abundant type of galaxy in the universe.
2. They are difficult to detect due to their low luminosity, low mass and small size.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- In this Universe a large number of galaxies are tiny ones. They are 100 times less massive than the Milky-way galaxy. Most of these are called dwarf galaxies and they are the **most abundant type of galaxy in the universe. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- These galaxies are difficult to detect due to their low luminosity, low mass and small size. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 39:

With reference to the Type-054, in the news recently, which of the following is correct?

- (a) It is Indian Navy's existing Talwar class of frigates.
- (b) It is a class of Chinese multi-role frigates.
- (c) It is a new version of Indo-Israeli naval warship.
- (d) It is Russia's modern anti submarine nuclear warship.

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- **The Type 054A frigate is a class of Chinese multi-role frigates**, the first of which entered service with the People's Liberation Army Navy Surface Force in 2007.
- Recently, China has launched the first of the four advanced naval warships it is building for Pakistan which is a Type-054 class frigate.
- The Type-054A is roughly the same size as the Indian Navy's existing Talwar class of frigates, purchased from Russia. **Hence, option B is correct.**

QUESTION 40:

Which of the following are founding members of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence?

1. Australia
2. Germany
3. Canada
4. India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- Recently, India has joined the '**Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)**' as a founding member to support the responsible and human-centric development and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- **Founding Members: Australia, Canada**, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, Slovenia, the United Kingdom and the United States. **Hence, option D is correct.**
- GPAI is an international and multi-stakeholder initiative to guide the responsible development and

QUESTION 41:

Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Wolbachia?

1. It is natural bacteria present in insect species.
2. It is used for controlling dengue.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- **Wolbachia** are natural bacteria present in up to 60% of insect species, including some mosquitoes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - However, Wolbachia is not usually found in the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the primary species responsible for transmitting human viruses such as Zika, dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever.
- Wolbachia is safe for humans, animals and the environment.
- Researchers from the World Mosquito Program have used mosquitoes infected with Wolbachia bacteria to successfully control dengue in Yogyakarta city of Indonesia. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 42:

With reference to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, which of the following is/are not correct?

1. Goods & Services Tax Council is a statutory body.
 2. The GST Council is chaired by the governor of the RBI.
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- Goods & Services Tax Council is a constitutional body and has been mentioned in Article 279 A of the Indian Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The GST Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.

QUESTION 43:

Which of the following are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) of Andaman and Nicobar island:

1. Jarawas
2. Onges
3. Shompens
4. North Sentinelese

5. Juang
6. Koyas

Select the correct from the code given below?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 5
- (d) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) of the Andaman and Nicobar islands are Great Andamanese, Jarwas, Onges, Shompens and North Sentinelese. Hence, option B is correct.**
- Shompen is the only PVTG in the region with Mongoloid features. The other PVTGs have negroid features. Some of them interact with 'Great Nicobarese' - a Scheduled Tribe.
- The population of Andaman and Nicobar Islands' primitive tribes has rapidly declined over the years. The epidemics and crippling health crises of the past have been seen to disproportionately impact these indigenous tribal groups.
- Juang tribe is PVTG of Orisha and Koyas is a tribe of Lakshadweep islands.

QUESTION 44:

With reference to the Urdu, consider the following statements:

1. It developed and flourished during the period of Delhi Sultanate.
2. It is one of the languages mentioned in the 8th Schedule to the Constitution.
3. It is a major language of South Asia.

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- Urdu had developed and flourished in Delhi during the period of 'Delhi Sultanate' from 12th to 16th century and then during the period of 'Mughal Empire' in Delhi from 16th century to 19th century when several court poets used this language in their great poetry and writings. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is one of the languages mentioned in the 8th Schedule to the Constitution. Also, it is one of the official languages in states like Kashmir, Telangana, UP, Bihar, New Delhi and West Bengal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Urdu and Hindi taken together form the third largest speech community in the world today.
 - Urdu is a major language of South Asia. It is spoken in countries including India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal.
 - It has become the culture language and lingua franca of the South Asian Muslim diaspora outside the sub-continent, especially in the Gulf and the Middle East, Western Europe, Scandinavia, USA and Canada. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 45:

In which of the following oceans recently occurred Hurricane Laura originated?

- (a) North Atlantic Ocean
- (b) South Atlantic Ocean
- (c) Pacific Ocean
- (d) Indian Ocean

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- Hurricane Laura, has made landfall in Louisiana located South Central United States) with wind speeds reaching up to 250 km an hour. It originated in the North Atlantic Ocean. **Hence, option A is correct.**
- Hurricane Laura is a Category 4 storm.
- A Category 4 storm has wind speeds between 130-156 mph and can uproot trees and bring down power lines.
- Hurricanes are categorized on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, which rates them on a scale of 1 to 5 based on wind speed.

QUESTION 46:

With reference to UNSC Resolution 1267 Sanctions Committee, consider the following statements:

1. The committee under resolutions 1267 can designate a person as global terrorists.
2. It is one of the most important and active UN subsidiary bodies working on efforts to combat terrorism.
3. Even a permanent five (P-5) member of UNSC can not use Veto against the decision of this committee.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- **UNSC Resolution 1267 Sanctions Committee** oversees the implementation of sanctions pursuant to **UNSC resolutions 1267**.
 - The committee under resolutions 1267 can designate a person as global terrorists. Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar was listed as a global terrorist under the same resolution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was adopted unanimously on 15th October 1999.
- It is one of the most important and active UN subsidiary bodies working on efforts to **combat terrorism**, particularly in relation to Al Qaeda, Taliban and the Islamic State group. It prepares a consolidated list of people associated with these organizations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It discusses UN efforts to limit the movement of terrorists, especially those related to travel bans, the freezing of assets and arms embargoes for terrorism.
- In 2019, Pakistan moved a proposal to declare four Indians working in Afghanistan as terrorists with links to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA).
 - This proposal received a veto from the USA in UNSC. Veto power exists. **Hence, statement 3 is**

not correct.

QUESTION 47:

Consider the following statements:

1. The mechanism of Question Hour is only limited to Loksabha.
2. Zero Hour is an Indian parliamentary innovation mentioned in the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is slotted for the **Question Hour**.
 - Question Hour in both Houses is held on all days of the session. But there are two days when an exception is made.
 - However, in 2014 the Question Hour was shifted in the Rajya Sabha from 11 am to 12 noon. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - During this one hour, Members of Parliament (MPs) ask questions to ministers and hold them accountable for the functioning of their ministries.
 - It is regulated according to parliamentary rules.
- The presiding officers of the both Houses (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha) are the final authority with respect to the conduct of Question Hour.
- Zero Hour is an Indian parliamentary innovation. It is **not** mentioned in the **parliamentary rules book**.
 - Under this, MPs can raise matters without any prior notice.
 - The zero hour starts immediately after the question hour and lasts until the agenda for the day (i.e. regular business of the House) is taken up. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 48:

With reference to the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is introduced under New Import Export Code (IEC).
2. It seeks to provide duty benefits to exporters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- The Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) was introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 w.e.f. 1st April 2015. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - The new Import Export Code (IEC) obtained on or after 1st September will be ineligible to submit any MEIS claim for exports.



- **Import Export Code:** It is issued by the DGFT (Director General of Foreign Trade - Ministry of Commerce and Industry).
 - ◆ IEC is a 10-digit code which has a lifetime validity.
 - ◆ Predominantly importers cannot import goods without the Import Export Code and similarly, the exporter merchant cannot avail benefits from DGFT for the export scheme, etc. without IEC.
- The objective of this scheme is the government provides duty benefits depending on product and country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- This is done by offsetting infrastructural inefficiencies and associated costs involved in exporting goods/products which are produced /manufactured in India including products produced/ manufactured by MSME Sector.

QUESTION 49:

With reference to Mission Karmayogi, which of the following is/are correct?

1. It is a new capacity building scheme for civil servants aimed at upgrading the pre recruitment training mechanism.
2. It will be governed by the Prime Minister's Human Resource Council.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- **Mission Karmayogi** - The National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB) is meant to be a comprehensive post-recruitment reform of the Centre's human resource development. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- NPCSCB will be governed by the Prime Minister's Human Resource Council, which will also include state Chief Ministers, Union Cabinet ministers and experts. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- This council will approve and review civil service capacity building programmes.

QUESTION 50:

With reference to National Commission for Backward Classes, consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
2. It has all the powers of a civil court while trying a suit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- 102nd Constitution Amendment Act, 2018 provides constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

- This Constitutional body is under Article 338B of the Constitution of India under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It has the authority to examine complaints and welfare measures regarding socially and educationally backward classes.
- Previously NCBC was a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Powers and Functions

- The commission investigates and monitors all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes under the Constitution or under any other law to evaluate the working of such safeguards.
- It participates and advises 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.
- It presents to the President, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards. The President laid such reports before each House of Parliament.
- It has all the powers of a civil court while trying a suit. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 51:

With reference to the amendment of the constitution, consider the following statements:

1. In Kesavananda Bharati case, the Supreme Court ruled that the power to amend the constitution does not include the amendment to the 'basic structure' of the constitution.
2. In case of disagreement on an issue of amendment to the constitution, both the houses of Parliament are required to convene a joint session.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

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

- It states that the Parliament may, in exercise of its constituent power, amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of the Constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down for the purpose.
- However, the Parliament cannot amend those provisions which form the 'basic structure of the Constitution. This was ruled by the Supreme Court in the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The procedure for the amendment of the Constitution as laid down in Article 368 is as follows:
 - An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament and not in the state legislatures.
 - The bill can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member and does not require prior permission of the President.
 - The bill must be passed in each House by a special majority, that is, a majority (that is, more than 50 per cent) of the total membership of the House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of the House present and voting.
 - Each House must pass the bill separately. In case of a disagreement between the two Houses,



there is no provision for holding a joint sitting of the two Houses for the purpose of deliberation and passage of the bill. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**

- If the bill seeks to amend the federal provisions of the Constitution, it must also be ratified by the legislatures of half of the states by a simple majority, that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting.
- After being duly passed by both the Houses of Parliament and ratified by the state legislatures, where necessary, the bill is presented to the President for his assent.
- The President must give his assent to the bill. He can neither withhold his assent to the bill nor return the bill for reconsideration of the Parliament.
- After the President's assent, the bill becomes an Act (i.e., a constitutional amendment act) and the Constitution stands amended in accordance with the terms of the Act.

QUESTION 52:

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

1. Only the Presiding Officer of the legislature is entitled to disqualify any member on grounds of defection.
2. The law does not specify a time-period for the Presiding Officer to decide on a disqualification plea.
3. Decision of the Presiding Officer is not subject to judicial review.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

The anti-defection law sought to prevent political defections which may be due to reward of office or other similar considerations.

- It lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection by the Presiding Officer of a legislature based on a petition by any other member of the House. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Various expert committees have recommended that rather than the Presiding Officer, the decision to disqualify a member should be made by the President (in case of MPs) or the Governor (in case of MLAs) on the advice of the Election Commission.
- The law does not specify a time-period for the Presiding Officer to decide on a disqualification plea. Given that courts can intervene only after the Presiding Officer has decided on the matter, the petitioner seeking disqualification has no option but to wait for this decision to be made. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The law initially stated that the decision of the Presiding Officer is not subject to judicial review. This condition was struck down by the Supreme Court in 1992, thereby allowing appeals against the Presiding Officer's decision in the High Court and Supreme Court. However, it held that there may not be any judicial intervention until the Presiding Officer gives his order. **Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.**

QUESTION 53:

Which of the following comes under the purview of constitutional amendment by simple majority of

parliament?

- (a) Use of official languages
- (b) Directive Principles of the State Policy
- (c) Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states
- (d) Representation of the states in Parliament

Answer: (a)

Explanation

The Constitution can be amended in three ways:

- Amendment by simple majority of the Parliament,
- Amendment by special majority of the Parliament, and
- Amendment by special majority of the Parliament and the ratification of half of the state legislatures.

By Simple Majority of Parliament:

- Admission or establishment of new states.
- Formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states.
- Abolition or creation of legislative councils in states.
- Second Schedule—emoluments, allowances, privileges and so on of the president, the governors, the Speakers, judges, etc.
- Quorum in Parliament.
- Salaries and allowances of the members of Parliament.
- Rules of procedure in Parliament.
- Privileges of the Parliament, its members and its committees.
- Use of English language in Parliament.
- Number of puisne judges in the Supreme Court.
- Conferment of more jurisdiction on the Supreme Court.
- Use of official language. **Hence, option (a) is correct.**
- Citizenship—acquisition and termination.
- Elections to Parliament and state legislatures.
- Delimitation of constituencies.
- Union territories.
- Fifth Schedule—administration of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes.
- Sixth Schedule—administration of tribal areas.

By Special Majority of Parliament:

- The majority of the provisions in the Constitution need to be amended by a special majority of the Parliament, that is, a majority (that is, more than 50 per cent) of the total membership of each House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of each House present and voting. The expression 'total membership means the total number of members comprising the House irrespective of fact whether there are vacancies or absentees.
- 'Strictly speaking, the special majority is required only for voting at the third reading stage of the bill but by way of abundant caution the requirement for special majority has been provided for in the rules of the Houses in respect of all the effective stages of the bill'.
- The provisions which can be amended by this way includes: (i) Fundamental Rights; (ii) Directive Principles of State Policy; and (iii) All other provisions which are not covered by the first and third categories.

By Special Majority of Parliament and Consent of States:

- Those provisions of the Constitution which are related to the federal structure of the polity can be



amended by a special majority of the Parliament and also with the consent of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority. If one or some or all the remaining states take no action on the bill, it does not matter; the moment half of the states give their consent, the formality is completed. There is no time limit within which the states should give their consent to the bill.

The following provisions can be amended in this way:

- Election of the President and its manner.
- Extent of the executive power of the Union and the states.
- Supreme Court and high courts.
- Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states.
- Any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule.
- Representation of states in Parliament.
- Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure (Article 368 itself).

QUESTION 54:

Consider the following statements:

1. State legislatures can not initiate the bill related to the creation and abolition of legislative council of the state.
2. The constitution prescribes a time frame within which the state legislatures should ratify or reject an amendment of the Constitution submitted to them.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

Critics have criticised the amendment procedure of the Constitution on the following grounds:

- There is no provision for a special body like the Constitutional Convention (as in USA) or the Constitutional Assembly for amending the Constitution. The constituent power is vested in the Parliament and only in a few cases, in the state legislatures.
- The power to initiate an amendment to the Constitution lies with the Parliament. Except in one case, that is, passing a resolution requesting the Parliament for the creation or abolition of Legislative Councils in the states. Here also, the Parliament can either approve or disapprove such a resolution or may not take any action on it. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- Major part of the Constitution can be amended by the Parliament alone either by a special majority or by a simple majority. Only in a few cases, the consent of the state legislatures is required and that too, only half of them, while in the USA, it is three-fourths of the states.
- The Constitution does not prescribe the time frame within which the state legislatures should ratify or reject an amendment submitted to them. Also, it is silent on the issue whether the states can withdraw their approval after the same. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
- There is no provision for holding a joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament if there is a deadlock over the passage of a constitutional amendment bill. On the other hand, a provision for a joint sitting is made in the case of an ordinary bill.
- The process of amendment is similar to that of a legislative process. Except for the special majority, the constitutional amendment bills are to be passed by the Parliament in the same way as ordinary bills.

- The provisions relating to the amendment procedure are too sketchy. Hence, they leave a wide scope for taking the matter to the judiciary.

QUESTION 55:

Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The Constitution of India adopted the federal system due to the large size of the country and its socio-cultural diversity.
2. The term 'federation' has nowhere been used in the Constitution.
3. Indian federal system is based on the 'American model'.
4. 'Shadow cabinet' is a unique institution of the British cabinet system.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

The Constitution of India provides for a federal system of government in the country.

- The framers adopted the federal system due to two main reasons—the large size of the country and its socio-cultural diversity. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The term 'federation' has nowhere been used in the Constitution. Instead, Article 1 of the Constitution describes India as a 'Union of States'. According to Dr B R Ambedkar, the phrase 'Union of States' has been preferred to 'Federation of States' to indicate two things:
 1. The Indian federation is not the result of an agreement among the states like the American federation.
 2. The states have no right to secede from the federation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Indian federal system is based on the 'Canadian model' and not on the 'American model'. **Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.**
- The 'Canadian model' differs fundamentally from the 'American model' in so far as it establishes a very strong centre. The Indian federation resembles the Canadian
 - federation
 1. in its formation (i.e., by way of disintegration);
 2. in its preference to the term 'Union' (the Canadian federation is also called a 'Union'); and
 3. in its centralizing tendency (i.e., vesting more powers in the centre vis-à-vis the states)
- 'Shadow cabinet' is a unique institution of the British cabinet system. It is formed by the opposition party to balance the ruling cabinet and to prepare its members for future Ministerial office. There is no such institution in India. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

QUESTION 56:

Consider the following statements:

1. In the Golak Nath case (1967), the constitutional validity of certain state acts, inserted by the Seventeenth Amendment Act, was challenged.
2. The question of amenability of the Fundamental rights was first discussed in the Shankari Prasad case.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- The question whether Fundamental Rights can be amended by the Parliament under Article 368 came for consideration of the Supreme Court within a year of the Constitution coming into force.
 - In the Shankari Prasad case (1951), the constitutional validity of the First Amendment Act (1951), which curtailed the right to property, was challenged. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The Supreme Court ruled that the power of the Parliament to amend the Constitution under Article 368 also includes the power to amend Fundamental Rights.
- But in the Golak Nath case (1967), the Supreme Court reversed its earlier stand.
- In this case, the constitutional validity of the
- Seventeenth Amendment Act (1964), which inserted certain state acts in the Ninth Schedule, was challenged. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The Supreme Court ruled that the Fundamental Rights are given a 'transcendental and immutable' position and hence, the Parliament cannot abridge or take away any of these rights. A constitutional amendment act is also a law within the meaning of Article 13 and hence, would be void for violating any of the Fundamental Rights.
- The Parliament reacted to the Supreme Court's judgement in the Golak Nath case (1967) by enacting the 24th Amendment Act (1971). This Act amended Articles 13 and 368. It declared that the Parliament has the power to abridge or take away any of the Fundamental Rights under Article 368 and such an act will not be a law under the meaning of Article 13.
- However, in the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973), the Supreme Court overruled its judgement in the Golak Nath case (1967). It upheld the validity of the 24th Amendment Act (1971) and stated that Parliament is empowered to abridge or take away any of the Fundamental Rights. At the same time, it laid down a new doctrine of the 'basic structure' (or 'basic features') of the Constitution. It ruled that the constituent power of Parliament under Article 368 does not enable it to alter the 'basic structure' of the Constitution. This means that the Parliament cannot abridge or take away a Fundamental Right that forms a part of the 'basic structure' of the Constitution.

QUESTION 57:

Which of the following characteristic(s) is/are NOT related to Parliamentary form of government?

1. Collective Responsibility
2. Leadership of the Prime Minister
3. Single Executive

Codes:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

Features of parliamentary system are :

- **Dual Executive:** The President is the nominal executive (de jure executive or titular executive) while the Prime Minister is the real executive (de facto executive). **Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.**
- **Collective Responsibility:** This is the bedrock principle of parliamentary government. The ministers are collectively responsible to the Parliament in general and to the Lok Sabha in particular (Article 75). They act as a team, and swim and sink together. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Political Homogeneity:** Members of the council of ministers belong to the same political party, and hence they share the same political ideology. In case of coalition government, the Ministers are bound by consensus.
- **Double Membership:** The Ministers are members of both the legislature and the executive. This means that a person cannot be a minister without being a member of the Parliament.
- **Leadership of Prime Minister:** The Prime Minister plays the leadership role in this system of government. He is the leader of the council of ministers, leader of the Parliament and the leader of the party in power. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 58:

Consider the following statements:

1. Only Parliament can make 'extra-territorial legislation'.
2. Only the Parliament can make regulations for the peace, progress and good governance of all the Union Territories.
3. The governor is empowered to direct that an act of Parliament does not apply to a scheduled area in the state or apply with specified modifications and exceptions.
4. The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 transferred certain subjects to Concurrent List from State List.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- The Parliament can make laws for the whole or any part of the territory of India. The territory of India includes the states, the union territories, and any other area for the time being included in the territory of India. Parliament alone can make extra-territorial legislation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The President can make regulations for the peace, progress and good government of the four Union Territories—Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
- Both, the Parliament and state legislature can make laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the Concurrent List. This list has at present 52 subjects (originally 47 subjects) like criminal law and procedure, civil procedure, marriage and divorce, population control and family planning, electricity, labour welfare, economic and social planning, drugs, newspapers, books and printing press, and others. The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 transferred five subjects to Concurrent List from State List, that is, (a) education, (b) forests, (c) weights and measures, (d) protection of wild animals and birds, and (e) administration of justice; constitution and organisation of all courts except the Supreme Court and the high courts. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- The governor is empowered to direct that an act of Parliament does not apply to a scheduled area in the state or apply with specified modifications and exceptions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 59:

During a National Emergency:

1. Parliament acquires the power to make laws on subjects in the state list.
2. Laws made by Parliament during this period become inoperative on the expiration of 2 years after the emergency has ceased to operate.
3. The power of a state legislature to make laws on the state list is completely restricted.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

During National Emergency

- The Parliament acquires the power to legislate with respect to matters in the State List, while a proclamation of National Emergency is in operation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The laws become inoperative on the expiration of six months after the emergency has ceased to operate. Here also, the power of a state legislature to make laws on the same matter is not restricted.
- In case of repugnancy between a State law and a Parliamentary law, the latter is to prevail. **Hence, Statement 2 and 3 are NOT correct.**

QUESTION 60:

When Rajya Sabha passes a resolution allowing Parliament to make Laws on subjects in the State list:

1. Such a resolution must be supported by simple majority in Rajya Sabha.
2. The resolution remains in force for 6 months.
3. The laws cease to have effect on the expiration of six months after the resolution has ceased to be in force.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- If the Rajya Sabha declares that it is necessary in the national interest that Parliament should make laws on a matter in the State List, then the Parliament becomes competent to make laws on that matter. Such a resolution must be supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- The resolution remains in force for one year; it can be renewed any number of times but not exceeding one year at a time. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
- The laws cease to have an effect on the expiration of six months after the resolution has ceased to be in force. This provision does not restrict the power of a state legislature to make laws on the same matter. But, in case of inconsistency between state law and parliamentary law, the latter is to prevail. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 61:

Consider the following statements:

1. Loans given to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank by the Indian government are of capital expenditure in nature.
2. Expenditure to maintain the defence forces is a Plan Expenditure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

Capital expenditure: All the areas which get capital from the government are part of the capital expenditure. It includes so many heads in India.

- Loan Disbursals by the Government: The loans forwarded by the government might be internal (i.e., to the states, UTs, PSUs, FIs, etc.) or external (i.e., to foreign countries, foreign banks, purchase of foreign bonds, loans to IMF and WB, etc.). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Loan Repayments by the Government: Loan payments might be internal as well as external. This consists of only the capital part of the loan repayment as the element of interest on loans are shown as a part of the revenue expenditure.
- Plan Expenditure of the Government: This consists of all the expenditures incurred by the government to finance the planned development of India as well as the central government financial support to the states for their plan requirements.
- Capital Expenditures on Defence by the Government: This consists of all kinds of capital expenses to maintain the defence forces, the equipment purchased for them as well as the modernisation expenditures.
- It should be kept in mind that defence is a Non-Plan expenditure which has capital as well as revenue expenditures in its maintenance. The revenue part of expenditure in the defence is counted in the revenue expenditures by the government. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
- General Services: These also need huge capital expenditure by the government—the railways, postal department, water supply, education, rural extension, etc.

QUESTION 62:

In which of the following industries is Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) used as the primary raw material for making polyester chips?

1. Textiles
2. Packaging
3. Furnishings
4. Consumer goods
5. Resins and coatings

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

The Finance Ministry has recently imposed definitive anti-dumping duty on Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) imports from China, Iran, Taiwan, Indonesia and Malaysia.

PTA – a white, free flowing crystalline powder – is the primary raw material for the manufacture of polyester chips which in turn is used in a number of applications in textiles, packaging, furnishings, consumer goods, resins and coatings. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**

QUESTION 63:

Which of the following gases are released in the atmosphere due to a volcanic eruption?

1. Carbon dioxide
2. Sulfur dioxide
3. Hydrogen sulfide
4. Methane
5. Nitrogen

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

Recently, Mount Etna Volcano erupted. An erupting volcano releases gases, tephra, and heat into the atmosphere.

- The largest portion of gases released into the atmosphere is water vapour.
- Other gases include carbon dioxide (CO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), hydrochloric acid (HCl), hydrogen fluoride (HF), hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen gas (H₂), NH₃, methane (CH₄), and SiF₄. Hence, option (c) is correct.
- Some of these gases are transported away from the eruption on ash particles while others form salts and aerosols.
- Volcanic gases are also produced when water is heated by magma. Gases also escape from pyroclastic flows and lava flows, and may also be produced from burning vegetation.
- Mount Etna, or Etna is an active stratovolcano on the east coast of Sicily, Italy, in the Metropolitan City of Catania, between the cities of Messina and Catania.

QUESTION 64:

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

1. It is a scheme initiated by University Grants Commission (UGC) to promote Quality Assurance in Higher Education.
2. It is based on the 'Hub & Spoke' model.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Explanation

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, launched 'Paramarsh' – a University Grants Commission (UGC) scheme for Mentoring National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) Accredited Aspirant Institutions to promote Quality Assurance in Higher Education. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The scheme will be a paradigm shift in the concept of mentoring of institutions by another well performing institution to upgrade their academic performance and enable them to get accredited by focusing in the area of curricular aspects, teaching-learning & evaluation, research, innovation, institutional values & practices etc.
- The scheme is expected to have a major impact in addressing a national challenge of improving the quality of Higher Education in India.
- The Scheme will be operationalized through a "Hub & Spoke" model wherein the Mentor Institution, called the "Hub" is centralized and will have the responsibility of guiding the Mentee institution through the secondary branches the "Spoke" through the services provided to the mentee for self improvement. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 65:

Consider the following statements regarding the International Monetary Fund (IMF):

1. IMF is established along with the World Bank at Bretton Woods conference in 1944.
2. The Republic of Nauru is the latest member state to join the IMF.
3. India's quota in IMF currently is 2.76%.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is a global organization with 189 member countries, based in Washington, D.C.

- The fund's purpose is to promote financial stability and economic growth among other objectives.
- The World Bank and the IMF were created at Bretton Woods in 1944. Hence, statement 1 is correct. The main functions of the IMF are as given below:
 - to facilitate international monetary cooperation;
 - to promote exchange rate stability and orderly exchange arrangements;
 - to assist in the establishment of a multilateral system of payments and the elimination of foreign exchange restrictions; and
 - to assist member countries by temporarily providing financial resources to correct mal-adjustment in their balance of payments (BoPs).
- In 2016, the Republic of Nauru became the newest member of the IMF. Measured by its quota, Nauru will be the second smallest member of the Fund, after Tuvalu. Hence, statement 2 is correct. z IMF reviews members' quotas once in every five years, last done in 2016. Currently, India's quota in IMF is 2.76%. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 66:

Which of the following MNCs has partnered with Tata Trusts to promote digital literacy among women in rural India through 'Internet Saathi Programme'?

- (a) Microsoft
- (b) Google
- (c) Tesla
- (d) Apple

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Launched in July 2015, the Internet Saathi programme has so far trained 70,000 'Internet Saathis', who have in turn impacted 2.6 crore women in the country.

- This is Google India-Tata Trusts' initiative which is aimed at facilitating digital literacy among women in rural India. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- Internet Saathi has contributed towards bridging the digital gender divide in rural India - female to male ratio was 1 in 10 in 2015 and 2018, it has increased to 4 in 10.
- The programme started as a pilot in Rajasthan and has been expanded to states including Gujarat, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Tripura, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Telangana.
- Recently, Google India and Tata Trusts said their Internet Saathi initiative, that aims to facilitate digital literacy among women in rural India, will be expanded to villages in Punjab and Odisha.

QUESTION 67:

With reference to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), consider the following statements:

1. India is a founder member of both WTO and its precursor GATT.
2. The highest decision-making body of the WTO is its Ministerial Conference.
3. The present membership of WTO is 193.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) (1 January, 1995) came into being as a result of the evolution of the multilateral trading system starting with the establishment of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1947.
- The protracted Uruguay Round negotiations spanning the period 1986–1994, which resulted in the establishment of the WTO.
- India is a founder member of both GATT and WTO. The WTO provides a rule-based, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The WTO rules envisage non-discrimination in the form of National Treatment and Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment to India's exports in the markets of other WTO Members.
- The present membership of the WTO is 164. The last member to join was Afghanistan (29 July 2016) after a long negotiation process of eleven years. **Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.**

- Ministerial Conferences are the highest decision-making body of the WTO which is to meet at least every two years. During these conferences decisions on all matters can be taken. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 68:

Regarding the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award 2019, consider the following statements:

1. This award is given to such organisations and individuals who promote travel industry throughout the Asia Pacific Region.
2. 'Find the Incredible You' campaign of the Ministry of Tourism has been conferred this award.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

The Incredible India 'Find the Incredible You' campaign released globally by the Ministry of Tourism during 2018- 19 has been declared winner of the PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association) Gold Award 2019 in the "Marketing - Primary Government Destination" category. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

PATA Gold Awards are given to tourism industry organizations and individuals making outstanding contributions towards the successful promotion of the travel industry throughout the Asia Pacific Region. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

QUESTION 69:

With reference to Global Multidimensional Poverty Index, consider the following statements:

1. It has been released by the Center for Global Development.
2. As per the statistics of the report, people in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia have been found to be facing a very high level of poverty.
3. Odisha state has reduced the incidence of multidimensional poverty at a faster pace than any other states in India.

Which of the statements given above are NOT correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index - 2019 (MPI), is developed and released by the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) . The report revealed that there are vast inequalities across countries, and among the poorer segments of societies. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**

- The MPI captures both the incidence and intensity of poverty and tracks 101 countries on deprivations across ten indicators in health, education, and standard of living.
- Level of Inequality and poverty is very high in Sub- Saharan Africa and South Asia. **Hence, statement**

2 is correct.

- About 34% of the world's children and 17.5% adults covered under MPI survey are multidimensionally poor.

QUESTION 70:

Which of the following is/are counted as the items in the segment of income from abroad?

1. External grants
2. Interest of external loans
3. Private remittances

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- Gross National Product (GNP) is the GDP of a country added with its 'income from abroad'. Income from Abroad includes:
 - Private Remittances is the net outcome of the money which inflows and outflows on account of the 'private transfers' by Indian nationals working outside of India (to India) and the foreign nationals working in India (to their home countries).
 - Interest on External Loans: The net outcome on the front of the interest payments, i.e., balance of inflow (on the money lent out by the economy) and outflow (on the money borrowed by the economy) of external interests.
 - External Grants: the net outcome of the external grants i.e., the balance of such grants which flow to and from India. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**

QUESTION 71:

The Corruption Perception Index is released by which of the following?

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) Reporters Without Borders
- (c) Amnesty International
- (d) Transparency International

Answer: (d)

Explanation

Transparency International

- Transparency International, an international Non-Profit, Non-Governmental Organization which is based in Berlin, Germany was founded in 1993.
- It publishes various reports such as the Global Corruption Barometer and the Corruption Perceptions Index. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**
- India has been ranked at 78th place out of 180 countries in the 'Corruption Perception Index' (CPI) released by Transparency International in 2018 against 2017's 81st, where it had slid from 79th in 2016.
- The index ranks the countries by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to

experts and business people.

- It uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.

QUESTION 72:

The 'Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA)' is conducted by which of the following?

- (a) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- (b) World Bank
- (c) Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
- (d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Explanation

Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA)

- PISA is an international survey held every three years, coordinated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). **Hence, option (c) is correct.**
- First conducted in 2000, the major domain of study rotates between reading, mathematics, and science in each cycle.
- It is a competency-based test designed to assess the ability of the 15 year old candidates that measures their reading, mathematics, and science literacy every three years to apply their knowledge to real-life situations.

QUESTION 73:

The term 'Vaccine Hesitancy' refers to:

- (a) The reluctance of the private sector to develop vaccines for certain diseases affecting primarily low-income countries.
- (b) The gradual decline in the effectiveness of vaccines.
- (c) Reluctance or refusal of parents to vaccinate their children despite the availability of vaccines.
- (d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- 'Vaccine Hesitancy' is the reluctance or refusal to vaccinate despite the availability of vaccines it threatens to reverse progress made in tackling vaccine-preventable diseases throughout the world.

QUESTION 74:

With reference to the Pacific Alliance, consider the following statements:

1. It is a military and economic alliance of Pacific island nations.
2. It focuses on the environmental problems affecting island nations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

The Pacific Alliance

- One of the newest economic blocs to emerge from Latin America, the Pacific Alliance is designed to create a regional gateway to Asian markets. Composed of Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru, the bloc's members are pursuing commercial, economic, and political integration. The group accounts for more than one-third of Latin America's GDP and exports about 92 percent more than the Southern Common Market (Mercosur) bloc.
- While only seven years old, the Pacific Alliance's members have taken strides to liberalize trade, focusing on openness to foreign investment and the integration of a common market.
- **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are both NOT correct.**

QUESTION 75:

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force Treaty (INF) is related to which of the following?

- (a) Countries of the European Union
- (b) China and Pakistan
- (c) Warsaw Pact Countries
- (d) The United States and Russia

Answer: (d)

Explanation

Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty

- The United States has suspended the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force Treaty with Russia.
- The treaty was signed in December 1987 by US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.
- It prohibited the United States and the Soviet Union from possessing, testing and deploying ground-launched cruise and ballistic missiles of ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers.
- It also covered all land-based missiles, including those carrying nuclear warheads but did not cover sea-launched missiles.
- The objective of this treaty was to end the arms race between the two superpowers US and USSR.
Hence, option (d) is correct.

QUESTION 76:

The Indus River Dolphin is primarily found in which of the following rivers in India?

- (a) Satluj
- (b) Beas
- (c) Jhelum
- (d) Ravi

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Indus River Dolphin

- Recently the Punjab Government declared the Indus River dolphin, as the state's aquatic animal.
- Indus river dolphin is found only in the main channel of the Indus River in Pakistan and in the Beas river in India. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- Indus river dolphins also known as Bhulan are one of the only four river dolphin species and subspecies in the world that are found in freshwater. Others include the Chinese river dolphin, Ganges river dolphin and the Amazon river dolphin.

- The Indus river dolphin is a marine mammal which means it's warm-blooded, breathes air, gives birth and produces milk to feed its young.
- It is listed as endangered in the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species and its International trade is prohibited by virtue of it being listed under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
- Indus dolphin, like Ganges River dolphin is functionally blind and relies on echolocation to navigate, communicate and hunt prey in muddy river water.

QUESTION 77:

With reference to the Asian Elephant Alliance, consider the following statements:

1. It is a grouping of all range countries of the Asian Elephant.
2. It aims to secure a majority of elephant corridors in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Asian Elephant Alliance

- Asian Elephant Alliance is a joint initiative by five nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).
- Five NGOs include Elephant Family, International Fund for Animal Welfare, IUCN Netherlands, World Land Trust and Wildlife Trust of India. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- The Asian Elephant Alliance has decided to raise about 187 crore rupees to secure 96 out of the 101 elephant corridors across 12 States in India in the next 10 years. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 78:

With reference to the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), consider the following statements:

1. ICIMOD focuses on the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region only.
2. Its regional member include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

- The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre focusing on Hindu Kush Himalaya region only. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It has eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalaya – Afghanistan, Bangladesh,



Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – and based in Kathmandu, Nepal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Globalization and climate change have an increasing influence on the stability of fragile mountain ecosystems and the livelihoods of mountain people.
- ICIMOD aims to assist mountain people to understand these changes, adapt to them, and make the most of new opportunities, while addressing upstream-downstream issues.

QUESTION 79:

With reference to the Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF), consider the following statements:

1. The fund is a corpus of `2000 crore for development and up-gradation of agricultural marketing infrastructure.
2. It will be used in upgrading Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) and Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a corpus of `2,000 crore for Agri Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF) to be created with NABARD for development and up-gradation of agricultural marketing infrastructure in rural agricultural markets. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund was announced in 2018 Budget for developing and upgrading agricultural marketing infrastructure in the 22,000 Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) and 585 Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- At present, GrAMs are being developed from MGNREGA fund.

QUESTION 80:

With reference to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), consider the following statements:

1. India has ratified all eight fundamental ILO conventions.
2. India is one of the founding members of ILO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

International Labour Organization (ILO)

- International Labour Organization (ILO) is a United Nations agency dealing with labour issues, particularly international labour standards, social protection, and work opportunities for all.
- ILO was created in 1919, as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I, to reflect the belief that universal and lasting peace can be accomplished only if it is based on social justice. It

became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1946.

- It is a tripartite organization, the only one of its kind bringing together representatives of governments, employers and workers in its executive bodies.
- Since 1919, the International Labour Organization has maintained and developed a system of international labour standards aimed at promoting opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work, in conditions of freedom, equity, security and dignity.
- In 1969, ILO received the Nobel Peace Prize for improving fraternity and peace among nations, pursuing decent work and justice for workers, and providing technical assistance to other developing nations.
- India is a founder member of the International Labour Organization. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Headquarter of ILO is in Geneva, Switzerland.

QUESTION 81:

Which one of the following was NOT known to the Harappan people?

- (a) Spindle whorls
- (b) Wheel carts
- (c) Sowing of seeds
- (d) Metallic money

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- Harappan people used spindle whorls, wheel carts and practised sowing of seeds, but they did not use metallic money. The system of barter was used for the purpose of trade. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**
- Mature phase of the Harappan culture has been found in the coastal cities of Sutkagendor and Surkotada.
- The remarkable feature of the Harappan town planning was that it was based on-grid system.
- Granaries have also been found at Harappan sites, indicating that people used to store grains in these places.
- Baking bricks were also used to construct the buildings of Harappan culture.
- The most important public place in Mohenjo Daro is 'Great Bath' comprising the tank which is situated in the citadel mound.
- In Mohenjodaro, the largest building is Granary but in Harappa, we found as many as 6 granaries.
- Because of Urbanization, town planning was started.
- The street drains were equipped with manholes.

QUESTION 82:

Which of the following excavated Chalcolithic sites have shown signs of fortified settlements?

1. Pandu Rajar Dhibi
2. Inamgaon
3. Eran
4. Chirand
5. Kayatha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

(c) 2, 3 and 5 only

(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- The Chalcolithic communities founded the first villages in India and cultivated far more cereal than is known in the case of the neolithic communities.
- Chalcolithic communities cultivated barley, wheat and lentil in western India, and rice in southern and eastern India.
- The settlements at Kayatha and Eran in Madhya Pradesh and inamgaon in western Maharashtra were fortified.
- On the other hand, the remains of structures in Chirand and Pandu Rajar Dhibi in eastern India were poor, and had no fortifications. **Hence, option (c) is correct.**
- It is important to note that burial practices were not the same at all the places for the Chalcolithic culture.
- In Maharashtra, the dead body was placed in the north south position but in south India in the east-west position.
- Almost complete or extended burial was obtained in Maharashtra, but post-extraction or fractional burial prevailed in West Bengal.

QUESTION 83:

Consider the following statements:

1. No neolithic tools have been excavated from the north-eastern region of India.
2. Sites unearthed in Andhra Pradesh of neolithic culture indicate that people were cattle herders.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- Neolithic tools have been recovered in the hills of Assam. Neolithic tools are also found in the Garo Hills in Meghalaya on the north-eastern frontier of India. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- In addition to this, a number of neolithic settlements on the northern spurs of the Vindhyas in Mirzapur and Allahabad districts of Uttar Pradesh.
- Some of the important neolithic sites or those with neolithic layers that have been excavated include Maski, Brahmagiri, Hallur, Kodekal, Sanganakallu, T. Narsipur and Takkalakota in Karnataka, and Paiyampalli in Tamil Nadu.
- Piklihal and Utnur are important neolithic sites in Andhra Pradesh. The Neolithic settlers in Piklihal were cattle herders. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 84:

Keeling curve represents:

- (a) Accumulation of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere
- (b) Economic development and its impact on the environment

- (c) Inequality of distribution
- (d) Tax rates and the amount of tax revenue

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- Keeling Curve, is a graph showing seasonal and annual changes in atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentrations since 1958 at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii.
- The Environmental Kuznets Curve is used to graph the idea that as an economy develops, market forces begin to increase and economic inequality decreases. More specifically that as the economy grows, initially the environment suffers but eventually the relationship between the environment and the society improves.
- The Lorenz curve is a graphical representation of income inequality or wealth inequality developed by American economist Max Lorenz in 1905.
- The Laffer Curve is a theory developed by supply-side economist Arthur Laffer to show the relationship between tax rates and the amount of tax revenue collected by governments.

QUESTION 85:

Which of the following animal pictures were engraved on the Harappan seals?

1. Buffalo
2. Goat
3. Tiger
4. Elephant
5. Horse

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- The greatest artistic creations of Harappan culture are the seals. About 200 seals have been found in Harappan culture.
- Out of these, a great majority carry short inscriptions with pictures of the one horned bull, the buffalo, the tiger, rhinoceros, the goat and the elephant. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**
- The Harappans were great experts in the use of the potter's wheel. We come across numerous pots painted in various colours.
- Harappan pots were generally decorated with designs of trees and circles. The images of men are also found on some pottery fragments.
- The Harappan artisans made beautiful images of metal. A woman dancer made of bronze is the best specimen. Except for a necklace she is naked.
- One steatite statue wears an ornamented robe over the left shoulder and under the right arm, and its short locks at the back of the head are kept tidy by a woven fillet.

QUESTION 86:

With reference to the Stone Age, which of the following is NOT correct?

- (a) As the people of this age started cultivating crops, they produced more than the subsistence level.
- (b) The settlements of this age were mainly concentrated in the hill areas.
- (c) People of this age cultivated wheat, barley and rice.
- (d) In some parts of the country, people practised fishing.

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- Though in the later phase of the Stone Age, people cultivated many crops but these crops mainly provided them subsistence. **Hence, option (a) is correct.**
- This was the age when people used stone tools on a large scale so settlements have been found to be near the hilly areas and the hilly river valleys.
- In Burzahom, people lived in pits and plateaus and they practised fishing.
- People of the neolithic period which is a part of the Stone Age cultivated wheat, barley and rice.

QUESTION 87:

It was an armour used by the Aryan soldiers:

- (a) Samudra
- (b) Varman
- (c) Panchajana
- (d) Sardha

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- Aryans possessed chariots driven by horses and introduced them for the first time into West Asia and India.
- Aryan soldiers were probably equipped with coats of mail (varman) which was a type of jacket armour. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- Samudra was related to the ocean and it is doubtful whether Aryans were acquainted with the ocean or not.
- The king did not maintain any regular or standing army, but in terms of war he mustered a militia whose military functions were performed by different tribal groups called vrata, Gana, grama, sardha.
- The Aryans were engaged in two types of conflicts: first they fought with the pre-Aryans, and secondly, they fought amongst themselves.
- Intra-tribal conflicts rocked the Aryan communities for a long time. Divided into five tribes called panchajana, the Aryans fought amongst themselves and sometimes enlisted the support of the non-Aryan people for the purpose.
- During the Rig Vedic Period, the soldiers were organised into units known as Sardha, Vrata and gana.

QUESTION 88:

Consider the following statements:

1. It was in the later Vedic period that the post of king became hereditary.
2. Among the tribal assemblies of the Rig Vedic period, women were not allowed to attend vidatha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- The administrative machinery of the Aryans in the Rig Vedic period worked with the tribal chief, because of his successful leadership in war.
- He was called Rajan. It is to be noted that in the Rig Vedic period which is also known as the early Vedic period, the king's post was hereditary. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- Several tribal assemblies such as the sabha, Samiti, vidatha, Gana are mentioned in the Rig Veda.
- These assemblies exercised deliberative, military and religious functions. Even women attended the sabha and vidatha in Rig Vedic times. Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.
- But the two most important assemblies from the political point of view seem to have been the sabha and the Samiti.
- These two were so important that the kings showed eagerness to win their support.

QUESTION 89:

Consider the following statements:

1. United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) is a subsidiary of the UN General Assembly (UNGA).
2. The mandate of UNCITRAL is to work for harmonization and unification of international trade law.
3. All the UNGA members are part of UNCITRAL.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) (established in 1966) is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly of the United Nations with the general mandate to further the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade. **Hence, statement 1 and 2 are correct.**
- Membership of UNCITRAL: The membership in UNCITRAL is limited to a smaller number of States, so as to facilitate the deliberations. UNCITRAL was originally composed of 29 States; its membership was expanded in 1973 to 36 States and again in 2004 to 60 States. **Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.**
- The membership is representative of the various geographic regions and the principal economic and legal systems of the world. Members of the Commission are elected for terms of six years, the terms of half the members expiring every three years.

QUESTION 90:

Consider the following statements:

1. Village assemblies entrusted with the administration of lower level.
2. Large scale sacrifices performed by the brahmins.
3. Women defining the nature of religion.

Which of the above are the features of Later Vedic age?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- During the later Vedic period, in the princely families, the right of primogeniture got stronger. Male ancestors came to be worshipped. Women were generally given a lower position.
- Although some women theologians took part in philosophical discussions and some queens participated in coronation rituals, ordinarily women were thought to be inferior and subordinate to men.
- The later Vedic society came to be divided into four varnas called the brahmanas, rajanyas or Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Sudras. The growing cult of sacrifice enormously added to the power of the brahmanas.
- Administration at the lower level was the responsibility of the village assemblies, and these village assemblies may have been controlled by the chiefs of the dominant tribes. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**

QUESTION 91:

With reference to the objective of Paryatan Par 2019, which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) To celebrate the completion of Buddha Circuit with the help of Japan.
- (b) To encourage Indians to visit various tourist destinations of the country.
- (c) To showcase the Indian heritage worldwide to get them included in UNESCO world heritage sites.
- (d) To promote Indian tourism globally by involving the foreign embassies in India.

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- The Ministry of Tourism inaugurated the nationwide Paryatan Parv-2019 to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. It will be held across the country from 2nd to 13th October 2019.
- The underlying idea behind 'Paryatan Parv' is to propagate the message of 'Dekho Apna Desh', with the objective to encourage Indians to visit various tourist destinations of the country focusing on the benefits of tourism, and showcasing the cultural diversity of the country. It also aims to spread the message of 'Tourism for All'. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- The Tourism minister highlighted that sustained efforts to promote tourism has helped to improve our world tourism ranking, which has jumped from 65th in 2013 to 34th position in 2019.
- The ranking was published in the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index released by the World Economic Forum.
- According to the tourism minister, the aim to double the number of tourists will be achieved much before the set target of 2022. Three Components of Paryatan Parv:
 - Dekho Apna Desh: To encourage Indians to travel their own country. In the run-up to the Parv, several activities are organized across the country like photography contest, promotion on social media, tourism related quiz, essays, etc. General public engagement for the event is promoted through the MyGov platform.
 - Tourism for All: Tourism events at sites across all states in the country are being organized. The activities at these sites will include illumination in and around the sites, cultural programmes of dance, music, theatre etc.

- Tourism & Governance: Interactive sessions & workshops with the help of the country as a part of the Paryatan parv activities.

QUESTION 92:

Consider the following statements about recently launched 'Consumer App':

1. The app aims at giving information about various products in the markets.
2. It provides a time bound grievance redressal mechanism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

Consumer App:

- Recently, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has launched the 'Consumer App' to fast-track consumer grievance redressal process. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct and statement 2 is correct.**
- The app aims to provide a one-stop solution for consumer grievance redressal.
- The registered consumer will be informed about their complaint via SMS/email with a unique number which can be tracked by the consumer.
- There will be a time-bound resolution of all grievances.
 - Grievances in simple nature will be resolved within 20 days.
 - Grievances in Complex nature will be solved within 60 days.
 - If after 60 days the grievance is not resolved, the consumer will be advised to proceed to consumer fora.
 - Also, now the consumer will be informed before the closure of a complaint and if the consumer is not satisfied then the complaint will be referred further to the concerned department.
 - Consumers can use this app in both Hindi and English languages.

QUESTION 93:

With reference to the 'Global Wildlife Programme', consider the following statements:

1. It aims to curb illegal wildlife trade and protect species and their habitats.
2. It is an initiative of the IUCN.
3. India is a partner country of this initiative.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- Global Wildlife Programme: The GWP is a World-Bank led global partnership that promotes wildlife conservation and sustainable development by combating illicit trafficking in wildlife.

- GWP seeks to reduce both the supply and demand that drives the illegal wildlife trade, and ultimately curb it and protect species and habitats through integrated landscape planning.
 - GWP's priority and immediate focus is combating wildlife poaching, trafficking, and demand. The program also focuses on improving wildlife management, providing livelihood opportunities through tourism, and improving governance throughout the supply chain for illegal wildlife products.
 - In addition, the program will support integrated landscape management, land use zoning and natural resource management best practices. **Hence, statements 1 is correct and 2 is NOT correct.**
- In Asia, GWP has programs in Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 94:

Consider the following statements:

1. The Ganga basin covers 9 Indian states.
2. The National Council for River Ganga was formed under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- Recently, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has issued a 15-point directive to the 11-Ganga basin states to prevent idol immersion into river Ganga and its tributaries and on their banks, including cordoning off the ghats.
- 11 Ganga basin states include: Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is the implementation wing of the National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection, and Management of River Ganga also known as National Ganga Council.
- National Ganga council was set up in 2016 under Environment Protection Act 1986 by replacing the National River Ganga Basin Authority (NRGBA). It is chaired by the prime minister. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In 2014, 'Namami Gange Programme' was launched as an Integrated Conservation Mission, to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation, and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

QUESTION 95:

In which of the following sites can the endangered Red Panda be spotted?

1. Namdhapha National Park
2. Neora Valley National Park
3. Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

(d) 1 and 2 only

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- The red panda is a small arboreal mammal found in the forests of India, Nepal, Bhutan and the northern mountains of Myanmar and southern China. It thrives best at 2,200-4,800m, in mixed deciduous and conifer forests with dense understories of bamboo.
 - In India, it is found in Sikkim, western Arunachal Pradesh, Darjeeling district of West Bengal and parts of Meghalaya. It is also the state animal of Sikkim.
 - Listed as Endangered in the IUCN red list of Threatened Species and under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the red panda has the highest legal protection at par with other threatened species.
 - Neora Valley National Park is one of the richest biological zones in the entire Northeast India and home to elegant Red Panda and five species of civet. The park is an important wilderness zone in the Kalimpong hills and also known as birders paradise.
 - Khangchendzonga National Park of Sikkim is a world heritage site and the first Mixed Heritage site of India. Kanchenjunga Biosphere Reserve is home to an amazing list of wild animals like Asiatic Wild Dog, Himalayan Tahr, Snow Leopard, Clouded Leopard and Red Panda. Other National parks where Red pandas can be spotted.
 - Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh
 - Nokrek National Park, Meghalaya
 - Singalila National Park, Darjeeling
- Hence, option (b) is correct.**

QUESTION 96:

Consider the following pairs:

Ethnic Group	Region
1. Kurds	Syria
2. Uighurs	China
3. Hutus	Yemen
4. Rohingyas	Myanmar

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- The Kurds are one of the indigenous peoples of the Mesopotamian plains and the highlands in what are now south-eastern Turkey, north-eastern Syria, northern Iraq, north-western Iran and south-western Armenia. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- Uighurs are ethnically Turkic Muslims, and there are about 11 million of them in Xinjiang region of western China. As an autonomous area, Xinjiang has a degree of self-governance away from Beijing. Uighur Muslims make up under half the region's roughly 26 million people. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- The Hutu ethnic or social group native to the African Great Lakes region of Africa, an area now primarily in Burundi and Rwanda. About 85% of Rwandans are Hutus but the Tutsi minority has long

dominated the country. **Hence, pair 3 is NOT correctly matched.**

- In 1994, about 800,000 people were slaughtered in Rwanda by ethnic Hutu extremists. They were targeting members of the minority Tutsi community, as well as their political opponents, irrespective of their ethnic origin.
- Rohingya are an ethnic group, largely comprising Muslims, who predominantly live in the Western Myanmar province of Rakhine. They speak a dialect of Bengali, as opposed to the commonly spoken Burmese language. **Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched.**

QUESTION 97:

In which of the following cities, India's first e-waste clinic has been proposed to be set up?

- (a) Hyderabad
- (b) Lucknow
- (c) Bhopal
- (d) New Delhi

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- India's first e-waste clinic for segregating, processing and disposal of waste from household and commercial units will soon be set-up in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. **Hence, option (c) is correct.**
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) for its establishment.
- The clinic is a three-month pilot project. If it would be a success, then the same would be replicated throughout the country.
- Electronic waste will either be collected door-to-door or could be deposited directly at the clinic by individuals.
- The CPCB will provide technical support at the unit and the collected hazardous waste will then be sent to Bengaluru for recycling.

QUESTION 98:

Which of the following describes the initiative PARIVESH of the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change?

- (a) e-Initiative to record different plant species
- (b) e-portal for environmental clearance
- (c) Portal for approval of genetic use of forest resources
- (d) Approval for Clean Development Mechanism

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- PARIVESH is a single-window integrated environmental management System. Key features include single registration and single sign-in for all types of clearances (i.e. Environment, Forest, Wildlife and CRZ), unique-ID for all types of clearances required for a particular project and a single Window interface for the proponent to submit applications for getting all types of clearances (i.e. Environment, Forests, Wildlife and CRZ clearances). **Hence, option (b) is correct.**

QUESTION 99:

Consider the following statements about South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN):

1. It is an inter-governmental wildlife law enforcement support body of South Asian countries.

2. It was established under the aegis of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
3. Its Secretariat is based in Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above are NOT correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) operates its activities from the Secretariat based in Kathmandu, Nepal. **Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.**
- SAWEN was officially launched in January, 2011 in Paro Bhutan. It was not established under the aegis of SAARC. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
- It promotes regional cooperation to combat wildlife crime in South Asia. It focuses on policy harmonization; institutional capacity strengthening through knowledge and intelligence sharing; and collaboration with regional and international partners to enhance wildlife law enforcement in the member countries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

QUESTION 100:

Recently, the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Vishwa Shanti Stupa (World Peace Pagoda) was celebrated. In which of the following places it is located?

- (a) Bodh Gaya
- (b) Sarnath
- (c) Rajgir
- (d) Sanchi

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- 50th anniversary of the establishment of Vishwa Shanti Stupa (World Peace Pagoda) at Rajgir in Bihar. It is one of the seven Peace Pagoda or Vishwa Shanti Stupas in India. **Hence, option (c) is correct.**
- World Peace Pagoda is also known as Vishwa Shanti Stupa is a Buddhists monument to inspire peace to all races and creeds. Vishwa Shanti Stupas has been created across the world in search for world peace by a Buddhist monk.
- The other six Vishwa Shanti Stupa in India are located in Ladakh, Delhi. Vaishali, Darjeeling, Wardha and Dhauri giri.