

Prelims Refresher Programme: Day 55 (Test-20)

QUESTION 1:

With reference to Corals, consider the following statements:

1. Corals extract sodium carbonate which pile up with time to form coral reefs.
2. Corals have a symbiotic relationship with photosynthetic algae zooxanthellae which are responsible for the variety of colours of corals.

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

- **Coral reefs** are large underwater structures composed of the skeletons of colonial marine invertebrates called coral.
- Corals extract **calcium carbonate** from seawater to create a hard, durable exoskeleton that protects their soft, sac-like bodies. These exoskeleton remains of millions of corals pile up with time to form coral reefs. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The corals have a **symbiotic relationship with photosynthetic algae called zooxanthellae**.
 - These algae live inside the coral polyp's body and provide the coral with food. The polyps, in turn, provide a home and carbon dioxide for the algae.
 - These algae are responsible for the **variety of colours of corals**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 2:

Which of the following is the objective of Vande Bharat Mission?

- (a) It is an evacuation exercise to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas.
- (b) It is a combined military exercise with multiple countries.
- (c) It aims to upgrade India's existing railway network to semi-high speed.
- (d) It aims to rehabilitate the migrant labourers who lost their livelihood during Covid19 crisis.

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- The Indian nationals stranded overseas due to the global coronavirus lockdown are expected to return under the **Vande Bharat Mission**.
- Further, the Indian Navy has also launched Operation "Samudra Setu" (sea bridge) to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas.
- Vande Bharat Mission is the biggest evacuation exercise to bring back Indian citizens stranded abroad amidst the coronavirus-induced travel restrictions. **Hence, option A is correct.**
- It is also considered as the largest exercise to bring back Indian citizens since the evacuation of 177,000 from the Gulf region in the early 1990s at the start of hostilities between Iraq and Kuwait during the first Gulf War.
- The mission has given priority to Indian citizens with "compelling reasons to return" – like those whose employment have been terminated, those whose visas have expired and not expected to be renewed under the present circumstances and those who have lost family members in recent times.

QUESTION 3:

With reference to the Official Languages in India, consider the following statements:

1. Hindi & English are the only languages for transactions of business in parliament.
2. Part XVII of the Indian Constitution deals with the official languages.
3. English is an official language under Eighth schedule.

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- **Article 120** (Language to be used in Parliament) provides for use of Hindi or English for transactions of parliament but gives the right to members of parliament to express themselves in their mother tongue. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Article XVII of the Indian Constitution deals with the **official languages in Articles 343 to 351. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Eighth Schedule recognises following 22 languages as official languages: Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.
 - English is not part of languages under Eighth schedule. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 4:

With reference to Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), consider the following statements:

1. EIA is a part of the formalised legal framework in India.
2. EIA emerged out of the Rio declaration in 1992.
3. Convention on Biological Diversity contains a requirement of EIA.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- India is a party to the **Rio declaration (also known as the Earth Summit) adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992**, which articulated a catalogue of environmental principles including sustainable development, precautionary principle, and EIA.
 - Following the **Rio Conference 1992**, EIA became part of the **formalised legal framework in India in 1994. Hence, statement 1 and 2 are correct.**
- India is also party to the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, which contain a requirement to have a prior EIA in situations having a significant threat to the environment. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 5:

With reference to Priority Sector Lending (PSL), consider the following statements:

1. Regional rural banks (RRBs) and small finance banks have to allocate 40% of adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANDC) to PSL.
2. Loans for setting up compressed biogas plants is a category eligible for finance under PSL.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- Under Priority Sector Lending (PSL), the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** mandates banks to lend a certain portion of their funds to specified sectors, like agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), export credit, education, housing, social infrastructure, renewable energy among others.
 - **All scheduled commercial banks and foreign banks** (with a sizable presence in India) are mandated to set aside **40%** of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANDC) for lending to these sectors.
 - **Regional rural banks, co-operative banks and small finance banks have to allocate 75%** of ANDC to PSL. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Recently, the RBI released revised Priority Sector Lending (PSL) guidelines, which align with emerging national priorities and also bring sharper focus on inclusive development.
 - Bank finance to start-ups up to ₹50 crore, loans to farmers for installation of solar power plants for solarisation of grid connected agriculture pumps and **loans for setting up Compressed BioGas plants** have been included as fresh categories eligible for finance under priority sector. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 6:

With reference to the conservation status of Gangetic Dolphin, consider the following statements:

1. It is listed under the first schedule of Indian Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972.
2. It is listed as critically endangered under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

Status of Conservation of Gangetic Dolphin:

- In the **First Schedule of the Indian Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Endangered** by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Appendix I (most endangered) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
- Appendix II (migratory species that need conservation and management or would significantly benefit from international co-operation) of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

QUESTION 7:

With reference to the BRICS, consider the following statements:

1. The term was coined by the British Economist Agnus Deaton.
2. New Development Bank And Contingent Reserve Arrangement were announced by Goa Declaration of BRICS.

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: (d)

Explanation

- In 2001, the British Economist Jim O'Neill coined the term BRIC to describe the four emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - The grouping was formalised during the first meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers' in 2006.
 - South Africa was invited to join BRIC in December 2010, after which the group adopted the acronym BRICS.
- During the Sixth BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (Brazil) in 2014, the leaders signed the Agreement establishing the New Development Bank (NDB – Shanghai, China). They also signed the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement to provide short-term liquidity support to the members. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 8:

With reference to Parliamentary Committees, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India mentions the composition and tenure of parliamentary committees.
2. The house-keeping committee is a standing committee.

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 Constitution of India makes a mention of Parliamentary Committees at different places, but without making any specific provisions regarding their composition, tenure, functions, etc. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Broadly, parliamentary committees are of two kinds – Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees.
- **Standing Committees:** Permanent (constituted every year or periodically) and work on a continuous basis. They can be categorized into following broad groups
 - Financial Committees
 - Departmental Standing Committees (24)
 - Committees to Inquire
 - Committees to Scrutinise and Control
 - Committees Relating to the Day-to-Day Business of the House
 - House-Keeping Committees or Service Committees**Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- **Ad Hoc Committees:** Temporary and cease to exist on completion of the task assigned.
 - Ad hoc committees can be divided into two categories, that is, Inquiry Committee and Advisory Committee.
 - Examples of Ad Hoc Committees: Joint Committee on Bofors Contract, Joint Committee on Fertilizer Pricing etc.

QUESTION 9:

With reference to the draft of Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA), which of the following is/are correct?

1. It is a draft released by the RBI which aims at empowering individuals with control over their banking data.
2. It will involve the creation of new market players known as User Consent Managers.

Choose 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

- Niti Ayog has released a draft Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA) which aims to promote greater user control on data sharing. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- DEPA's Institutional Architecture will involve the creation of new market players known as User Consent Managers. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- These will ensure that individuals can provide consent as per an innovative digital standard for every data shared.
- These Consent Managers will also work to protect data rights.

QUESTION 10:

With reference to Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), consider the following statements:

1. The mission lays special emphasis on the financial inclusion of vulnerable communities.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development.

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

- **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms for the rural poor enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.
- DAY-NRLM lays special emphasis on targeting the poorest of the poor and the most vulnerable communities and their financial inclusion. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **The mission** was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India in **2011. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - In November 2015, the program National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) was renamed Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM).

QUESTION 11:

With reference to the East Asia Summit, which of the following is/are not correct?

1. It is based on the ASEAN Plus Six mechanism.
2. The members are from the continent of Asia only.

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

- East Asia Summit (EAS) is an initiative of ASEAN and it consists of 18 countries.
- EAS is a regional forum which initially had 16 countries of the East Asian, Southeast Asian, South Asian and Oceanian regions, based on the ASEAN Plus Six mechanism. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- However the membership was expanded to 18 countries including Russia and the United States at the Sixth EAS in 2011.
 - The concept of an East Asia Grouping was first promoted in 1991 by the then Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir bin Mohamad. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 12:

With reference to the Special Frontier Force, consider the following statements:

1. It was raised to prevent Chinese occupation at LAC.
2. It falls under the purview of the Ministry of Defense.
3. It is also referred to as Vikas Battalion.

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: (c)

Explanation

- The Special Frontier Force was established on 14th November 1962 in the immediate aftermath of the 1962 Sino-India war. It had been said to be instrumental in preventing Chinese occupation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It falls under the purview of the Cabinet Secretariat where it is headed by an Inspector General who is an Army officer of the rank of Major General. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - Though it is not part of the Army, they function under the operational control of the Army.
 - It had taken part in many operations conducted by Indian armed forces such as:
 - ◆ Operation Eagle (1971 war with Pakistan),

- ◆ Operation Bluestar (clearing Amritsar's Golden Temple in 1984),
 - ◆ Operation Meghdoot (securing the Siachen glacier in 1984) and
 - ◆ Operation Vijay (war with Pakistan at Kargil in 1999) and many counter-insurgency operations in the country.
- It was previously named Establishment-22 as it was raised by Major General Sujan Singh Uban, an Artillery officer who had commanded 22 Mountain Regiment.
- Now it is referred to as Vikas Battalion. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 13:

INDRA series of exercise is conducted by India in association with which of the following countries?

- (a) Russia
- (b) U.S.A
- (c) France
- (d) Indonesia

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- The Indra series of exercises began in 2003 and was conducted as a bilateral naval exercise alternately between the two countries.
- However, the first joint Tri-Services Exercise was conducted in 2017.
- It is a joint exercise between Indian and Russia. **Hence, option A is correct.**

QUESTION 14:

In which of the following tiger reserves the world's largest and oldest teak tree named Kannimara is located?

- (a) Dandeli Tiger Reserve
- (b) Bandipur Tiger Reserve
- (c) Nagarhole Tiger Reserve
- (d) Parambikulam Tiger Reserve

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- **Parambikulam Tiger Reserve** is a well protected ecological portion in the Nelliampathy – Anamalai landscape of the Southern Western Ghats in India.
- It is located in the Palakkad District of Kerala.
- It was declared as Tiger Reserve during 2008-09.
- The reserve is credited with the first scientifically managed teak plantation in the world which was later merged with the forest land.
- It has **the world's largest and oldest teak tree. Named "Kannimara"** (corrupt version of Irish name Connemara), the tree is believed to be 350 years old and has a height of 40m and girth of 6.4m. **Hence, option D is correct.**

QUESTION 15:

'Nord Stream 2' is a gas pipeline between which of the following two countries?

- (a) Russia and France
- (b) Russia and Germany

- (c) Germany and Sweden
- (d) Sweden and Poland

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- Nord Stream 2 is a nearly constructed 1,200-kilometre pipeline from **Russia to Germany via the Baltic Sea**.
- It will run alongside the already constructed Nord Stream and will double the amount of gas being funnelled through the Baltics to 110 billion cubic meters per year. **Hence, option B is correct.**

QUESTION 16:

With reference to Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), consider the following statements:

1. DFIs only provide short-term credit.
2. It can only be promoted by the government.
3. DFIs often lend at low and stable rates of interest to promote investments with considerable social benefits.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- **Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) provide long-term credit for capital-intensive investments** spread over a long period and yielding low rates of return, such as urban infrastructure, mining and heavy industry, and irrigation systems. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **DFI can have two types of character**, either it should be promoted by the government or it should be given a private sector character with the government restricting its holding to 49%. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- DFIs often lend at low and stable rates of interest to promote long-term investments with considerable social benefits. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- DFIs are also known as Development banks. They are different from commercial banks which mobilise short-to medium-term deposits and lend for similar maturities to avoid a maturity mismatch-a potential cause for a bank's liquidity and solvency.

QUESTION 17:

With reference to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010, consider the following statements:

1. It regulates foreign funding of voluntary organizations in India.
2. It is implemented by the NITI Aayog.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 regulates the foreign contribution given to various voluntary organizations in India such as NGOs, institutes, judges, journalists, public servants etc. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It prohibits the receipt of foreign contribution “for any activities detrimental to the national interest”.
 - The Act also held that the government can refuse permission if it believes that the donation to the NGO will adversely affect “public interest” or the “economic interest of the state”.
 - It is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 18:

Wagon Tragedy is associated with which of the following?

- (a) Komatagaru Incident
- (b) Moplah Rebellion
- (c) Aligarh Conspiracy
- (d) Kakori Conspiracy

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- The trigger of the Moplah rebellion came from the Non-Cooperation Movement launched by the Congress in 1920 along with the Khilafat agitation.
- The anti-British sentiment fuelled by these agitations affected the Muslim Mapillahs (also known as Moplahs) of south Malabar region of Kerala.
- **The revolt was** fuelled by the fiery speeches by Muslim religious leaders and anti-british sentiments, the Mopillahs launched a violent rebellion. Numerous actions of violence were reported and series of persecutions were committed both against the British and the Hindu landlords.
- **Wagon Tragedy:** In November 1921, 67 Moplah prisoners were killed when they were being transported in a closed freight wagon from Tirur to the Central Prison in Podanur. They died of suffocation. This event is called the Wagon Tragedy. **Hence, option B is correct.**

QUESTION 19:

With reference to the Basic Structure doctrine, which of the following is/are correct?

1. It was propounded in the famous Maneka Gandhi case.
2. Basic structure doctrine has been mentioned in Part III of the Constitution.

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

- The theory of Basic Structure was given in the case of Kesavananda Bharati V/S State Of Kerala. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Basic Structure doctrine has not been mentioned in the constitution. It was a judicial invention. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- It aims to protect the basic rights of the people and the ideals and the philosophy of the constitution.

QUESTION 20:

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

1. Hurricanes are temperate cyclones.
2. They are usually formed over the warm ocean waters.

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

- A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone, which forms over tropical or subtropical waters. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- A cyclone is a rotating low-pressure weather system.
- They are usually formed near the equator over the warm ocean water between 5 and 15 degrees latitude north and south of the equator. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 21:

Recently the Yanomami Tribe has been in the news. It belongs to which of the following geographical regions?

- (a) Amazon forests
- (b) Naga hills
- (c) Papua New Guinea
- (d) Falkland Islands

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- The **Yanomami tribe** has launched a global campaign to expel 20,000 gold miners from their land amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- Yanomami, also called South American Indians, live in the remote forest of the Orinoco River basin in southern Venezuela and the northernmost reaches of the Amazon River basin in northern Brazil. **Hence, option is A is correct.**
 - Yanomami live in small, scattered, semi permanent villages and speak the Xirianá language.
 - They practice hunting and slash-and-burn agriculture.
- Guarani, Kaingang, Pataxó Hã Hã Hãe Tupinambá, Yanomami, Tikuna and Akuntsu are popular tribe of Amazon.

QUESTION 22:

With reference to India State of Forest Report (2019), consider the following statements:

1. Arunachal Pradesh has the highest forest cover Area-wise.
2. Karnataka has shown the highest increase in forest cover.

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 Ministry for Environment, Forests and Climate Change has released the **India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2019**.
- ISFR is a biennial publication of Forest Survey of India (FSI), an organization under the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change.
- Forest Cover (Area-wise): **Madhya Pradesh** > Arunachal Pradesh > Chhattisgarh > Odisha > Maharashtra. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - Forest Cover (Percentage): Mizoram (85.4%) > Arunachal Pradesh (79.63%) > Meghalaya (76.33%)
 - The top five states to have shown an increase in forest cover include **Karnataka** (1,025 sq km) > Andhra Pradesh (990 sq km) > Kerala (823 sq km) > J&K (371 sq km) > Himachal Pradesh (334 sq km). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 23:

With reference to Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV), consider the following statements:

1. It is an unmanned ramjet demonstration aircraft that can travel at hypersonic speed.
2. India is the only country that has developed this technology.

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

- Recently, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV).
- HSTDV is an **unmanned scramjet demonstration** aircraft that can travel at hypersonic speed.
 - It uses **hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology**.
 - The vehicle travelled its desired flight path at a velocity of six times the speed of sound i.e. Mach 6. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- India became the **fourth country** to have demonstrated this technology after the USA, Russia and China. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - China successfully tested its first waverider hypersonic flight vehicle in 2018.

QUESTION 24:

With reference to the 'KIRAN Helpline', consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide support to people for their mental health and well-being.
2. It is launched by the Ministry of Education.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has launched a 24/7 **toll-free helpline 'Kiran'** to provide support to people facing anxiety, stress, depression, suicidal thoughts and other mental health concerns. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Ministry of Education has launched the 'Manodarpan' initiative to provide psycho-social support and counselling to students for their mental health and well-being. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 25:

With reference to Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, which of the following is/are correct?

1. It is the award accorded biennially by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
2. The prize is awarded to Indian citizens 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

- The **Indira Gandhi Prize** or the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize or the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development is the prestigious award accorded annually by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is awarded to individuals or organisations in recognition of creative efforts toward promoting international peace, development and a new international economic order.
- The recipients are chosen from a pool of national and international nominees. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 26:

Consider the following statements with reference to 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code':

1. The code provides a time-bound process for resolving insolvency in companies and among individuals.
2. Committee of Creditors (CoC) is supreme in deciding on commercial issues, including the repayment waterfall, in an insolvency resolution.

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

- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 is considered as one of the biggest insolvency reforms in the economic history of India.
- This was enacted for reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner for maximization of the value of assets of such persons
 - Thus, it provides a **time-bound process for resolving insolvency in companies and among individuals. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Supreme Court of India in the judgement on Essar Steel's bankruptcy upheld the primacy of financial creditors over operational creditors in the repayments waterfall (in the event of liquidation of assets under IBC).
- It also held that the **Committee of Creditors (CoC) is supreme when it comes to deciding on commercial issues, including the repayment waterfall, in an insolvency resolution. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The NCLAT sought to acquire the role of the Committee of Creditors (CoC) in an insolvency resolution.
 - Since CoC represents the lenders to the companies, therefore its interest will be of prime importance in resolution of a bad loan.

QUESTION 27:

Consider the following statements:

1. Statutory Liquidity Ratio is the amount of liquid cash that banks have to maintain with the RBI, as a percentage of their total deposits.
2. Marginal standing facility is a window for banks to borrow from the Reserve Bank of India in an emergency situation.

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

- **Cash Reserve Ratio:** CRR is the amount of liquid cash that banks have to maintain with the RBI, as a percentage of their total deposits (net demand and time liabilities).
 - **Statutory Liquidity Ratio** is the minimum percentage of deposits that a commercial bank has to maintain in the form of liquid cash, gold or other securities. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Marginal standing facility (MSF)** is a window for banks to borrow from the Reserve Bank (RBI) of India in an emergency situation when interbank liquidity dries up completely. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Under the MSF, banks can borrow overnight from RBI by dipping into their statutory liquidity ratio (SLR).
- In June 2020, the RBI extended the relaxation of the minimum daily maintenance of the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and the borrowing limit under the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) for another three months keeping in mind the continuing effect of COVID-19.

QUESTION 28:

Regarding Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan, consider the following statements:

1. The campaign aims to provide livelihood opportunities to migrant workers who have returned to their villages due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. It also aims to create public infrastructure and assets in villages related to roads, housing, anganwadis, and community complexes, among others.
3. It will be implemented by the NITI Aayog with cooperation from the state governments.

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- The Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan aims to provide livelihood opportunities to migrant workers who have returned to their villages due to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It also aims to create public infrastructure and assets in villages related to roads, housing, anganwadis, and community complexes, among others. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The campaign is being undertaken in 116 districts across six states. These states are Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Odisha.
- It will be implemented by **11 ministries of the central government** including Road Transport and Highways, Mines, Environment, Railways, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Telecom, and Agriculture. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 29:

Consider the following statements regarding Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs):

1. MSMEs are defined under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006.
2. Micro enterprise refers to industries where the investment does not exceed ₹1 crore and turnover does not exceed ₹5 crore.

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

- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**) are defined under the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Recently, Central Government, has notified the new criteria for classification of micro, small and medium enterprises, this is namely: –
 - a **micro enterprise**, where the **investment** in Plant and Machinery or Equipment does not exceed **one crore rupees** and **turnover** does not exceed **five crore rupees**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - a **small enterprise**, where the investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment does not exceed **ten crore rupees** and turnover does not exceed **fifty crore rupees**.
 - a **medium enterprise**, where the investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment does not exceed **fifty crore rupees** and **turnover does not exceed two hundred and fifty crore rupees**.

QUESTION 30:

Consider the following statements with reference to 'Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)':

1. Provision of CSR is mentioned under the Companies Act, 2013.
2. These funds must be spent towards certain scheduled activities, such as promoting education.
3. Contributions towards the benefit of the veterans in the Central Armed Police Forces and their widow comes under CSR activities.

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- **Under the Companies Act, 2013 companies** with net worth, turnover or profits above a specified amount are required to spend **2% of their average net profits** in the last three financial years towards Corporate Social Responsibility activities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- These funds must be spent towards certain scheduled activities, such as promoting education. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Recently, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs notified an additional item in the list. This includes contributions towards the benefit of the veterans in the Central Armed Police Forces and Central Para Military Forces, and their dependents, including widows. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 31:

Consider the following statements with reference to 'New Space India Ltd. (NSIL)':

1. NSIL is the commercial arm of ISRO responsible for transfer of ISRO's small satellite technology to industry.
2. NSIL is a public sector undertaking under the Department of Science and technology.

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

- **New Space India Ltd. (NSIL)** is a public sector undertaking under the **Department of Space**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **NSIL is the commercial arm of ISRO, currently responsible for transfer of ISRO's small satellite technology to industry, among other things. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Current activities of ISRO in the areas of launch vehicle, satellite production, launch services and space-based services will be taken up by NSIL.
- It will execute these activities through industry consortiums. These reforms are expected to allow ISRO to allocate more time and resources for research and development.

QUESTION 32:

'Ishihara Test' used to diagnose which of the following illnesses/deficiency?

- (a) Covid-19
- (b) Colour Blindness
- (c) Haemophilia
- (d) Sickle Cell Anaemia

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- **Dr Shinobu Ishihara** introduced in 1917 the most well known **color blindness test**.
- Each of these tests consists of a set of colored dotted plates, each of them showing either a number or a path. Since then this is the most widely used color vision deficiency test and still used by most optometrists and ophthalmologists all around the world.
- Recently, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways notified the Central Motor Vehicles (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2020 which allow persons with mild to medium colour blindness to obtain a driving licence.

QUESTION 33:

With reference to 'Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)', consider the following statements:

1. EIA identifies the environmental, social and economic impacts of a project prior to decision-making.
2. EIA is statutorily backed by 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: (c)

Explanation

- UNEP defines Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as **a tool used to identify the environmental, social and economic impacts of a project prior to decision-making**.
 - It aims to predict environmental impacts at an early stage in project planning and design, find ways and means to reduce adverse impacts, shape projects to suit the local environment and present the predictions and options to decision-makers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Environment Impact Assessment in India is **statutorily backed by the Environment Protection Act, 1986** which contains various provisions on EIA methodology and process. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 34:

Which of the following statements is not correct regarding the 'Ways and Means Advances (WMA)'?

- (a) These are short-term loans provided by Reserve Bank of India to central and state governments to meet their imminent expenditure requirements.
- (b) The funds under WMA are required to be repaid by respective governments within one year from the date of the making of the advance.
- (c) The limits for WMA are decided by the government and RBI mutually and revised periodically.
- (d) There is a State-wise limit for the funds that can be availed via WMA.

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- Ways and Means Advances (WMA) are **short-term loans provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to the **central and state** governments to meet their imminent expenditure requirements. **Hence, statement A is correct.**
 - It was introduced in 1997 to meet mismatches in the receipts and payments of the government.
- The limits for Ways and Means Advances are decided by the government and RBI mutually and revised periodically. **Hence, statement C is correct.**
- There is a State-wise limit for the funds that can be availed via WMA. These limits depend on many factors, including total expenditure, revenue deficit and fiscal position of the State. **Hence, statement D is correct.**
- The funds under WMA are required to be repaid by respective governments within **three months (90 days)** from the date of the making of the advancement. **Hence, statement B is not correct.**
 - If the WMA exceeds three months, it would be treated as an overdraft.
- Recently, the WMA limits (limits set on how much governments can borrow) have been increased for the period April-September 2020.
 - This is aimed towards making additional funds available to the central and state governments for their COVID-19 related and other expenditure.

QUESTION 35:

With reference to revised Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy in India, consider the following statements:

1. The revised policy allows an entity or a citizen of neighboring countries to invest in India through the automatic route.
2. It aims to curb opportunistic takeovers or acquisitions of Indian companies due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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 revised Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy restricts** an entity or a citizen or resident of a country, which shares a land border with India, **from investing through the automatic route**. Such entities or persons can only invest through the government route. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - Transfer of existing or future FDI to entities or persons from such countries will also require approval.
- The revised policy **aims to curb opportunistic takeovers or acquisitions** of Indian companies due to the situation arising out of the spread of Covid-19 pandemic. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Under the automatic route, a foreign investor is not required to take any approval for FDI whereas, under the government route, the government's approval is mandatory.

QUESTION 36:

Which of the following functions are performed by the Reserve Bank of India:

1. Expanding liquidity in the market
2. Relief to borrowers in repayment of loans

3. Reduction in policy rate
4. Reducing tax rates

Select the correct answer using the code below?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is the **central bank** for India. The RBI handles many functions, from handling monetary policy to issuing currency.
- Some of the functions it can take under its monetary policy are:
 - Expanding liquidity in the market
 - Relief to borrowers in repayment of loans
 - Reduction in policy rate
- RBI takes care of these through its **Liquidity Adjustment Facility** tools.
- However, 'Reducing tax rates' is the function of the central government through its fiscal policies not the RBI. **Hence, option A is correct.**

QUESTION 37:

Consider the following statements regarding Jal Jeevan Mission:

1. It aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections to all households in India by 2024.
2. It is based on a community approach to water and includes extensive Information, Education and Communication as its key components.

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

- The Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections to all households in **rural India, by 2024. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It focuses on integrated demand and supply-side management of water at the local level.
 - Creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse, would be undertaken in convergence with other government programmes/schemes.
- The Mission is based on a **community approach to water** and includes extensive **Information, Education and Communication** as a key component of the mission. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Covid-19 has affected the project completion and data updation work. And the Ministry of Jal Shakti has extended the deadline for data updation under the Mission.
 - The delay has adversely impacted the planning process under the programme.
 - It may also lead to a loss of funds under the programme.

QUESTION 38:

Which of the following are correct regarding the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020:

1. The Ordinance amends the original act of 1970 to provide for the supersession of the Central Council.
2. The new Central Council will be bound by directions of the central government on questions related to all the policy matters.

Select the correct answer using the code below?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 amends the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970.
 - The 1970 Act provides for the constitution of a Central Council which regulates the education and practice of the Indian Medicine system (includes Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy).
- The Ordinance provides for the **supersession of the Central Council**. The Central Council will be reconstituted within one year from the date of its supersession. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - In the interim period, the central government will constitute a Board of Governors, which will exercise the powers of the Central Council.
- The Board and the Central Council (after its reconstitution) **will be bound by** directions of the central government on questions **related to policy matters (other than technical and administrative matters)**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 39:

Consider the following statements regarding the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Amendment Rules, 2020:

1. It requires the packaging of tobacco products to include a pictorial health warning that covers 60% of the display area of the packaging.
2. It also requires packages containing tobacco to reflect textual warnings such as “tobacco causes cancer”.

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: (d)

Explanation

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recently notified the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Amendment Rules, 2020.
 - The Rules amend the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008.

- The 2008 Rules require the packaging of tobacco products to include a pictorial health warning that covers 60% of the display area of the packaging.
 - The 2020 Rules remove the specification of the percentage of display area the pictorial health warning should cover on the packaging. The pictorial health warnings must be images as provided by the central government. The 2020 Rules change which images may be used as pictorial health warnings for tobacco. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The 2008 Rules require packages containing tobacco to reflect certain textual warnings such as “tobacco causes cancer” and “tobacco causes painful death”.
 - The 2020 Rules removes the requirement of the warning label of “tobacco causes cancer” to be represented on the packaging. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 40:

With reference to the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), consider the following:

1. The aim of the NIP is to prepare projects to operationalise the plan of ₹100 lakh crore investment in infrastructure for the period 2019-25.
2. The investment in the energy sector is highest among other sectors.

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: (c)

Explanation

- National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) will enable a forward outlook on infrastructure projects which will create jobs, improve ease of living, and provide equitable access to infrastructure for all, thereby making growth more inclusive.
- The aim of the NIP is to adequately prepare projects to operationalise the plan of ₹100 lakh crore investment in infrastructure over the next five years (2019-2025). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- More than 70% of the total investment projected in infrastructure projects in the NIP is across four sectors.
 - These are: **energy (24% of the total investment)**, roads (18%), urban infrastructure (17%), and railways (12%).
 - Other major sectors with projects in the NIP include irrigation (8%) and rural infrastructure (7%). Thus, the investment is highest in the energy sector among all other sectors. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 41:

Which of the following are correct regarding Industrial Relations Code, 2019

1. The Code basically replaces the existing legislation on labour laws.
2. It provides for recognition of trade unions and resolution of industrial disputes.

Select the correct answer using the code below?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- The Industrial Relations Code, 2019 was introduced in the Lok Sabha and referred to the Standing Committee on Labour in December, 2019.
 - The Standing Committee on Labour and Employment recently submitted its report.
- The Code replaces **three existing legislations** such as the Trade Unions Act, 1926; the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; and the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders Act), 1946. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It provides for **recognition of trade unions**, certification of standing orders, and resolution of industrial disputes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 42:

With reference to PRODUCE Fund, consider the following statements:

1. This fund was created by the Government of India in NABARD.
2. It aims to promote credit worthiness of Self Help groups.

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

- 'Producers' Organization Development and Upliftment Corpus' (PRODUCE) Fund was created by **the Government of India in NABARD** for building of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in the country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The aim of the PRODUCE Fund is to promote new FPOs and support their initial financial requirements, to make them credit worthy, commercially vibrant and sustainable business enterprises of farmers. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 43:

With reference to Basudha scheme, consider the following statements:

1. This scheme was launched by the Uttar Pradesh government.
2. It aims to provide shelter to stray cows.

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

- **Basudha scheme** was launched in 2018 by the Odisha government. The objective of the scheme is to provide adequate **safe water to rural people for drinking and domestic purposes** on a sustainable basis. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Recently Odisha state government made a budgetary allocation of ₹1,000 crore **Basudha scheme** for the financial year 2019-20. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

QUESTION 44:

Which of the following diseases are covered under Mission Indradhanush for vaccination?

1. Diphtheria
2. Polio
3. Whooping cough

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- **Mission Indradhanush's** aim is to fully immunize children who are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated under the **Universal Immunization Programme**.
- It targets children under 2 years of age and pregnant women for immunization.
- It provides vaccination against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD) i.e. **diphtheria, Whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, meningitis and pneumonia, Haemophilus influenzae type B infections, Japanese encephalitis (JE), rotavirus vaccine, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) and measles-rubella (MR)**. **Hence, option D is correct.**

QUESTION 45:

Which of the following are the core infrastructure elements included in a Smart Cities Mission?

1. Solid waste management
2. Assured electricity supply
3. Affordable housing

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- The Government of India had launched the **Smart Cities Mission** in 2015. The objective is to promote sustainable and inclusive cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'Smart' Solutions.
- Some of the core infrastructure elements in a Smart City would include adequate water supply, **assured electricity supply**, sanitation, including **solid waste management**, efficient urban mobility and public transport, **affordable housing**, especially for the poor, robust IT connectivity and digitalization, good governance, especially e-Governance and citizen participation, sustainable environment, safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children and the elderly and health and education. **Hence, option D is correct.**

QUESTION 46:

Consider the following statements:

1. The Ayushman Bharat scheme has been designed to meet Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Cost of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana is fully borne by the Central Government.

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

- **Ayushman Bharat**, a flagship scheme of the Government of India, was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This initiative has been **designed to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and its underlying commitment, which is to “leave no one behind. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)** is the health assurance scheme under Ayushman Bharat. It aims at providing a health cover of ₹5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to poor and vulnerable families that form the bottom 40% of the Indian population.
 - PM-JAY is fully funded by the Government and cost of implementation is **shared between the Central and State Governments. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

QUESTION 47:

With reference to the Swamitva scheme, which of the following is correct?

- (a) It aims to guarantee tenancy rights to marginalised farmers.
- (b) It aims to make every farm household **independent**.
- (c) It aims to map rural inhabited lands using the latest survey methods.
- (d) It aims to provide patent rights to marginalised craftsmen.

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- The Swamitva scheme helps to **map rural inhabited lands using drones and latest survey methods**. The scheme will ensure streamlined planning, revenue collection and provide clarity over property rights in rural areas. **Hence, option C is correct.**
- This will open up avenues for applying for loans from financial institutions by the owners. Disputes related to property would also be settled through the title deeds allotted through this scheme.

QUESTION 48:

With reference to e-Sanjeevani, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. It is a web-based comprehensive telemedicine network.

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

- **e-Sanjeevani**, is a **web-based comprehensive telemedicine network**. 'eSanjeevani' extends the reach of specialized healthcare services to masses in both rural areas and isolated communities. Besides enhancing quality of medical services, addressing issues pertaining to uneven distribution and shortage of infrastructural as well as human resources, eSanjeevani also aims to make healthcare services equitable by bridging the digital divide that exists between the urban vs. rural, rich vs. poor etc. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- eSanjeevani, was launched by the **Ministry of Communications and Information Technology** under the Department of Information Technology. It caters to the need to have a telemedicine network in rural areas and how beneficial e-Sanjeevani can be in providing primary health care across the Indian region. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

QUESTION 49:

Which of the following are considered in measurement of The Human Development Index?

1. Life expectancy at birth
2. Means of years of schooling
3. Gross Development Index of a country

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- The **Human Development Index(HDI)** was created to emphasize that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone.
- The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: **a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable** and having a **decent standard of living**. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions.
- The **health dimension** is assessed by **life expectancy at birth**, the **education dimension** is measured by **means of years of schooling for adults aged 25 years and more** and expected years of schooling for children of school entering age. The **standard of living dimension** is measured by **Gross National Income(GNI) per capita (not GDP)**. **Hence, option C is correct.**

QUESTION 50:

With reference to Sikhism, consider the following statements:

1. Sikh Kirtans are rendered in the Raga and Tala of Indian classical music.
2. In the Guru Granth Sahib, the notation of Ragas of Classical music has been included.

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

- Sikhism is perhaps the only religion that uses music as its chief mode of worship, where poetic teachings of Gurus, composed in classical music, are used as prayer and offering.
- Using different styles, the Sikh Kirtans are rendered in the Raga and Tala of Indian classical music. This music is used as a direct means for formal worship. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In the Guru Granth Sahib, the notation of thirty-one Ragas of Classical music has been supplied with necessary particulars. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 51:

With reference to Prabandha-gana, consider the following statements:

1. Prabandha-gana was popular in North India only.
2. It gradually influenced the emergence of Hindustani and Carnatic music.

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

- In the southern part of India, Prabandha-gana was the popular performing genre that existed between the 11th to 16th centuries. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The word Prabandha, connotes a well-bound composition. Each Prabandha, it is said, was exhaustive and would take several years to master.
- It was the Prabandha tradition that gradually influenced the emergence of two associated, yet distinctive, styles of classical music that are now known as Hindustani and Carnatic music. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 52:

With reference to Khayal style of Hindustani music, consider the following statements:

1. The Khayal style is an offshoot of Dhrupad music.
2. This style developed during the reign of the Lodhi dynasty in Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- The development of Khayal style of Hindustani music appears around the time period of the 17th century CE. Historically, its popularity coincided with the breaking down of the Mughal empire and the rise of riti (romantic) poetry of Hindi literature. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Khayal style, which was an offshoot of its precursor classical music form called Dhrupad, particularly suited to the courtesans who preserved and served the classical music and dance to their customers in a rather mundane context. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

QUESTION 53:

With reference to Ragamala, which of the following is correct?

- (a) It is a distinct style of Hindustani music.
- (b) It is a miniature painting that depicts Ragas.
- (c) It is a music composition comprising all Ragas.
- (d) It is a distinct style of Carnatic music

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- Evolution of Ragamala (garland of musical modes) painting series started in medieval India. It was a **form of Indian miniature painting** that depicted various Indian musical modes or Ragas. **Hence, option B is correct.**
- Although, there exists some arbitrariness in the scenes of these paintings, as their depiction and the colourful palette may not match with the prescribed colour of a Raga, the way they are mentioned in the canonical texts of music, yet these paintings are considered to be an indulgent imagination and testimony of creativity of the Indian artistic tradition.

QUESTION 54:

In which of the following states Shamanism is celebrated?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Assam
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Manipur

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- Shamanism is prevalent among different tribes in **Arunachal Pradesh**. Every tribe in Arunachal Pradesh has its own kind of ritual expert for performing rites and sacrifices. In almost all the previous writings, the term (indigenous) priest or shaman is used for them. **Hence, option A is correct.**
- Shamanism is associated with traditional knowledge in the form of legends, myths, ritual incantations etc. of the tribes such as Tani. They are well-versed in ritual performance and knowledge and wisdom associated with it.

QUESTION 55:

With reference to traditional festivals and the states to which they belong, consider the following pairs:

1. Wangala-Meghalaya
2. Chapchar Kut-Mizoram
3. Solung-Arunachal Pradesh
4. Cheiraoba-Manipur

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- In Meghalaya, the Khasis celebrate Shad Suk Mynsiem, the Jaintias celebrate Behdienkhlam and the Garos celebrate **Wangala**. Hence, the pair 1 is correctly matched.
- In Mizoram on the other hand, all three festivals **Chapchar Kut**, Mim Kut and Pawl Kut-are related to agriculture, during which the Mizos perform **Cheraw**, the amazing bamboo dance. Hence, the pair 2 is correctly matched.
- In Arunachal Pradesh on the other hand, the Adi community celebrates **Solung**, the Apatanis celebrate Dree, the Nyishis celebrate Novum, the Galos celebrate Mopin and the Monpas celebrate Losar-all related to agriculture. Hence, the pair 3 is correctly matched.
- In Manipur, while **Cheiraoba** is the Manipuri New Year festival, Lai Haraoba is celebrated to appease the sylvan deity called Umanglai, Yaoshang is the wonderful week-long Holi festival and Rath Yatra, also called Kang Chingba, is a nine-day chariot festival dedicated to Lord Jagannath. Hence, the pair 4 is correctly matched.

QUESTION 56:

Rongkhli festival is a religious festival celebrated in which of the following states?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) West Bengal

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- Rongkhli or Tiger Festival is a religious festival celebrated by the people of Nongtalang village in the War-Jaintia region of **Meghalaya**. The War-Jaintias live on the slopes of the west Jaintia hills district bordering Bangladesh. Hence, option C is correct.
- Rong means festival and Khli means tiger, in the local dialect, hence Bengali means Tiger Festival. Tradition has it that whenever any person from the village catches a tiger or its feline like, rituals have to be performed.
- The people of Nongtalang worship two goddesses namely; Ka Pyrtuh and Ka Kapong. The Dorbar is then summoned by the Chief of the village and a date is decided for the Festival. The festival is mainly held in the month of January to March.

QUESTION 57:

Consider the following statements:

1. The muga silk is geographically tagged to Assam.
2. In Assam, mekhela-chador is commonly woven with cotton.

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

- In Assam, which has the highest number of handlooms in the country, non-tribal communities use the traditional throw-shuttle loom in the household set-up, with the fly-shuttle being used only in the commercial looms of Sualkuchi, the famous silk village near Guwahati.

- Assam traditional handloom industry has been basically silk-oriented, because the state is also home to the **unique muga or golden silk**, a variety of wild silk **geographically tagged to Assam**. In Assam commonly **mekhela-chador is woven from the golden muga** as well as from mulberry silk. **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

QUESTION 58:

Mohras a kind of memorial stones are mainly found in which of the following regions?

- (a) Jammu
- (b) Ladakh
- (c) Kashmir
- (d) Himachal Pradesh

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- Found all over **Jammu** region, memorial stones provide an insight into the ethnic character, customs, belief and practices of Dogras, who have a distinct identity, language and traditional mode of living. **Hence, option A is correct.**
- Despite continuous political instability in the area since ancient times, when it came to social mores the martial communities of Dogras adhered to a set of values with its emphasis on valour, honour and chivalry.
- Hero Warrior Stones are raised in honour of warriors. Locally called as **Mohras**, these memorial stones are Invariably found near a water source like ponds and the freshwater springs and especially in the post-17th century freshwater springs.

QUESTION 59:

Which of the following works are attributed to Amir Khusro?

1. The invention of the Sitar.
2. The invention of the Tabla.
3. Compositions of sawan geet.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- **Ameer Khusro** Dehlawi is an iconic figure in the cultural history of India. He was a musician, scholar and poet, a Sufi Mystic and Spiritual disciple of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya of Delhi.
- He enriched Hindustani classical music with Persian and Arabic elements, from which originated various styles in Hindustani Classical music, such as Khayal, Tarana, Savela, Chaturang. Trivat, Sadrah, Talan, Tilenana, Qaul, Qalbana, Naqsh o-gul. Naqsh-o-nigaar, Rang. Mandha, Dhamal, Sawan geet, etc.
- The **invention of the Tabla and Sitar** is also traditionally attributed to Amir Khusro, He wrote his poetic expressions in Hindavi. **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.**
- The traditional, authentic and real Sufi music based on Amir Khusro's poetry is a rare treasure of Dilli Gharana. **Some compositions of Ameer Khusro also find popular expression in the form of sawan geet. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 60:

With reference to cultural activities of Gujarat, consider the following statements:

1. Rathwani Gher dance is celebrated on the occasion of Janmashtami.
2. Rural sports are organised in Tarnetar fair.

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

- **Rathwani Gher dance** is celebrated on the **occasion of Holi** also known as Kavant festival, named after the place where the Holi carnival takes place. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Gher (dance with music) performances begin on Dhulendi, which is, literally, the day of flying colored dust'. This is the day when people smear each other with colour powder. The festivities last for five days during which the Rathwas observe fast and abstain from sleeping on cots, washing clothes and-bathing.
- **Tarnetar fair** is one of the biggest fairs in Gujarat. It is the most popular example for rural sports and exhibits of the most spectacular **human pyramid formations** for which participating contingents prepare all year round. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- While this trade fair celebrates the rural culture of the state, Gujarat also plays host to other states every year by organising the Sanskruti Kunj fair where crafts and art forms from across the country come and showcase their unique traditions, making Gujarat truly a culture that embraces diversity as a unifying force of culture.

QUESTION 61:

Consider the following statements:

1. Bhaona is a traditional dance drama based on Vaishnava traditions.
2. In Arunachal Pradesh only Mahayana school of buddhism is followed.

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

- Raas is a part of Neo-Vaishnav culture of Vaishnavite sect of Hinduism practised in Assam. It was started by the medieval saint Srimanta Sankardev. He used dance dramas to make the common people understand the glories of Lord Krishna as they were unable to understand the Hindu texts that were written in the Vraja language of North India.
- Raas Festival showcases **Bhaona, or traditional dance dramas** that depict tales from Vaishnava traditions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Majority of people in Assam, Tripura and the Imphal Valley of Manipur subscribe to different forms of Hinduism among which **Vaishnavism is the most prominent in Assam and Manipur.**

- Among major indigenous faiths are Donyi-Polo in Arunachal Pradesh and Niam-tre in Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh also has a significant presence of Mahayana school, while the Khamti, Buddhism: the Monpa, Sherdukpen. Memba and Khamba tribes follow the Singpho and Tangsa tribes follow the **Theravada school**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

QUESTION 62:

In which of the following states Nazhu Festival is celebrated?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- The Nazhu Festival of **Nagaland** merits attention as it continues to be observed by a small group of people who barely keep alive the ritualistic practices associated with the ancestral religion. **Hence, option A is correct.**
- The most symbolic and unique element common to all is heralding of Nazhu, with the erection of a bamboo totem Awuthrüu, that resembles a giant wind chime hung from a tall bamboo.

QUESTION 63:

With reference to categories of land mentioned in Chola inscriptions, which of the following statements are correct?

1. Vellanvagai were the lands of non-Brahmana peasant proprietors.
2. Shalabhoga were the lands for the **maintenance of schools**.
3. Brahmadeya were the land donated to Jaina institutions.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- **Chola inscriptions mention several categories of land.**
 - **Vellanvagai**-land of non-Brahmana peasant proprietors
 - **Brahmadeya**-land gifted to Brahmanas
 - **Shalabhoga**-land for the maintenance of schools
 - Devadana/Tirunamattukkani-land gifted to temples
 - Pallichchandam-land donated to Jaina institutions**Hence, option C is correct.**

QUESTION 64:

Consider the following statements:

1. The Natya Shastra is a comprehensive work mainly dealing with drama only.
2. Anibaddha sangeeta is not restricted by meaningful words and tala.

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 Natya Shastra is a comprehensive work mainly dealing with dramaturgy. But a few chapters of this deal with music.** Therein we get information on scales, melodic forms, tala and musical instruments. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Anibaddha sangeeta is one which is not restricted by meaningful words and tala.** It is a free improvisation. The finest form is the alap. Of the nibaddha variety, there are many.. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The earliest about which some knowledge is available is the prabandha giti. Indeed, prabandha is often used as a generic term to indicate any nibaddha song or musical composition.
- There are little evidence of these closed forms, except that they were set to definite ragas and talas. Of all known prabandhas those of Jayadeva are the best known. This poet lived in Bengal in the 12th century and composed his Gita Govinda, a Sanskrit work with songs and verses.

QUESTION 65:

With reference to Ganjifa, consider the following statements:

1. These artifacts are made of bamboo.
2. On these, intricate designs of Dashavatara are hand-painted.

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

- Ganjifa are handmade playing cards which were earlier used by the Royal family of Sawantwadi and have reached several museums all over the world now. These cards are made from circular pieces of paper on which **intricate designs of Dashavatara (Ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu) are hand-painted. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A set of Dashavatara Ganjifa consists of 120 cards. There are ten suits, each having 12 cards. The cards are **made from paper** that is covered with a mixture of tamarind seed powder and oil, painted and coated with lac. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Royal cards used to have decorative borders. The box made for keeping the set of cards is also specially designed with pictures and decorative motifs all round. Under the patronage of the Royal family of Sawantwadi, the Chitari community has preserved the dying art.

QUESTION 66:

Which of the following are Strategic Objectives of the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018?

1. Provisioning of broadband for rural areas only.
2. Improving India's rank in the ICT Development Index.
3. Enhancing India's contribution to Global Value Chains.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation

The National Communications Policy aims to accomplish the following Strategic Objectives by 2022:

- **Provisioning of Broadband for All (and not just rural areas).**
Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Creating 4 Million additional jobs in the Digital Communications sector
- Enhancing the contribution of the Digital Communications sector to 8% of India's GDP from ~ 6% in 2017.
- Ensuring Digital Sovereignty.
- **Propelling India to the Top 50 Nations in the ICT Development Index of ITU.**
- **Enhancing India's contribution to Global Value Chains.**
Hence, statement 2 and 3 are correct.

QUESTION 67:

With reference to e-platform Sahyog, consider the following statements:

1. It has been developed by ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research).
2. The platform has geo-located information on medical infrastructures.

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 Survey of India (SoI)**, the National mapping Agency (NMA) under Department of Science, has developed an e-platform called Sahyog that will collect geotagged information on the nation's critical infrastructure in order to help the Government and public health agencies take critical decisions in response to the current Covid-19 pandemic situation. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The platform has geo-located information of medical infrastructures** like hospitals, testing labs, quarantine camps, containment and buffer zones as well as information on biomedical waste disposal sites. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It also has mobile based application, works as a key tool in helping community workers carry out the government's objectives of door-to-door surveys, contact tracing, deliveries of essentials items and to create focused public awareness campaigns.

QUESTION 68:

Harris-Todaro model is related to which of the following?

- (a) Spike in Inflation
- (b) Disguised Unemployment

- (c) Labour Migration
- (d) Food Crisis

Answer: (c)

Explanation

Harris-Todaro model of migration (1970) shows how rural/agricultural labourers decide to migrate to urban/ industrial spaces when the expected wage rate in the urban industrial sector is significantly higher than their present wages in the rural sector. **Hence, option C is correct.**

QUESTION 69:

With reference to National Broadband Mission, consider the following statements:

1. Broadband initiatives under this mission are funded through Public Private Partnerships.
2. Under this mission JanWiFi aims to establish Wi-Fi Hotspots in urban areas.

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

- **National Broadband Mission** – Rashtriya Broadband Abhiyan aims to secure universal broadband access.
- Implementation of the broadband initiatives are to be funded through **Public Private Partnerships** and **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)** under this mission. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The broadband initiatives under this mission are
 - (i) **BharatNet** – Providing 1 Gbp To Gram Panchayats upgradeable to 10 Gbps
 - (ii) **GramNet** – Connecting all key rural development institutions with 10 Mbps upgradeable to 100 Mbps
 - (iii) **NagarNet** – Establishing 1 Million public Wi-Fi Hotspots in urban areas
 - (iv) **JanWiFi** – Establishing 2 Million Wi-Fi Hotspots in **rural (not urban) areas**

Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

QUESTION 70:

With reference to GOAL (Going Online As Leaders) programme, consider the following statements:

1. This programme has been launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
2. The programme is designed to provide mentorship through digital mode to tribal youth 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: (b)

Explanation

- The GOAL (Going Online As Leaders) programme of **the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** has been launched in partnership with Facebook. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- The programme is designed to provide mentorship to tribal youth through digital mode. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The digitally-enabled program envisages to act as a catalyst to explore hidden talents of the tribal youth, which will help in their personal development as well as contribute to all-round upliftment of their society.

QUESTION 71:

With reference to Blockchain technology, consider the following statements:

1. The blockchains are usually in the form of a continuous ledger of transactions.
2. The blockchains have decentralised nature of storage.

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

- Blockchain is a series of data linked together. Every single transaction is linked to the chain using cryptographic principles in batches, making blocks.
- The blocks are connected to each other and have unique identifier codes (called hashes) that connect them to the previous and the subsequent blocks.
- This forms a **blockchain, usually in the form of a continuous ledger of transactions**. It isn't owned by any one individual. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Blockchain series is managed and stored across several computer systems. Each ledger is shared, copied and stored on every computer connected in the system.
- The blockchains **have decentralised nature of storage** which provides better security. Since the data is stored on multiple systems, any person looking to change the details on one system will have to do it for every other system as well. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 72:

With reference to 'DRUVS' developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), which of the following is correct?

- (a) It is an anti tank missile.
- (b) It is a radar to detect stealth drones.
- (c) It is an ultraviolet sanitiser.
- (d) It is an indigenous developed ventilator.

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- Hyderabad-based Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) premier lab, Research Centre Imarat (RCI), has developed an **automated contactless UVC sanitisation cabinet, called Defence Research Ultraviolet Sanitiser (DRUVS)**. **Hence, option C is correct.**
- It has been designed to sanitise mobile phones, tablets, laptops, currency notes, cheque leaves, challans, passbooks, paper, envelopes, etc.

QUESTION 73:

Which of the following is aimed by the Kisan Sabha App?

1. Connecting farmers to the supply chain
2. Freight transportation management
3. Assembly of farmers growing the same crop

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- Kisan Sabha App has been developed by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI), New Delhi **to connect farmers to the supply chain and freight transportation management system. Hence, statement 1 and 2 are correct**
- The portal connects the farmers with transporters, Service providers (like pesticides/ fertilizer/ dealers, cold store and warehouse owner), mandi dealers, customers (like big retail outlets, online stores, institutional buyers) and other related entities for timely and effective solutions. It does not aim at the assembly of farmers growing the same crop. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

QUESTION 74:

With reference to SWAYAM programme, consider the following statements:

1. It provides for the online professional courses only.
2. SWAYAM credits are accepted by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

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

- **Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM)**, was launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to provide one integrated platform and portal for online courses.
- This covers all higher education subjects and skill sector courses(**not just professional courses**). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Academicians from hundreds of institutions throughout the country are involved in developing & delivering Massive open online courses (MOOCs) through SWAYAM in almost all disciplines from senior schooling to Post Graduation.
- The Ministry of Human Resource Development recently decided that University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) will follow up with Universities and institutions to accept SWAYAM credits. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 75:

Which of the following missions are included in the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018?

1. Connect India

2. Propel India
3. Secure India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

The National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 envisages three Missions:

- **Connect India:** Creating Robust Digital Communications Infrastructure To promote Broadband for All as a tool for socio-economic development, while ensuring service quality and environmental sustainability.
- **Propel India:** Enabling Next Generation Technologies and Services through Investments, Innovation and IPR generation To harness the power of emerging digital technologies, including 5G, AI, IoT, Cloud and Big Data to enable provision of future ready products and services; and to catalyse the fourth industrial revolution (Industry 4.0) by promoting Investments, Innovation and IPR.
- **Secure India:** Ensuring Sovereignty, Safety and Security of Digital Communications To secure the interests of citizens and safeguard the digital sovereignty of India with a focus on ensuring individual autonomy and choice, data ownership, privacy and security; while recognizing data as a crucial economic resource.

Hence, option D is correct.

QUESTION 76:

With reference to the Silicosis, consider the following statements:

1. Silicosis is a form of occupational lung disease caused by inhalation of silica dust.
2. Silica is a tiny crystal found in sand, rock and mineral ores like Quartz, Feldspar and Mica.
3. Recently, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) developed a stone dust precipitator system that can suck maximum dust particles and prevent exposure to silica dust.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- **Silicosis:** Silicosis is a form of occupational lung disease caused by inhalation of crystalline silica dust. It is marked by inflammation and scarring in the form of nodular lesions in the upper lobes of the lungs.
 - The lung disease occurs due to exposure to stone dust like silica among workers who do not use any protective gear. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Silica is a **tiny crystal found in sand, rock and mineral ores like quartz, feldspar, mica, amphibole, pyroxene, and olivine.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Dust Precipitator System** – The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-**Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-CEERI), Pilani** has developed a stone dust precipitator system that can help stone workers. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

- **Mechanism:** The precipitator can suck maximum dust particles and separates them from the air and finally dissolves it in water. The sediment of this stone dust is drained through the drain pot from time to time. The stone dust can then be reused.
 - It has a self-filter cleaning technique that makes it suitable for non-technical persons also and it is based on the power-saving technique.
 - During stone carving, the production of PM 2.5 and PM 10 is very high. **PM 2.5 is mainly responsible for silicosis.**
 - Hence, It can also help in preventing pollution and exposure.
- **Prevalence:** In India, the prevalence of silicosis ranges widely from 3.5% in **ordnance factory** to about 55% in the **slate-pencil industry**.
 - It is prevalent in **Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Pondicherry, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and West Bengal** among the workers of **construction and mining**.
- **Cure:** Silicosis is an **incurable condition** with its potential to cause permanent physical disability.
 - As there is no effective specific treatment of silicosis. The only available way to protect workers' health is control of exposure to silica-containing dust.

QUESTION 77:

Consider the following statements:

1. Fusarium of bananas is a viral disease caused by Fusarium oxysporum.
2. India is the world's highest banana producing country followed by China.
3. The disease can not be eliminated from the soil by any chemical treatment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- **Fusarium of banana** is a disease caused by the **soil-borne fungus Fusarium oxysporum**. It is also known as the **Tropical Race 4**.
 - The different strains of the fungus (around 35 different reported so far) are grouped into 4 main 'races' based on their vegetative compatibility. Races one, two and three affect relatively small number of banana cultivars. Race 4 can infect most varieties, but is known predominantly for attacking Cavendish, the most widely cultivated variety in the world
- It has destroyed banana plantation in Southeast Asia for 30 years.
- Tropical Race 4 has now attacked India, but most farmers are not aware of its presence. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **India** is the **world's highest banana producing** country followed by China, the Philippines and Ecuador. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Production In India:** In India, it is widely grown in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Banana Diseases:** Until the 1950s, the most commonly exported banana variety was the **Gros Michel**, which was almost totally wiped out.
 - The modern export banana – the **Cavendish** – took Gros Michel's place because it was **resistant to that early Fusarium strain. Now 99% of all exported bananas are Cavendish.**
 - This deadly fungus is very hard to get rid off. It can stay in the soil for years infecting the banana plants by **starving them of nourishment.**

- Till date, **no fungicide has been found effective against it.**
- It **can not be eliminated from the soil** by any chemical treatment. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- A devastating and costly **fungal leaf disease, Black Sigatoka** is **also a major cause of concern.**
The disease can not be eliminated from the soil by any chemical treatment.
- **Solutions:** A possible solution is to start cropping a **hybrid (genetically modified)** of **Cavendish bananas**. But, a significant result may take more time than expected.
- The dependence on one crop is the reason for the crisis hence diversification in banana varieties can be a sustainable solution. But it requires a large scale restructuring of the whole system.

QUESTION 78:

With regard to the Acute flaccid myelitis (AFM), which of the following statements is **not** correct:

- (a) Acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) is a rare disease that affects the spinal cord.
- (b) Symptoms are similar to other diseases, such as Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) and Polio.
- (c) AFM develops both in children and adults.
- (d) Recently, a vaccine has been developed against it.

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- Acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) is a **rare disease** that affects the **spinal cord**, the part of the nervous system that carries messages to and from the brain.
- **Cause:** The causative agent is still unknown.
- **Symptoms:** Sudden (acute) weakness in the arms or legs. AFM can affect the nervous system, causing facial weakness, drooping of the eyelids, and difficulty swallowing and speaking.
 - The most serious complication of AFM is respiratory failure if the muscles involved with breathing become weakened.
 - **Most cases of AFM have been in children, but it can develop in adults.**
 - Many times symptoms of AFM develop after a viral infection, such as poliovirus, West Nile virus, and adenovirus.
 - AFM can be difficult to diagnose because the symptoms are similar to other neurological diseases, such as Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS), acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM), and transverse myelitis.
- **Prevention and Treatment:** There's **no vaccine** for AFM and **no sure way to prevent it.**
 - But, a child's chances of getting a virus that might trigger can be minimised by getting them vaccinated against polio and minimize exposure to mosquitoes.

Therefore, option (D) is the correct answer.

QUESTION 79:

Consider the following statements about 'Shifa Care':

1. 'Shifa Care' app is a multi-lingual, multi-user platform for advanced healthcare.
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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

'Shifa Care' app

- 'Shifa Care' app is a **multi-lingual, multi-user platform for advanced healthcare**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It was launched in India by **Shifa International**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- It is a platform to provide healthcare services and solutions to patients at their homes from a doctor of their choice, in a language and time preferred by them.
- Shifa Care ecosystem utilises AI (artificial intelligence), epidemiology and genetic sequence.
- The objective is to bring a paradigm shift in the healthcare segment from providing reactive care to preventive care.

QUESTION 80:

Consider the following statements about Cryptography:

1. Cryptography is a technique of securing information and communications through the use of codes.
2. Cryptocurrency is a digital currency that uses cryptography for security and is generally based on blockchain technology.

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

- Cryptography involves creating written or generated codes that allow information to be kept secret. Cryptography converts data into a format that is unreadable for an unauthorized user, allowing it to be transmitted without unauthorized entities decoding it back into a readable format, thus compromising the data.
- Information security uses cryptography on several levels. The information cannot be read without a key to decrypt it. The information maintains its integrity during transit and while being stored. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Cryptography also aids in nonrepudiation. This means that the sender and the delivery of a message can be verified. A **cryptocurrency** is a digital currency that uses **cryptography for security** and is generally **based on blockchain technology**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 81:

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

List I

1. Neils Bohr

2. Har Gobind Khorana

3. Albert Einstein

4. Osamu Shimomura

List II

: Radioactivity

: Protein Synthesis

: Gravitational Waves

: Green Fluorescent Protein

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 4 only

- (c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- **Niels Bohr:** He was a 20th century Danish physicist who was the first to apply the **quantum concept**, which restricts the energy of a system to certain discrete values, to the problem of atomic and molecular structure. For that work he received the **Nobel Prize for Physics in 1922**.
 - **Ernest Rutherford** was the central figure in the study of **radioactivity** who led the exploration of nuclear physics. He was the **first to split the atom** and was awarded the **1908 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** for his theory of atomic structure. He is known as the '**Father of the Nuclear Age**'. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Har Gobind Khorana:** He was an Indian-American biochemist known for his **construction of the first synthetic gene** and renowned **research in nucleic acids** and **proteins**.
 - Khorana's work uncovered **how a DNA's genetic code determines protein synthesis** – which dictates how a cell functions.
 - That discovery earned Khorana, along with two colleagues, the **1968 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** 'for their interpretation of the genetic code and its function in protein synthesis.' **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched**
- **Albert Einstein:** Einstein predicted that something special happens when two bodies-such as planets or stars-orbit each other. He believed that this kind of movement could cause ripples in space. Scientists call these ripples **gravitational waves**.
 - In **2015**, scientists detected gravitational waves for the very first time. They used a very sensitive instrument called **LIGO** (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory). These first gravitational waves happened when two black holes crashed into one another. Einstein was proved right. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched**
- **Osamu Shimomura:** He shared the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2008** for his identification of the **Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP)**, a naturally occurring substance in the jellyfish **Aequorea victoria** that is used as a tool to make visible the actions of certain cells.
 - The visual signal that GFP provides allows scientists to probe protein activity, such as when and where proteins are produced and how different proteins or parts of proteins move and approach each other within a cell. **Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched**

QUESTION 82:

Consider the following statements about the Advanced Security Ink:

1. It was developed by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
2. The Ink is based on the principle of the fluorescence-phosphorescence technique.

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

Advanced Security Ink

- **CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL)** in New Delhi has come up with a security ink-which can prevent duplication of printable documents (ex. passports) and **counterfeiting of currency notes**.

- The currency notes are embedded with about 10 security features, including a three-dimensional watermark, micro lettering, security threads and colour shift pattern. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The ink utilises the **principle of the fluorescence-phosphorescence** technique, which **emits two colours on the excitation of a single wavelength**.
- The two colours are red and green – red at 611 nanometre (nm) is due to fluorescence, and the green at 532 nm is from the phosphorescence effect. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Change of Pigment Colour:** The advanced security feature of the ink comes from its change of pigment colour. **Currently, the currency notes display only a single colour with the emission of wavelength.**
- The technique of dual emissive luminescent pigment for security purposes is the **first-of-its-kind** and never used for printing of notes or confidential documents.

QUESTION 83:

Consider the following statements about the Danakil Depression:

1. It is located in the Atacama desert.
2. It is one of the hottest, driest, and lowest places on Earth.
3. In the hot springs and hydrothermal pools of the depression, chemolithotrophs are also found.
4. Depression is important for the study of human evolution as Australopithecus fossils were found here.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

Danakil Depression

- **Location and Area:** The Danakil Depression is the northern part of the **Afar Triangle**, a **geological depression** caused by the **Afar Triple Junction**: a place where three tectonic plates join.
 - The Depression overlaps the borders of **Eritrea, Djibouti** and the entire Afar Region of **Ethiopia**. It is part of the great **East African Rift Valley** (see map).
 - Here the tectonic plates (**Arabian, Somali and Nubian plates**) are moving apart along three deep rifts at a rate of 1-2 cm per year. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ A rift valley is where the Earth's tectonic plates move apart, creating a new crust and generally dominated by chains of small volcanoes.
- **Climate:** It is one of the hottest, driest, and lowest places on Earth and average **rainfall** is 100-200 mm per year and it is also **one of the lowest places** on the planet (**125 m** below sea level).
 - Combined, these factors make it one of the most inhospitable environments in the world. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- There are volcanoes dotted with lava lakes, multi-coloured hydrothermal fields, and great salt pans. The many colours are caused by sulphur and potassium salts
 - The salt deposits were created when water from the **Red Sea flooded the area** and then evaporated. The most recent flood was roughly 30,000 years ago
- The **lava lake** in the active volcano **Erta Ale**, one of only 6 lava lakes on Earth is located here.
- The **Dallol volcano's** hydrothermal fields make a multi-coloured scene made up of salt deposits, hot springs and miniature geysers.'

- Chemolithotrophs (extremophiles) are also found in the hot springs and hydrothermal pools.
 - Chemotrophs are organisms that obtain energy by the oxidation of electron donors in their environments. In chemolithotrophs, the compounds – the electron donors – are oxidized in the cell, and the electrons are channeled into respiratory chains, ultimately producing ATP. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- In 1974, Donald Johanson found the celebrated *Australopithecus fossil* known as “Lucy” in the region.
 - Many other **fossils of ancient hominins** have been uncovered here, prompting some palaeontologists to propose that this area is where our species first evolved. As a result, it is often referred to as the “cradle of humanity”. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**



QUESTION 84:

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

1. Its Conventions are legally binding on the ratifying member states.
2. Ratifying countries undertake to apply the Convention in national law and report on its application at regular intervals.

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 labour standards are legal instruments drawn up by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) constituents (governments, employers and workers) and setting out basic principles and rights at work.
- They are either Conventions (or Protocols), **which are legally binding international treaties that may be ratified by member states. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In many cases, a Convention lays down the basic principles to be implemented by ratifying countries, while a related Recommendation supplements the Convention by providing more detailed guidelines on how it could be applied.
- Representation and complaint procedures can be initiated against countries for violations of a Convention that they have ratified.
- **Conventions and Recommendations are drawn up by representatives of governments, employers and workers** and are adopted at the annual International Labour Conference.
- Ratifying countries undertake to apply the Convention in national law and practice and to report on its application at regular intervals. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

QUESTION 85:

With reference to Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority, consider the following statements:

1. The National CAMPA Advisory Council **has been established** by executive order.
2. It promotes afforestation activities as a **way of compensating for forest land diverted to non-forest uses.**

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

- Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) are meant to promote afforestation and regeneration activities **as a way of compensating for forest land diverted to non-forest uses. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **National CAMPA Advisory Council has been established as per orders of The Hon'ble Supreme Court with the following mandate:**
 - Lay down broad guidelines for State CAMPA.
 - Facilitate scientific, technological and other assistance that may be required by State CAMPA.
 - Make recommendations to State CAMPA based on a review of their plans and programmes.
 - Provide a mechanism to State CAMPA to resolve issues of an inter-state or Centre-State character.
 - **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

QUESTION 86:

With reference to the list of items under The Essential Commodities Act, (ECA) 1955, consider the following statements:

1. The list of items under the Act includes fertilisers and edible oils.
2. Only the state governments have the power to include new commodities

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- **The Essential Commodities Act, (ECA) 1955** provides for the control of production, supply, distribution, trade and commerce in any farm deemed “essential” and “in the interest of the general public”.
- The list of items under the Act includes drugs, fertilisers, pulses and edible oils, and petroleum and petroleum products. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **The Centre under the Act has the power to include new commodities** as and when the need arises, and can take them off the list once the situation improves (in view of public interest). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Once a notification is issued, anybody trading or dealing in a commodity, be it wholesalers, retailers or even importers are prevented from stockpiling it beyond a certain quantity.
- It protects consumers against irrational spikes in prices of essential commodities. The Government has invoked the Act numerous times to ensure adequate supplies. It cracks down on hoarders and black-marketers of such commodities.

QUESTION 87:

With reference to the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA), consider the following statements:

1. It empowers the Gram sabha for mandatory consultation in land acquisitions.
2. It empowers the Gram Sabha to prevent land alienation and restore alienated land.

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 Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996” (PESA) empowers Gram Sabha/ Panchayat at appropriate level with

- (i) Right to **mandatory consultation in land acquisition**, resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced persons. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- (ii) Panchayat at an appropriate level is entrusted with planning and management of minor water bodies.

- (iii) Mandatory recommendations by Gram Sabha or Panchayat at appropriate level for prospective licenses/lease for mines and concession for the exploitation of minor minerals.
- (iv) Regulate sale/consumption of intoxicants.
- (v) Ownership of minor forest produce.
- (vi) Prevent land alienation and restore alienated land. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- (vii) Manage village markets.
- (viii) Control over money lending to STs.
- (ix) Control over institutions and functionaries in social sector, local plans including Tribal sub plans and resources.

QUESTION 88:

Which of the following mammals are found in Dibru-Saikhowa National Park?

1. Elephant
2. Tiger
3. Rhinoceros
4. Leopard

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation

- **Dibru-Saikhowa** is a National Park as well as a Biosphere Reserve having an area of 340 sq. kms. in Tinsukia district.
- An unique habitat endemic to Dibru-Saikhowa only, a habitat which has undergone radical transformation after the great earthquake of 1950. The migratory birds are a major attraction.
- 36 species of mammals have so far been recorded – **Tiger, Elephant, Leopard**, Jungle Cat, Bears, Small Indian Civet, Squirrels, Gangetic Dolphin, Slow Loris, Assamese Macaque, Rhesus Macaque, Capped Langur, Hoolock Gibbon, Wild Pigs, Sambar, Barking Deer, Water Buffalo, Feral Horses etc.
- Rhinoceros are not found in this national park. **Hence, option A is correct.**

QUESTION 89:

With reference to pollution by sulphur dioxide, which of the following are correct?

1. Its largest source is the burning of fossil fuels.
2. It also contributes to particulate matter (PM) pollution.
3. It damages foliage and decreases growth in plants.
4. It can contribute to acid rain.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- **The largest source of pollution by sulphur dioxide is the burning of fossil fuels by power plants and other industrial facilities. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Smaller sources of SO₂ emissions include: industrial processes such as extracting metal from ore; natural sources such as volcanoes; and locomotives, ships and other vehicles and heavy equipment that burn fuel with a high sulfur content.
- SO₂ emissions that lead to high concentrations of SO₂ in the air generally also lead to the formation of other sulfur oxides (SO_x). SO_x can react with other compounds in the atmosphere to form small particles. **These particles contribute to particulate matter (PM) pollution. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- At high concentrations, gaseous SO_x can harm trees and plants by **damaging foliage and decreasing growth. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- SO₂ and other sulfur oxides can contribute to acid rain which can harm sensitive ecosystems. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

QUESTION 90:

With reference to Biopesticides, consider the following statements:

1. They can be derived from animals as well as plants.
2. *Bacillus thuringiensis* are biopesticides.

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

- Biopesticides are certain types of pesticides **derived from such natural materials as animals, plants, bacteria, and certain minerals**. For example, canola oil and baking soda have pesticidal applications and are considered biopesticides. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The most widely used microbial pesticides are subspecies and strains of ***Bacillus thuringiensis***, or Bt. Each strain of this bacterium produces a different mix of proteins and specifically kills one or a few related species of insect larvae. Bt ingredients control moth larvae found on plants, other Bt ingredients are specific for larvae of flies and mosquitoes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Plant-Incorporated-Protectants (PIPs) are pesticidal substances that plants produce from genetic material that has been added to the plant. For example, scientists can take the gene for the Bt pesticidal protein and introduce the gene into the plant's own genetic material. Then the plant, instead of the Bt bacterium, manufactures the substance that destroys the pest.

QUESTION 91:

With reference to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. Preamble of the constitution is enforceable in the court of law.
2. Preamble is amendable but no amendment should be made which takes away the basic features.
3. Preamble is considered to be the source of power to the legislature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- (c) 2 only
- (d) 3 only

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- The Preamble embodies the basic philosophy and fundamental values— political, moral and religious— on which the Constitution is based.
- It contains the grand and noble vision of the Constituent Assembly, and reflects the dreams and aspirations of the founding fathers of the Constitution.
- It is non-justiciable, that is, its provisions are not enforceable in courts of law. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- Berubari Union (1960): Preamble can be amended, subject to the condition that no amendment is done to the 'basic features'. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Preamble is neither a source of power to legislature nor a prohibition upon the powers of the legislature. **Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.**

QUESTION 92:

Regarding the Parliament's power to reorganise the states and UTs, consider the following statements:

1. A bill to alter the boundaries of any state can be introduced in the Parliament only after getting prior recommendation of the Governor of that state.
2. In case of union territories, it is not required to ascertain the views of the concerned legislature.
3. Laws regarding the reorganisation of any states and UTs need to be passed by a majority and by the ordinary legislative process, not through a constitutional amendment Act.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation

- A bill contemplating the changes to reorganise the state can be introduced in the Parliament only with the prior recommendation of the President. A Governor's recommendation is not necessary. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- Before recommending the bill, the President has to refer the same to the state legislature concerned for expressing its views within a specified period.
- The President (or Parliament) is not bound by the views of the state legislature and may either accept or reject them, even if the views are received in time. Further, it is not necessary to make a fresh reference to the state legislature every time an amendment to the bill is moved and accepted in Parliament.
- In case of a union territory, no reference has to be made to the concerned legislature to ascertain its views and the Parliament can itself take any action as it deems fit. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Moreover, the Constitution (Article 4) declares that laws made for admission or establishment of new states (under Article 2) and formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states (under Articles 3) are not to be considered as amendments of the Constitution under Article 368. This means that such laws can be passed by a simple majority and by the ordinary legislative process. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 93:

With reference to Fundamental Rights, consider the following statements:

1. Fundamental Rights provide provisions which prohibit discrimination both by the state and the private individuals.
2. Fundamental Rights ban the use of hereditary titles.
3. Fundamental Rights provide the right to demonstration or picketing but not the right to strike.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- Article 15 provides that the State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.
- The second provision of Article 15 says that no citizen shall be subjected to any disability, liability, restriction or condition on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth with regard to
 - access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment; or
 - the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly by State funds or dedicated to the use of general public.
- This provision prohibits discrimination both by the State and private individuals, while the former provision prohibits discrimination only by the State. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Article 18 abolishes titles & Hereditary titles of nobility like Maharaja, Raj Bahadur, Rai Bahadur, Rai Saheb, Dewan Bahadur, etc, which were conferred by colonial States are banned by Article 18 as these are against the principle of equal status of all. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Article 19 guarantees to all citizens the six rights. These are: (i) Right to freedom of speech and expression. (ii) Right to assemble peaceably and without arms. (iii) Right to form associations or unions or co-operative societies. (iv) Right to move freely throughout the territory of India. (v) Right to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India. (vi) Right to practice any profession or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.
- Freedom of Speech and Expression: Implies that every citizen has the right to express his views, opinions, belief and convictions freely by word of mouth, writing, printing, picturing or in any other manner.
 - Freedom of Speech and Expression provides: (a) Right to propagate one's views as well as views of others. (b) Freedom of the press. (c) Freedom of commercial advertisements. (d) Right against tapping of telephonic conversation. (e) Right to telecast, that is, the government has no monopoly on electronic media. (f) Right against bandh called by a political party or organisation. (g) Right to know about government activities. (h) Freedom of silence. (i) Right against imposition of pre-censorship on a newspaper. (j) Right to demonstration or picketing but not right to strike. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

QUESTION 94:

In which of the following case the Supreme Court ruled that Article 21 only provides protection against arbitrary executive action, not from arbitrary legislative action?

- (a) Maneka Gandhi Case (1978)
- (b) Gopalan Case (1950)

(c) Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973)

(d) Mandal Case (1992)

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- Article 13 declares that a constitutional amendment is not a law and hence cannot be challenged. However, the Supreme Court held in the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) that a Constitutional amendment can be challenged on the ground that it violates a fundamental right that forms a part of the 'basic structure' of the Constitution and hence, can be declared as void.
- In the famous Mandal case (1992), the scope and extent of Article 16(4), which provides for reservation of jobs in favour of backward classes, has been examined thoroughly by the Supreme Court. Though the Court has rejected the additional reservation of 10% for poorer sections of general category citizens, it upheld the constitutional validity of 27% reservation for the OBCs with certain conditions.
- In the famous Gopalan case (1950), the Supreme Court has taken a narrow interpretation of Article 21. It held that the protection under Article 21 is available only against arbitrary executive action and not from arbitrary legislative action. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- But, in the Menaka case (1978), the Supreme Court overruled its judgement in the Gopalan case by taking a wider interpretation of Article 21. It ruled that the right to life and personal liberty of a person can be deprived by a law provided the procedure prescribed by that law is reasonable, fair and just.
- Further, the court held that the 'right to life' as embodied in Article 21 is not merely confined to animal existence or survival but it includes within its ambit the right to live with human dignity and all those aspects of life which go to make a man's life meaningful, complete and worth living.

QUESTION 95:

Consider the following statements:

1. Writs can only be issued by the Supreme Court of India.
2. The Supreme Court can issue writs for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights and ordinary legal rights.
3. Both the Supreme Court and the High Court may refuse to exercise its writ jurisdiction.

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

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- The Supreme Court (under Article 32) and the High Courts (under Article 226) can issue the writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and quo warranto.
- Further, the Parliament (under Article 32) can empower any other court to issue these writs. Since no such provision has been made so far, only the Supreme Court and the high courts can issue the writs and not any other court. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- Before 1950, only the High Courts of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras had the power to issue the writs. Article 226 now empowers all the high courts to issue the writs.
- These writs are borrowed from English law where they are known as 'prerogative writs'. They are so called in England as they were issued in the exercise of the prerogative of the King who was, and is still, described as the 'fountain of justice'.

- The writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court differs from that of a high court in three respects:
 - The Supreme Court can issue writs only for the enforcement of fundamental rights whereas a high court can issue writs not only for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights but also for ordinary legal rights. Thus, the writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is narrower than that of the high court. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
 - The Supreme Court can issue writs against a person or government throughout the territory of India whereas a high court can issue writs against a person residing or against a government or authority located within its territorial jurisdiction only or outside its territorial jurisdiction, only if the cause of action arises within its territorial jurisdiction. Thus, the territorial jurisdiction of the Supreme Court for the purpose of issuing writs is wider than that of a high court.
 - A remedy under Article 32 is in itself a Fundamental Right and hence, the Supreme Court may not refuse to exercise its writ jurisdiction. On the other hand, a remedy under Article 226 is discretionary and hence, a high court may refuse to exercise its writ jurisdiction. Article 32 does not merely confer power on the Supreme Court as Article 226 does on a high court to issue writs for the enforcement of fundamental rights or other rights as part of its general jurisdiction. The Supreme Court is thus constituted as a defender and guarantor of the fundamental rights. **Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.**

QUESTION 96:

Consider the following features of the American political system:

1. American president is both head of state and head of the government.
2. 'Kitchen Cabinet' is only advisory in nature.
3. President and his secretaries are not responsible to the congress for their acts.
4. The Doctrine of Separation of Powers is the basis of the American Presidential system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

- The American President is both the head of the State and the head of government. As the head of State, he occupies a ceremonial position. As the head of government, he leads the executive organ of government. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The President is elected by an electoral college for a fixed tenure of four years. He cannot be removed by the Congress except by impeachment for a grave unconstitutional act.
- The President governs with the help of a cabinet or a smaller body called 'Kitchen Cabinet'. It is only an advisory body and consists of non-elected departmental secretaries. They are selected and appointed by him, and are responsible only to him, they can be removed by him any time. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The President and his secretaries are not responsible to the Congress for their acts. They neither possess membership in the Congress nor attend its Sessions. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- The President cannot dissolve the House of Representatives – the lower house of the Congress.
- The doctrine of separation of powers is the basis of the American presidential system. The legislative, executive and judicial powers of the government are separated and vested in the three independent organs of the government. **Hence, Statement 4 is correct.**

QUESTION 97:

How are the Fundamental rights different from Directive principles?

1. Fundamental Rights establishes political democracy whereas Directive Principles aims to establish social democracy only.
2. Fundamental Rights promote the welfare of the community whereas Directive Principles promote the welfare of the individual.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation

Fundamental rights	Directive Principles
1. These are negative as they prohibit the State from doing certain things	1. These are positive as they require the State to do certain things
2. These are justiciable, that is, they are legally enforceable by the courts in case of their violation	2. These are non-justiciable, that is, they are not legally enforceable by the courts for their violation.
3. They aim at establishing political democracy in the country	3. They aim at establishing social and economic democracy in the country
4. These have legal sanctions.	4. These have moral and political sanctions
5. They promote the welfare of the individual. Hence, they are personal and individualistic	5. They promote the welfare of the community. Hence, they are sociitarian and socialistic
6. They do not require any legislation for their implementation. They are automatically enforced.	6. They require legislation for their implementation. They are not automatically enforced
7. The courts are bound to declare a law violative of any of the Fundamental Rights as unconstitutional and invalid.	7. The courts cannot declare a law violative of any of the Directive Principles as unconstitutional and invalid. However, they can uphold the validity of a law on the ground that it was enacted to give effect to a directive principle.

- Difference number (3). **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- Difference number (5). **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**

QUESTION 98:

Consider the following statements:

1. Any member of the Council of Ministers headed can be removed by the Lok Sabha by passing a privilege motion.
2. Only the council of ministers can advise the President to dissolve the Lok Sabha before the expiry of its term.

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

- **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. The principle of collective responsibility implies that the Lok Sabha can remove the ministry (i.e., council of ministers headed by the prime minister) from office by passing a vote of no confidence. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- **Dissolution of the Lower House:** The lower house of the Parliament (Lok Sabha) can be dissolved by the President on recommendation of the Prime Minister. In other words, the Prime Minister can advise the President to dissolve the Lok Sabha before the expiry of its term and hold fresh elections. This means that the executive enjoys the right to get the legislature dissolved in a parliamentary system. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**

QUESTION 99:

Which of the following statements are correct about the Finance Commission?

1. The Finance Commission is a quasi-judicial body.
2. The Finance Commission consists of a chairman and four other members who are appointed by the President.
3. The Chairman and members of the Finance Commission are eligible for reappointment.

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

- Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi judicial body. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Finance Commission consists of a chairman and four other members to be appointed by the President. They hold office for such a period as specified by the President in his order. They are eligible for reappointment. **Hence, statement 2 and 3 are correct.**
- The recommendations made by the Finance Commission are only of advisory nature and hence, not binding on the government. It is up to the Union government to implement its recommendations

QUESTION 100:

Consider the following statements regarding Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG):

1. The CAG is appointed by the Cabinet Committee on Appointments.
2. The CAG holds office for a period of six years or upto the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
3. The CAG is eligible for further office, either under the Government of India or of any State.
4. The salary and other service conditions are determined by the President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b)

Explanation

- The Constitution has made the following provisions to safeguard and ensure the independence of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG):
 - He is provided with security of tenure. He can be removed by the President only in accordance with the procedure mentioned in the Constitution. Thus, he does not hold his office till the pleasure of the President, though he is appointed by him. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
 - He is not eligible for further office, either under the Government of India or of any State, after he ceases to hold his office. **Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.**
 - His salary and other service conditions are determined by the Parliament. His salary is equal to that of a judge of the Supreme Court. **Hence, statement 4 is NOT correct.**
 - Neither his salary nor his rights in respect of leave of absence, pension or age of retirement can be altered to his disadvantage after his appointment.
 - The conditions of service of persons serving in the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and the administrative powers of the CAG are prescribed by the President after consultation with the CAG.
 - The administrative expenses of the office of the CAG, including all salaries, allowances and pensions of persons serving in that office are charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India. Thus, they are not subject to the vote of Parliament.
 - He holds office for a period of six years or upto the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**