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Detailed Explanation

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1. Ans: C

Exp:

Historical Background of Ombudsman:

- In 1809, the institution of ombudsman was inaugurated officially in Sweden. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In the 20th century, the Ombudsman as an institution developed and grew most significantly after the Second World War (1939-45).
 - ◆ In 1967, on the recommendations of the Whyatt Report of 1961, **Great Britain adopted the institution of the ombudsman and became the first large nation** in the democratic world to have such a system. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- In India, the concept of constitutional ombudsman was first proposed by the then law minister Ashok Kumar Sen in parliament in the early 1960s.
 - ◆ The terms Lokpal and Lokayukta were **coined by Dr. L. M. Singhvi. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ They perform the function of an “ombudsman” and inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for related matters.

2. Ans: A

Exp:

Lokpal and Lokayuktas:

- The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 provided for the establishment of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for States.
 - ◆ These institutions are **statutory bodies without any constitutional status. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- They perform the function of an “ombudsman” and inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for related matters.
- The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 provides for establishing a **Lokpal headed by a Chairperson**, who is or has been a **Chief Justice of India**, or is or **has been a judge of the Supreme Court**, or an **eminent person who fulfills eligibility criteria** as specified. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Of its other members, not exceeding eight, 50% are to be judicial members, provided that not less than 50% belong to the SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities, or are women.
- The Lokpal was appointed in March 2019 and it started functioning since March 2020 when its rules were framed. The Lokpal is at present headed by former Supreme Court Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose.

3. Ans: C

Exp:

University Grants Commission (UGC)

- It came into existence on 28th December, 1953 but became a statutory organization of the Government of India by the UGC Act, 1956, under the Ministry of Education. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- **The UGC’s mandate includes:**
 - ◆ Promoting and coordinating university education.
 - ◆ Determining and maintaining standards of teaching, examination and research in universities.
 - ◆ Framing regulations on minimum standards of education.
 - ◆ Monitoring developments in the field of collegiate and university education; disbursing grants to the universities and colleges.
 - ◆ Serving as a vital link between the Union and state governments and institutions of higher learning. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Advising the Central and State governments on the measures necessary for improvement of university.

4. Ans: A

Exp:

- Recently, the Central government has released the **Central Media Accreditation Guidelines-2022.**
- **Provisions to Withdraw/Suspend Accreditation:**
 - ◆ If a journalist acts in a manner prejudicial to the country’s security, sovereignty and integrity, friendly relations with foreign States, public order or is charged with a serious cognisable offence. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ If actions are **prejudicial to decency, or morality**, or in relation to **contempt of court, defamation** or incitement to an offence.
 - **Accredited media persons** have been prohibited from using the words “**Accredited to the government of India**” on public/social media profile, visiting cards, letter heads or on any other form or any published work.
- **Provisions for Granting Accreditation:**
 - ◆ Accreditation is **only available for journalists living in the Delhi NCR region.** There are multiple categories.

- ◆ A journalist needs to have a minimum five years' professional experience as a full-time working journalist or a cameraperson in a news organisation, or a minimum of 15 years as a freelancer to become eligible.
 - Veteran journalists, with over 30 years of experience, and who are older than 65 years of age, too are eligible.
- ◆ A newspaper or a periodical needs to have a minimum daily circulation of 10,000, and news agencies must have at least 100 subscribers. Similar rules apply for foreign news organisations and foreign journalists.
- ◆ Journalists working with digital news platforms are also eligible, provided the website has a minimum of 10 lakh unique visitors per month.
- ◆ **No accreditation will be granted to freelance journalists working for foreign news media organisations. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

5. Ans: D

Exp:

Commonwealth of Nations

- It is an international intergovernmental organization of countries that were **mostly former territories of the British Empire and dependencies**.
- It was established by the **London Declaration** in 1949. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Queen Elizabeth II** is the head of the Commonwealth. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The current membership includes 54 Countries. The membership is based on **free and equal voluntary co-operation**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is home to 2.5 billion people, and includes both advanced economies and developing countries.
- The last country to join the Commonwealth was **Rwanda** in 2009.
- The **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting** is a **biennial summit** meeting of the heads of government from all Commonwealth nations.

6. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Sedition** is a crime under **Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The Section 124A IPC defines sedition as an offence committed when "any person by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India".

- ◆ Disaffection includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity. However, comments without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, will not constitute an offence under this section.
- **Punishment for the Offence of Sedition:** It is a **non-bailable offence**. Punishment under the Section 124A ranges from imprisonment up to three years to a life term, to which fine may be added. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ A person charged under this law is **barred from a government job**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ They have to live without their passport and must produce themselves in the court at all times as and when required.

7. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** was constituted by the Government of India in 1986 under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is the apex coordinating agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The **National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances** is based on **Article 47** of the Indian Constitution which directs the State to endeavor to bring about prohibition of the consumption, except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drugs injurious to health. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Drug abuse control is the responsibility of the central government.

8. Ans: C

Exp:

- As per the **Mine and Minerals Development Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2015**, in every district affected by mining-related operations, the state government shall, by notification, establish a trust as a **non-profit body to be called the District Mineral Foundation**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Mining companies contribute 10-30% of the royalty amount that they pay to the government to DMF Trust in the district they are operating in.
 - ◆ The idea behind the contribution is that local mining-affected communities, mostly tribal and among the poorest in the country, also have the right to benefit from natural resources extracted from where they live.

- DMFs have been set-up in 572 districts of the country, with a cumulative accrual of more than Rs. 40,000 crore so far as per Ministry of Mines (MoM) data.
- The functioning of the DMF trusts and the fund use governed by states' DMF Rules incorporate the mandates of a central guideline, **Pradhan Mantri Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)** that specifies high priority areas of investments. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

9. Ans: A

Exp:

- Foreign funding of persons in India is regulated under **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010** and is implemented by the **Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is not correct.**
- Individuals are **permitted to accept foreign contributions** without the permission of MHA.
 - ◆ However, the monetary limit for acceptance of such foreign contributions **shall be less than Rs. 25,000**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

10. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Viswanathan Committee 2019:**
 - ◆ It proposed inserting **Sections 153 C (b) and Section 505 A in the IPC for incitement to commit an offence on grounds of religion, race, caste or community, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, place of birth, residence, language, disability or tribe.**
 - ◆ It proposed punishment of up to two years along with Rs. 5,000 fine.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

11. Ans: C

Exp:

- **About Default Bail:**
 - ◆ **Legal Source:** This is a right to bail that accrues **when the police fail to complete investigation within a specified period** in respect of a person in judicial custody. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - It is also known as **statutory bail**.
 - This is enshrined in Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
 - ◆ **Supreme Court Judgment:** In **Bikramjit Singh case 2020**, the Supreme Court had observed that the accused gets an **indefeasible right to 'default bail'** if he makes an application after the maximum period for investigation of an offence is over, and before a charge sheet is filed.

- **Right to default bail** under Section 167(2), CrPC not merely a statutory right, but part of **procedure established by law under Article 21**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

◆ **Underlying Principle:** In general, the right to bail on the investigation agency's default is **considered an 'indefeasible right'**, but it should be availed of at the appropriate time.

- Default bail is a right, regardless of the nature of the crime.
- The stipulated period within which the charge sheet has to be filed begins from the day the accused is remanded for the first time.
- Under **Section 173 of CrPC**, the police officer is obligated to file a report after the completion of the necessary investigation of an offence. This report is called the **Charge Sheet in common parlance**.

12. Ans: C

Exp:

- **The International Energy Agency** works with countries around the world to shape energy policies for a **secure and sustainable future**.
 - ◆ India is not a member country but an **association country**. However **IEA has invited India to be a full time member**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The **IEA and Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. (EESL - Ministry of Power)** co-produced a case study on the Indian Government's domestic efficient lighting programme - **UJALA** - to showcase the multiple benefits of energy efficient lighting.
- **Mission Innovation (MI)** is a **global initiative of 24 countries** and the European Commission (on behalf of the **European Union**) to **accelerate clean energy innovation**.
 - ◆ **India** is one of the member countries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

13. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** is a **statutory authority** established on 12th July 2016 by the Government of India under the **jurisdiction of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, following the provisions of the **Aadhaar Act 2016**. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The UIDAI is mandated to assign a **12-digit unique identification (UID) number (Aadhaar)** to all the residents of India. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- The UIDAI was initially set up by the Government of India in January 2009, as an attached office under the aegis of the Planning Commission.

14. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Personal Data Protection (PDP) Law**, commonly referred to as the “**Privacy Bill**” and intends to protect individual rights by regulating the collection, movement, and processing of data that is personal, or which can identify the individual.
 - ◆ It **derives its inspiration** from a previous draft version prepared by a committee headed by retired **Justice B N Srikrishna**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The Supreme Court in the Puttaswamy judgement (2017) held that the right to privacy is a fundamental right.
- The Bill gives the government powers to authorise the transfer of certain types of personal data overseas and has given exceptions allowing government agencies to collect personal data of citizens.
 - ◆ A Data Protection Authority has been envisaged for ensuring the compliance of the law.
 - ◆ It also mentions ‘**Right to be Forgotten**’. It states that the “data principal (the person to whom the data is related) shall have the right to restrict or prevent the continuing disclosure of his personal data by a data fiduciary”. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

15. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC)** in Meghalaya is a body under the **Sixth Schedule** of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It does not have the power to legislate.
- Paragraph 12 A of the Sixth Schedule gives the final right of passing a law to the state legislature.
- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the **administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram** to safeguard the rights of the tribal population in these states. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ This special provision is provided under **Article 244 (2) and Article 275 (1) of the Constitution.**
 - ◆ It provides for **autonomy in the administration of these areas through Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)**, which are empowered to make laws in respect of areas under their jurisdiction.

16. Ans: B

Exp:

- According to the **Companies Act 2013**, whistleblowing is an action aimed at drawing the attention of stakeholders to instances of unethical practices in an organization.
- A **whistleblower can be anyone** who chooses to **expose wrong practices and has evidence** to support the allegations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ They can be either from within or outside the organization, such as current and former employees, shareholders, external auditors, and lawyers.
- In India, **whistleblowers are protected by the Whistleblowers Protection Act, 2014**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ In January 2020, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) came out with a new mechanism to reward whistle-blowers and other informants for sharing information about insider trading cases.
 - Insider trading is an unfair and illegal practice in the stock market, wherein other investors are at a great disadvantage due to the lack of important insider non-public information about a company.
- Recently, the **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** has launched a ‘**whistle-blower Portal**’, as a part of ‘**Vigilance Awareness Week 2021**’.
 - ◆ It is a part of IREDA’s “zero tolerance” of corruption. Through this portal, IREDA employees can raise concerns related to fraud, corruption, abuse of power etc.
 - ◆ **IREDA is a Mini Ratna (Category – I)** Government of India Enterprise under the administrative control of the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

17. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Constitutional Provision Related to Mining:**
 - ◆ The entry at serial No. 23 of List II (State List) to the Constitution of India mandates the **state government to own the minerals located** within their boundaries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The entry at serial No. 54 of List I (Central List) mandates the **central government to own the minerals** within the **Exclusive Economic Zone of India (EEZ)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**



- ◆ The **central government has the ownership over all offshore minerals** (ie, minerals extracted from the sea or ocean floor in the Indian maritime zones such as the territorial waters, continental shelf and exclusive economic zones).

18. Ans: A

Exp:

- The Union Cabinet has approved the **restoration of the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for the remaining part of Financial Year 2021-22 till 2025-26.**
 - ◆ It is a **Central Sector Scheme** which was announced in December 1993. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Objective** is to **enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature** with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets in the areas of drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. **primarily in their Constituencies.**
 - ◆ Since June 2016, the MPLAD funds can also be used for implementation of the schemes such as **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan),** conservation of water through rain water harvesting and **Sansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana**, etc. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Each year, MPs receive Rs. 5 crore in two instalments** of Rs. 2.5 crore each. Funds under MPLADS are **non-lapsable.**
- **Lok Sabha MPs** have to recommend the **district authorities projects in their Lok Sabha constituencies**, while **Rajya Sabha MPs** have to **spend it in the state that has elected them** to the House.
- **Nominated Members** of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha **can recommend works anywhere** in the country. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

19. Ans: B

Exp:

- Recently, the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** has issued **Draft Guidelines for New Accessibility Standards.**
 - ◆ Under these almost all television channels are required to ensure that they either carry captions or sign language **to help the hearing impaired understand the programming.**
- The draft is released in process to get the **“Accessibility Standards for Television Programmes for Hearing Impaired”.**

- ◆ These standards will be notified under the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**, to make television content more inclusive for persons with hearing disabilities.
- ◆ All programming or content like music shows, debates, scripted/ unscripted reality shows, etc.; and advertisements and teleshopping content will have to adhere to these standards.

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

20. Ans: A

Exp:

National Museum, Delhi

- The **blueprint** for establishing the National Museum in Delhi was **prepared by the Maurice Gwyer Committee in May 1946.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was initially looked after by the Director General of Archaeology until 1957, when the **Ministry of Education declared it a separate institution** and placed it under its own direct control. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ At present, the National Museum is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Culture.

21. Ans: A

Exp:

- SafaiMitra Suraksha Challenge (SSC) is a week-long awareness campaign **launched as part of the ‘World Toilet Day’ celebrations.**, to run up to the ‘Swachh Amrit Diwas’. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It was launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** on 19th November 2020 on the occasion of World Toilet Day. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- SSC is aimed to encourage cities to mechanise their sewer and septic tank cleaning operations in order to prevent deaths and fatalities of sanitation workers from ‘hazardous entry’.
 - ◆ The Government launched this “challenge” for all states to make sewer-cleaning mechanised by April 2021 — if any human needs to enter a sewer line in case of unavoidable emergency, proper gear and oxygen tanks, etc., are to be provided.

22. Ans: A

Exp:

- Recently, the **Ministry of Rural Development** inaugurated **‘Bhumi Samvaad’** - National Workshop on Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme (DILRMP).

- ◆ The Ministry also launched the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) portal and Dashboard.

- The DILRMP was approved by the Cabinet on 21st August, 2008 for modernization of land records system in the country, a modified programme, viz., the National Land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP), now renamed as Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), has been formulated.

- Hence, option A is correct.

23. Ans: B

Exp:

Bribery Risk Matrix 2021

- Bribery Risk Matrix 2021 was released by TRACE, an anti-bribery standard-setting organisation.
- It measures business bribery risk in 194 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions.
- It was originally published in 2014 to meet a need in the business community for more reliable and nuanced information about the risks of commercial bribery worldwide.
- It aggregates relevant data obtained from leading public interest and international organisations, including the United Nations, World Bank, V-Dem Institute at the University of Gothenburg and World Economic Forum.
- Hence, option B is correct.

24. Ans: D

Exp:

Swadeshi Science Movement

- In 1991, it was decided to launch the Swadeshi Science Movement at all India Level and named it Vijnana Bharati. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - ◆ One of the objectives is to motivate young scientists towards greater creativity and originality.
 - ◆ It is headquartered in New Delhi. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The Swadeshi Science Movement was started in the Indian Institute of Science- Bengaluru by a few eminent scientists under the guidance of Prof. K I Vasu.
 - ◆ This movement gradually gained momentum and emerged as an organization with national presence. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

25. Ans: B

Exp:

- Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) ensures that there is universal non-discriminatory access to quality ICT (Information and Communications Technology) services at economically efficient prices to people in rural and remote areas. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- All credits to this fund require parliamentary approval and it has statutory support under Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It is a non-lapsable fund, i.e., the unspent amount under a targeted financial year does not lapse and is accrued for next years' spending.
- USOF is under the Ministry of Communications. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

26. Ans: B

Exp:

- Swachh Survekshan (SS) is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India.
 - ◆ It was launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which aimed to make India clean and free of open defecation.
- SS 2021 Categories:
 - ◆ Less than 1 lakh Population: Vita, Lonavala, and Saswad cities from Maharashtra have ranked first, second, and third Cleanest Cities respectively.
 - ◆ More than 1 Lakh Population: For the 5th consecutive year, Indore (Madhya Pradesh) was awarded the title of India's Cleanest City under Swachh Survekshan.
 - ◆ Best Ganga Town: Varanasi. Hence, Pair 1 is not correctly matched.
 - ◆ Cleanest Cantonment: Ahmedabad Cantonment, followed by Meerut Cantonment and Delhi Cantonment.
 - ◆ Cleanest State with More than 100 Urban Local Bodies:
 - Chhattisgarh has been awarded as the 'Cleanest State' of India for the 3rd consecutive year. Hence, Pair 2 is correctly matched.
 - Karnataka emerged as the 'Fastest Mover State'.

◆ **Cleanest State with Less than 100 Urban Local Bodies:**

- Jharkhand won the 'Cleanest State' of India for the second time in this category. **Hence, Pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
- Mizoram emerged as the 'Fastest Mover State'.

27. Ans: C

Exp:

- After the Bhuria Committee recommendations in 1995, PESA Act 1996 came into existence for ensuring tribal self-rule for people living in scheduled areas of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- PESA empowers gram sabhas to play a key role in approving development plans and controlling all social sectors. This includes management of :
 - ◆ Resources over jal, jangal, zameen (water, forest and land)
 - ◆ Minor forest produce
 - ◆ Human resources: Processes and personnel who implement policies
 - ◆ Managing local markets
 - ◆ Preventing land alienation
 - ◆ Regulating intoxicants among other things
 - ◆ **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

28. Ans: B

Exp:

- Recently, the latest data from the **Fifth National Family Health Survey (NFHS 2019-21)** has been released.
 - ◆ **Prevalence of Child Marriage:** The share of women aged 20-24 who married before turning 18 has **declined from 27% to 23% in the last five years. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - West Bengal and Bihar, with around 41% such women each, had the highest prevalence of girl child marriage.
 - The maximum reduction in the proportion of underage marriages was observed in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Haryana.
 - ◆ **Rampant Anaemia:** As many as **57% women aged 15-49 were anaemic in 2019-21, compared to 53% in 2015-16, while the same for men rose from 22.7% to 25%. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Among larger states, West Bengal and Kerala reported the highest and lowest prevalence, respectively, of anaemic women.

29. Ans: B

Exp:

- For laws that do not have a sunset clause, Parliament has to pass another legislation to repeal the law.
 - ◆ Laws can be repealed in two ways - either through an ordinance, or through legislation.
- **Ordinance:** In case an ordinance is used, it would need to be **replaced by a law passed by Parliament within six months. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ If the ordinance lapses because it is not approved by Parliament, the **repealed law can be revived. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Repealing through Legislations:** The government will have to pass the legislation to repeal the farm laws in both Houses of Parliament, and receive the President's assent before it comes into effect.

30. Ans: A

Exp:

- Swachh Survekshan is an **annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns** across India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which aimed to make India clean and free of open defecation.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is the nodal ministry for the survey. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Earlier, the **Jal Shakti Ministry** launched **Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021** or rural cleanliness survey 2021 under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II.

31. Ans: D

Exp:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the continuation of the **'Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART) Scheme** for the period of 2021-26.
- **Objectives:**
 - ◆ To **generate and regularly update information on Marine Living Resources** and their relationship with the physical environment in the Indian **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ To **periodically monitor levels of seawater pollutants** for health assessment of coastal waters of India, to develop shoreline change maps for assessment of **coastal erosion** due to natural and anthropogenic activities. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ To develop a wide range of state-of-the-art ocean observation systems for the acquisition of real-time data from the seas around India and to cater to the testing and sea trial activities of ocean technology.
- ◆ To generate and disseminate a suite of user-oriented ocean information, advisories, warnings, data and data products for the benefit of society.
- ◆ To develop high-resolution models for ocean forecast and reanalysis systems.
- ◆ To develop algorithms for validation of satellite data for coastal research and to monitor changes in the coastal research.
- ◆ Acquisition of Coastal Research Vessels (CRVs) for coastal pollution monitoring, testing of various underwater components and technology demonstration and to support their operation and maintenance.
- ◆ To develop technologies to tap the marine bioresources, generate freshwater and ocean energy and develop underwater vehicles and technologies.
- ◆ Establishment of Ballast water treatment facility.
- ◆ To carry out exploration of Polymetallic Nodules (MPN) from water depth of 5500 m in a site of 75000 sq. km allotted to India by the United Nations in the Central Indian Ocean Basin, and to carry out investigations of gas hydrates. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- ◆ Exploration of polymetallic sulphides near Rodrigues Triple junction (convergence of Central Indian Ridge, the Southeast Indian Ridge, and the Southwest Indian Ridge) in 10000 sq. km of area allotted to India in International waters by International Seabed Authority.
- ◆ Submission of India's claim over continental shelf extending beyond the EEZ supported by scientific data, and the Topographic survey of EEZ of India.

32. Ans: D

Exp:

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
 - ◆ Now, the CBI comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
 - ◆ The CBI is not a statutory body. However, it derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- ◆ The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).
- ◆ Recently, the President promulgated an ordinance that would allow the Centre to extend the tenures of the director of the Central Bureau of Investigation from two years to up to five years. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

33. Ans: A

Exp:

Major Provisions Real Estate Regulation and Development Act, 2016:

- Establishment of state-level regulatory authorities- Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA): The Act provides for State governments to establish more than one regulatory authority. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Establishment of Real Estate Appellate Tribunal- Decisions of RERAs can be appealed in these tribunals. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Punishment: Imprisonment of up to three years for developers and up to one year in case of agents and buyers for violation of orders of Appellate Tribunals and Regulatory Authorities. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

34. Ans: C

Exp:

- The Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is a Central Sector Scheme which was announced in December 1993.
- Objective is to enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets in the areas of drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. primarily in their Constituencies.
- Implementation:
 - ◆ The process under MPLADS starts with the Members of Parliament recommending works to the Nodal District Authority.
 - ◆ The Nodal District concerned is responsible for implementing the eligible works recommended by the Members of Parliament and maintaining the details of individual works executed and amount spent under the Scheme. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Each year, MPs receive Rs. 5 crore in two instalments of Rs. 2.5 crore each. Funds under MPLADS are non-lapsable. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- ◆ **Lok Sabha MPs** have to recommend the **district authorities projects in their Lok Sabha constituencies**, while **Rajya Sabha MPs** have to **spend it in the state that has elected them** to the House.
- ◆ **Nominated Members** of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha **can recommend works anywhere** in the country.

35. Ans: A

Exp:

Public Healthcare in India:

- Policy making in the country's health sector is shaped by its federal structure and the Central-State divisions of responsibilities and financing.
- **State List:** Public health and sanitation, **hospitals and dispensaries are state subjects**, which means the primary responsibility of their management and service delivery lies with the states.
- **Union List:** The Centre also invests in health services through Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as the National Health Mission (NHM) and Ayushman Bharat.
- **Concurrent List:** The Centre plays an important role in vital statistics, **medical education, and drugs administration**, among others, **which are subjects in the Concurrent List**, as also in planning, policy making, and funding for public health at state and national levels.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

36. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, the **Union Labour Ministry and Microsoft India** have jointly launched a **digital skilled platform -- DigiSaksham -- to enhance youth employability. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This joint initiative is an extension of the ongoing programs to support the **youth from rural and semi-urban areas.**
 - ◆ **Free of cost training in digital skills** including basic skills as well as advanced computing, will be provided to more than 3 lakh youths in the first year.
 - ◆ **Priority will be given** to the job-seekers of semi urban areas belonging to disadvantaged communities, including those who have lost their jobs due to **Covid-19** pandemic. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Training would be **conducted at** the Model Career Centres (MCCs) and National Career Service Centres (NCSC) **for Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs)** across the country.

- **It will be implemented by** Aga Khan Rural Support Programme India (AKRSP-I).

- ◆ AKRSP-I is a **non-denominational, non-government development organization.** It works as a catalyst for the betterment of rural communities by providing direct support to local communities.

37. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, **NITI Aayog** has released a performance assessment report of district hospitals in India, titled **'Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals'.**
 - ◆ The report is an outcome of **collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and WHO India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Beds per Population as per the Report:** On an average, **a district hospital had 24 beds for 1,00,000 people.**
 - ◆ For the assessment, **it was set that a hospital should have 22 beds for that many people (IPHS 2012 guidelines). Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends five hospital beds for every 1,000 people.

38. Ans: B

Exp:

- Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is the **use of the law to advance human rights and equality** or raise issues of broad public concern. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The concept of "Public Interest Litigation" has been **borrowed from the American Jurisprudence. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In Indian law, PIL means **litigation for the protection of Public Interest.** It is Litigation introduced in a court of Law, not by the aggrieved party but **by the court itself or by any other private party.**
 - ◆ It is the power given to the public by courts **through Judicial activism.**
- It can be filed **only in the Supreme Court or the High Court. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

39. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS)** is a bank led model which allows online interoperable financial transactions at PoS (Point of Sale/Micro ATM) through the Business Correspondent (BC)/Bank Mitra of any bank using the Aadhaar authentication. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This system adds another layer of security to financial transactions as bank details would no longer be required to be furnished while carrying out these transactions.
- It was taken up by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** - a joint initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

40. Ans: B

Exp:

- According to India State of Forest Report, 2019, the Total Forest and Tree cover is 24.56% of the geographical area of the country.
 - ◆ Forest Cover (Area-wise): Madhya Pradesh> Arunachal Pradesh> Chhattisgarh> Odisha> Maharashtra.
 - ◆ National Forest Policy of India, 1988 envisages a goal of achieving 33% of the geographical area of the country under forest and tree cover.
- Through the **42nd Amendment Act, 1976** Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds were **transferred from State to Concurrent List** along with Education, Weights & Measures and Administration of Justice. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Article 51 A (g) of the Constitution** states that it shall be the **Fundamental Duty** of every citizen to **protect and improve the natural environment including forests and Wildlife.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Article 48 A in the Directive Principles of State policy, mandates that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

41. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **National Green Tribunal Act (NGT)** is a **statutory body** set up under the **National Green Tribunal Act (2010)** for effective and expeditious **disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct**

- The NGT Act, 2010, prescribes that the tribunal shall consist of a **full-time chairperson and not less than 10 judicial and 10 expert members** but subject to a maximum of twenty full-time judicial and expert members. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- NGT is mandated to **dispose of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing the same.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

42. Ans: D

Exp:

- Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change in 2017.
 - ◆ It is a set of **emergency measures to be taken to reduce air pollution.**
 - ◆ In pursuant to the Supreme Court's order in the matter of M. C. Mehta vs. Union of India (2016) regarding air quality in the National Capital Region of Delhi, a **Graded Response Action Plan** has been prepared for **implementation under different Air Quality Index (AQI)** categories namely, Moderate & Poor, Very Poor, and Severe. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - A new category of "Severe+ or Emergency" has been added.
- Till 2020, the Supreme Court-appointed Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA) used to order States to implement GRAP measures.
 - ◆ The **EPCA was dissolved and replaced by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** in 2020. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ CAQM is a **statutory mechanism to coordinate and oversee diverse efforts to improve air quality** in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and UP, with the underlying remedial approach. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

43. Ans: B

Exp:

- Recently, the Government has **notified new rules** under the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021.**
 - ◆ The **2021 Act** was passed to **amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971.**
- The gestational limit for termination of a pregnancy has been **increased from 20 to 24 weeks for certain categories** of women. The **seven specific categories** are: **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**



- ◆ Survivors of sexual assault or rape or incest;
 - ◆ Minors;
 - ◆ Change of marital status during the ongoing pregnancy (widowhood and divorce);
 - ◆ Women with physical disabilities;
 - ◆ Mentally ill women;
 - ◆ Foetal malformation that has a substantial risk of being incompatible with life or if the child is born, he/she may suffer from serious physical or mental abnormalities;
 - ◆ Women with pregnancy in humanitarian settings or disaster or emergency situations.
- A state-level medical board **will be set up to decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks** in cases of foetal malformation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The medical boards are to **either accept or reject** the proposal for medical termination of pregnancy **within three days** of receiving the request.
 - ◆ The **abortion procedure has to be done with five days** of the board receiving the request for the same.

44. Ans: D

Exp:

- The new rules under **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021** will contribute towards ending preventable maternal mortality to help meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3.1, 3.7 and 5.6.
 - ◆ SDG 3.1 pertains to reducing maternal mortality ratio whereas SDGs 3.7 and 5.6 pertain to universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3 aims to achieve **universal health coverage** that seeks equitable access of healthcare services to all men and women. It proposes to end the preventable death of newborns, infants and children under five (child mortality) and end epidemics.
- **SDG 3 targets are:**
 - ◆ By 2030, **reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.

- ◆ By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.
- ◆ By 2030, **reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases** through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.
- ◆ By 2020, **halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ By 2030, **ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services**, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.
- ◆ Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.
- ◆ By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

45. Ans: D

Exp:

- The '**Malé Declaration** on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia is an intergovernmental network involving Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, the Republic of Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It is the only inter-governmental agreement of its kind covering the eight countries.
 - ◆ It was signed in 1998 by the members of the **South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)** in Male, capital of the Maldives. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Together with UNEP, this initiative was **funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)** as part of the Regional Air Pollution in Developing Countries (RAPIDC) programme. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- In the context of **Green and Climate Resilient Healthcare Facilities**, India became signatory to the **Malé Declaration in 2017** and agreed to **promote climate-resilient healthcare facilities** to be able to withstand any climatic event. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

46. Ans: D

Exp:

- **World Food Day** is celebrated every year on October 16th to **commemorate the date of the founding of the United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organisation** in 1945. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ FAO is a specialised agency of the **UN that leads international efforts** to defeat hunger. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **FAO supported India's proposal to declare 2023 as the International Year of Millets.**
 - ◆ The move will encourage intake of nutritious food, increase their availability further and benefit small and medium farmers who mostly grow coarse grains on their land where there is a problem of water and the land is not so fertile. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

47. Ans: D

Exp:

- Recently, the Prime Minister launched the **Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.**
 - ◆ It is one of the largest pan-India schemes for strengthening healthcare infrastructure across the country. It is in addition to the National Health Mission.
- The mission will provide support to 17,788 rural Health and Wellness Centres in 10 'high focus' states and establish 11,024 urban Health and Wellness Centres across the country.
 - ◆ Through this, critical care services will be available in all the districts of the country with more than five lakh population through exclusive critical care hospital blocks, while the remaining districts will be covered through referral services.
 - ◆ Under the scheme, a national institution for one health, four **new national institutes for virology**, nine biosafety level-III laboratories, a **regional research platform for WHO (World Health Organization) South East Asia Region** and five new regional national centres for disease control will be set up.
- **Objectives:**
 - ◆ To ensure a robust public health infrastructure in both urban and rural areas, capable of responding to public health emergencies or disease outbreaks.

- ◆ To **establish an IT-enabled disease surveillance system** through a network of surveillance laboratories at block, district, regional and national levels.

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

48. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, the **Union Minister of Civil Aviation** has released **Krishi Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) 2.0** to **facilitate movement of agricultural produce by air.**
 - ◆ **Krishi UDAN** was launched in **August 2020**, on **international and national routes** to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products so that it improves their value realisation.
- **Krishi UDAN 2.0** will focus on **transporting perishable food products from the hilly areas**, northeastern states and tribal areas.
 - ◆ It will be implemented at 53 airports across the country mainly focusing on northeast and tribal regions and is likely to benefit farmers, freight forwarders and airlines.
 - ◆ It lays out the vision of improving value realization through better integration and optimization of agri-harvesting and air transportation and contributing to agri-value chain sustainability and resilience under different and dynamic conditions.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

49. Ans: B

Exp:

- Recently, the government has reconstituted the **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)** under the leadership of Dr. Bibek Debroy for a period of two years after its term came to an end in September 2021.
- EAC-PM is a non-constitutional, **non-statutory**, independent body constituted to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, specifically to the Prime Minister. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The council serves to highlight key economic issues to the government of India from a neutral viewpoint.
 - ◆ It advises the Prime Minister on economic issues like inflation, microfinance, and industrial output.
- For administrative, logistic, planning and budgeting purposes, the **NITI Aayog serves as the Nodal Agency for the EAC-PM.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

50. Ans: C

Exp:

- One Health is an **approach that recognizes that the health of people** is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's 'One Health' vision derives its blueprint from the agreement between the tripartite-plus alliance comprising the **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the United Nations (FAO), the **World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** — a global initiative supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank under the overarching goal of contributing to 'One World, One Health'. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It's purpose is to **encourage collaborations in research and sharing of knowledge** at multiple levels across various disciplines like **human health, animal health, plants, soil, environmental and ecosystem health** in ways that improve, protect and defend the health of all species.

51. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA)** is an international survey held every three years, coordinated by the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It was first conducted in the year 2000. The PISA test **does not assess students on their memory** but attempts to evaluate whether students can apply the knowledge they have gained through primary and secondary education.
- It is a **competency-based test** designed to **assess the ability of the 15-year-old candidates** that measures their reading, mathematics, and science literacy every three years to apply their knowledge to real-life situations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

52. Ans: A

Exp:

- The Union Budget provides funds to local bodies, state disaster relief funds and compensates any revenue loss to states after devolution of taxes on the recommendation of FC.
 - ◆ The **73rd Constitutional Amendment, 1992** requires both the Centre and states to help **Panchayati Raj institutions** to evolve as a unit of self-governance by assigning them funds, functions and functionaries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ The 15th FC has recommended over 1 lakh 42 thousand crore rupees tied to Panchayats for water & sanitation during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

● **Tied vs United Grant:**

- ◆ Out of the total Grant-in-aid allocated for Panchayati Raj institutions, 60% is 'Tied Grant'. Tied grants are meant to ensure availability of additional funds to the Rural local bodies over and above the funds allocated by the Centre for improving the sanitation and maintenance of Open-Defecation Free (ODF) status and supply of drinking water, rain water harvesting and water recycling under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- ◆ Remaining 40% is '**Untied Grant**' and is to be utilized at the **discretion of the Panchayati Raj institutions for location specific needs, except for payment of salaries**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Allocation of Resources: The States are required to transfer the grants to the Rural local bodies within 10 working days of their receipt from the Union Government.
 - ◆ Any delay beyond 10 working days requires the State Governments to release the grants with interest.

53. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has developed the **State Food Safety Index** to measure the performance of states on various parameters of Food Safety.
- This index is based on performance of State/ UT on **five significant parameters**:
 - ◆ Human Resources and Institutional Data,
 - ◆ Compliance,
 - ◆ Food Testing – Infrastructure and Surveillance,
 - ◆ Training & Capacity Building
 - ◆ Consumer Empowerment.
- The Index is a **dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model** that provides an objective framework for evaluating food safety across all States/ UTs.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

54. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **GST Council is a constitutional body (Article 279A)** for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Services Tax. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **GST Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister** and other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It is considered as a federal body where both the centre and the states get due representation.

55. Ans: B

Exp:

- Recently, the Ministry of Education released the **India Rankings 2021** instituted by the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)** (sixth edition).
- The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was approved by the Ministry of Education (Erstwhile Ministry of Human Resource Development) in September 2015.
 - ◆ It is the first-ever effort by the government to rank Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the country.
 - ◆ Participation in NIRF was made compulsory for all government-run educational institutions in 2018.
- The subjectivity in the ranking methodology developed by QS World University Rankings and the Times Higher Education World University Ranking led India to start its own ranking system for Indian HEIs on the line of Shanghai Rankings.
 - ◆ NIRF is in its sixth year, but it **continues to only rank Indian HEIs** whereas Shanghai Rankings were international in character from the first year itself.
 - ◆ The **long-term plan of NIRF is to make it an international league table.**
 - ◆ **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru was ranked the best **research institution, a category included for the first time in India Rankings 2021. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

56. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** is a Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.

● **Major Initiatives launched under AIM:**

- ◆ Atal Tinkering Labs: Creating problem solving mindset across schools in India.
- ◆ Atal Incubation Centers: Fostering world class startups and adding a new dimension to the incubator model.
- ◆ Atal New India Challenges: Fostering product innovations and aligning them to the needs of various sectors/ministries.
- ◆ **Atal Research and Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE):** To stimulate innovation and research in the **MSME industry. Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

57. Ans: B

Exp:

- Recently, the Jal Shakti Ministry launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021 or rural cleanliness survey 2021 under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II.
 - ◆ Before this, the Swachh Survekshan Grameen had been carried out by the Ministry in 2018 and 2019.
 - ◆ The **Swachh Survekshan Urban 2021 is to be announced.** It was introduced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in 2016. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021 **assesses the state of hygiene, cleanliness and sanitation in rural India** as a part of the **Centre's initiative to award Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus status** to villages. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ ODF-plus status aims to ensure management of solid as well as liquid waste and is an upgradation of ODF status in which construction of adequate toilets was required so that people did not have to defecate in the open.

58. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** is headquartered in New Delhi, **was set-up in 1986** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
 - ◆ NCRB was set up based on the **recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981)** and the MHA's Task Force (1985). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- NCRB brings out the **annual comprehensive statistics of crime** across the country ('**Crime in India**' report). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ Having been published since 1953, the report serves as a crucial tool in understanding the law and order situation across the country.

59. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Forest Rights Act (FRA)** was enacted in 2006 recognises the rights of forest-dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources on which these communities were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation and other sociocultural needs.
 - ◆ It recognizes and vest the forest rights and occupation in Forest land in **Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST)** and **Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD)** who have been residing in such forests for generations.
 - ◆ It strengthens the conservation regime of the forests while ensuring livelihood and food security of the FDST and OTFD.
- The **Gram Sabha** is the authority to initiate the process for **determining the nature and extent of Individual Forest Rights (IFR)** or **Community Forest Rights (CFR)** or both that may be given to **FDST and OTFD**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It **expands the mandate of the Fifth and the Sixth Schedules** of the Constitution that protect the claims of indigenous communities over tracts of land or forests they inhabit.
 - ◆ The **Fifth Schedule** protects tribal interests in the states other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, while the **Sixth Schedule** protects tribal interests in those four states excluded in the Fifth Schedule. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

60. Ans: A

Exp:

- A Permanent Residence Certificate (PRC) is a kind of domicile certificate which helps people in availing domicile linked quotas in government jobs and admission in educational institutions.
 - ◆ **PRC in India is issued by states like** Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram, **Meghalaya, Tripura** and Manipur. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- It is a legal document that serves as a proof of residence and thus must be submitted wherever a residence proof is required.
- It is also **used for obtaining a ration card** of the respective state and **casting the vote in the elections**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ For availing the benefits of various schemes of the state or to claim scholarships of the State.

61. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Evergreening of Patent** is a corporate, legal, business, and technological **strategy for extending / elongating the term of a granted patent in a jurisdiction** that is about to expire, in order to retain royalties from them, by taking out new patents.
 - ◆ Section 3(d) of the **Indian Patent Act 1970** (amended in 2005) **does not allow patents to be granted to inventions** involving new forms of a known substance unless it differs significantly in properties with regard to efficacy. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ◆ This means that the Indian Patent Act does not allow evergreening of patents.
- **Compulsory Licencing (CL)** is the **grant of permission by the government to entities to use, manufacture, import or sell a patented invention** without the patent-owner's consent. Patents Act in India deals with CL.
 - ◆ CL is permitted under the WTO's TRIPS (IPR) Agreement provided conditions such as 'national emergencies, other circumstances of extreme urgency and anti-competitive practices' are fulfilled. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

62. Ans: B

Exp:

- The origin of the Decadal Census in India goes back to the **colonial exercise of 1881 by Lord Rippon**. However, the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) was conducted for the **first time since 1931**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Census falls under the Census Act of 1948, it provides a portrait of the Indian population.
 - ◆ Census has evolved and been used by the government, policymakers, academics, and others to capture the Indian population, access resources, map social change, **delimitation exercise**, etc.
 - ◆ On the other hand, SECC is meant to canvas every Indian family, both in rural and urban India and ask about their **economic status and specific caste name**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

63. Ans: B

Exp:

- Recently, the **National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM)** has been handed over to the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)**, which will start a trial run in **75 villages** in October 2021.

- ◆ Volunteers from the **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan**, the **National Service Scheme** and students of sociology and social work would be deputed to collect such data from villages. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- The **Ministry of Culture** had approved the **NMCM in 2017** to build a **comprehensive database of artists, art forms and other resources** from organisations under the Ministry. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ It is aimed at addressing the necessities of preserving the **threads of rich Indian Art and Cultural Heritage**, converting vast and widespread cultural canvas of India into an **objective Cultural Mapping** while creating a strong **“Cultural Vibrancy”** throughout the nation.
- ◆ It encompasses **data mapping, demography building, formalising the processes** and bringing all cultural activities under one umbrella for better results.
- ◆ The work on creating a **database for folk arts and mapping of heritage of villages** would be carried out over five years (From 2017).

64. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Z-Morh Tunnel:** It is an under construction tunnel, 20 km away from the Zojila Pass, on Srinagar-Kargil-Leh highway.
 - ◆ The 6.5 km long tunnel will connect **Gangangir directly to Sonamarg** in Kashmir.
- **Nilgrar Tunnels:**
 - ◆ The **Nilgrar-I** is a **twin tube tunnel** of 433 m length each.
 - ◆ The Nilgrar twin tunnel-II is of 1.95 Km length each.
 - ◆ Nilgrar-I and Nilgrar-II tunnels are part of the 18 Km long approach road to Zojila west portal.
 - ◆ Zojila tunnel will provide connectivity to Ladakh region Kargil, Drass and Leh.
- **Chattergala Tunnel:** It is an under construction road tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The tunnel will be 6.8 km long and **will connect Kathua and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir** via basohlibani through Chattergala.
- The **Atal Tunnel** is located in **Himachal Pradesh's Rohtang**, which connects Solang Valley near Manali to Sissu in Lahaul and Spiti district.
 - ◆ The 9.02-km tunnel is the longest highway tunnel in the world above the height of 3,000 metres.

- ◆ It cuts through a mountain west of the Rohtang pass and will shorten the distance between Solang Valley and Sissu by around 46 km and will take around 15 minutes to cover. Earlier, it would take nearly 4 hours to travel between the two points.

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

65. Ans: B

Exp:

- **State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)** has been constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
 - ◆ It was constituted based on the **recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- SDRF is the primary fund available with the State governments for responses to notified disasters to meet expenditure for providing immediate relief.
 - ◆ It is audited by the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)** every year. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation for general category States/UTs** and **90% for special category States/UTs** (northeastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The annual Central contribution is released in two equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.

66. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Population Census** is the total process of collecting, compiling, analyzing and disseminating demographic, economic and social data pertaining, at a specific time, of all persons in a country or a well-defined part of a country.
 - ◆ The decennial Census is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Census in Ancient and Medieval Period:**
 - ◆ Rigveda: **The earliest literature ‘Rig-Veda’ reveals that some kind of population count** was maintained during 800-600 BC in India.
 - ◆ Arthashastra: **‘Arthashastra’** by ‘Kautilya’ written in the 3rd Century BC **prescribed the collection of population statistics** as a measure of state policy for taxation. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Ain-i-Akbari:** During the regime of the Mughal king Akbar, the administrative report ‘Ain-e-Akbari’ also included comprehensive data pertaining to population, industry, wealth and many other characteristics.

- **Census in Pre-independence Period:**

- ◆ **First Non-synchronous Census:** It was conducted in India in 1872 **during the reign of Governor-General Lord Mayo. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ **First Synchronous Census:** The first synchronous census was taken under British rule on February 17, 1881, by W.C. Plowden (Census Commissioner of India).

- **Thirteenth Census (1991):**

- ◆ It was the fifth Census of independent India.
- ◆ In this Census, the **concept of literacy was changed** and the **children of the 7+ age group were considered literate** (as compared to 1981 when children up to the age group of 4+ were treated as literate). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

67. Ans: D

Exp:

- **State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)** has been constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
 - ◆ It was constituted based on the **recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission.**
- It is the primary fund available with the State governments for responses to notified disasters to meet expenditure for providing immediate relief.
 - ◆ It is audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) every year.
- The Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation for general category States/UTs and 90% for special category States/UTs (northeastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir).
- **Disasters Covered under SDRF:**
 - ◆ **Cyclone**, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, **hailstorm**, **landslide**, avalanche, cloudburst, **pest attack**, frost and cold waves.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

68. Ans: C

Exp:

INSPIRE Awards- MANAK:

- It is **aligned with the 'Start-up India' initiative** and is **being executed by DST** (Department of Science and Technology) with National Innovation Foundation – India (NIF), an autonomous body of DST. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under the scheme the students are invited from all government or private schools throughout the country, irrespective of their educational boards (national and state).

- ◆ It covers the students in the age group of 10-15 years and studying in classes 6 to 10, to pursue Science and a career in Research.

- **An award of Rs.10,000** is disbursed into bank accounts of winning students **under Direct Benefit Transfer scheme. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It does not believe in conducting competitive exams for identification of talent at any level. It believes in and relies on the efficacy of the existing educational structure for identification of talent.

69. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Milk Fortification Project** was launched to **address vitamin deficiency in consumers.** It has seen significant progress in the past two years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ About 25 milk federations, producer companies or milk unions across 20 States in the country are fortifying about 55 lakh litres of milk per day.
 - ◆ The fortification is being carried out as per Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) developed by NDDB and FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India).
- The Milk Fortification Project, was **launched by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in collaboration with World Bank and Tata Trusts**, as a pilot project on 5th September, 2017. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The project aims to process about two million tonnes of fortified milk, reaching around 30 million consumers.
 - ◆ The duration of the project is 23 months. It is financed by the South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative (SAFANSI), administered by the World Bank.

70. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** has secured Patent registration for its innovative Plastic-mixed Handmade Paper developed to reduce plastic menace from nature.
 - ◆ The plastic-mixed handmade paper (which is recyclable and eco-friendly) was developed under **Project REPLAN (REDucing PLAstic from Nature).** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The project was launched in September 2018 as part of KVIC's commitment to Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan.
- KVIC is a **statutory body established under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ The KVIC is charged with the planning, promotion, organisation and implementation of programmes for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.
- ◆ It functions **under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.**

71. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Mission Karmayogi:** This is a National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB).
- It is a comprehensive reform of the capacity building apparatus at individual, institutional and process levels for efficient public service delivery.
- It is aimed at building a future-ready civil service with the right attitude, skills and knowledge, aligned to the vision of New India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The lateral entry mechanism is reform to enhance public service delivery separate from Mission Karmayogi. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The capacity building will be delivered through iGOT-Karmayogi digital platform, with content drawn from global best practices

72. Ans: A

Exp:

- Article 342 (1) of the Indian Constitution says that the President of India may with respect to any State or Union Territory, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor, by a public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within tribes or tribal communities as Scheduled Tribe in relation to that State or Union Territory.
- **Committees Related to Tribal Communities:**
 - ◆ Xaxa Committee (2013)
 - ◆ Bhuria Commission (2002-2004)
 - ◆ Lokur Committee (1965)
- The **Rohini Commission** was constituted in October 2017 under Article 340 of the Constitution to submit its report on **Sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs).**
- **Shivaraman Committee** (1979) is associated with the **establishment of NABARD.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

73. Ans: D

Exp:

- **GeM is a one-stop National Public Procurement Portal** to facilitate online procurement of common use **Goods & Services** required by various **Central and State Government Departments/Organizations/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The procurement of goods and services by Ministries and the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) is mandatory for goods and services available on GeM. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It also provides the tools of **e-bidding and reverse e-auction** to facilitate the government users to achieve the best value for their money.
- It was **launched in 2016** to bring transparency and efficiency to the government buying process.
- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is the nodal agency for the maintenance of GeM. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

74. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS-4)** was conducted in 2019 by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) **under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It serves as a regional centre for Training and Research in Population Studies for the the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) region.
 - ◆ The first three rounds of GYTS were conducted in 2003, 2006 and 2009.
- **Major Findings of the GYTS-4:**
 - ◆ There has been a **42% decline in tobacco use among 13-15 year-old school going children** in the last decade. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Nearly one-fifth of the students aged 13-15 used any form of the tobacco product (smoking, smokeless, and any other form) in their life.
 - ◆ Use of any form of tobacco was higher among boys. Prevalence of tobacco use among boys was 9.6% and among girls was 7.4%.
 - ◆ Tobacco use among school going children was **highest in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram** and lowest in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

75. Ans: A

Exp:

- Under **Ujjwala 1.0**, the target was to provide LPG connections to 50 million women from below poverty line (BPL) households, by March 2020. Under **Ujjwala 2.0**, **an additional 10 million LPG connections** will be provided to the beneficiaries.
 - ◆ Along with a deposit-free LPG connection, **Ujjwala 2.0 will provide the first refill and a hotplate free of cost to the beneficiaries. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)** is the nodal agency to **implement the Ujjwala scheme. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

76. Ans: D

Exp:

- Recently, the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has launched the 2nd phase of the **SAMVAD programme**.
 - ◆ The programme is aimed at **mental health outreach for children who are abandoned and orphaned, child survivors of trafficking, or in conflict with law.**
 - ◆ It stands for: Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in Vulnerable circumstances and Distress (SAMVAD).
- The initiative is funded by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
 - ◆ It is led by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS).
 - The NIMHANS is the apex centre of mental health and neuroscience education. It operates autonomously under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The **NIMHANS guidelines** are issued for the management of **mental health issues of the prisoners and prison staff**.
 - ◆ **KIRAN** is a **24/7 toll-free helpline, to provide support** to people facing anxiety, stress, depression, suicidal thoughts and other mental health concerns.
 - ◆ **Manodarpan** is aimed to **provide psychosocial support to students, family members and teachers** for their mental health and well-being during the times of Covid-19.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

77. Ans: B

Exp:

- In India, a census is conducted every decade and Census 2021 will be the 16th national census of the country.
 - ◆ Census will be conducted by the **Ministry of Home Affairs. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The earliest literature 'Rig Veda' reveals that some kind of population count was maintained during 800-600 BC.
- During the regime of Mughal king Akbar, the administrative report '**Ain-e-Akbari**' included comprehensive data pertaining to population, industry, wealth and many other characteristics. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **first Census was conducted in India in 1872** (although non-synchronously in different parts) during the reign of **Governor-General Lord Mayo. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The newly established office of the registrar general and census commissioner launched and completed the first Census of India in 1881.

78. Ans: A

Exp:

- Launched on 27th September, 2017 (World Tourism Day), **Adopt a Heritage Project is a collaborative effort** by the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and State/UTs Governments. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The sites/monuments are selected on the basis of tourist footfall and visibility and can be **adopted by private and public sector companies and individuals — known as Monument Mitras** — for an initial period of five years. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Monument Mitras are selected by the 'oversight and vision committee,' co-chaired by the Tourism Secretary and the Culture Secretary, on the basis of the bidder's 'vision' for development of all amenities at the heritage site.
- The corporate sector is expected to use Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for the upkeep of the site.

79. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Ministry of Rural Development** has launched a **new geospatial planning portal, 'Yuktdhara'** to help in facilitating the new MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) assets with the use of remote sensing and GIS (Geographic Information System) based information.
 - ◆ It is a new portal under '**Bhuvan**'. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- It is a **culmination of joint efforts of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Ministry of Rural development** made towards realising a G2G (Government-to-Government) service for rural planning in support of decentralised decision making. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Previously launched, ISRO's Geoportal Bhuvan is presently a de-facto geospatial platform for several developmental planning activities across India.
- It will **serve as a repository of assets (geotags) created under the various National Rural Development Programmes**, such as MGNREGA, Per Drop More Crop Programmes, Integrated Watershed Management Programme, and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, along with the field photographs. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- It will integrate a wide variety of thematic layers, multi-temporal high-resolution earth observation data with the analysis tool.
- Planners will be able to analyse previous assets under various schemes and facilitate the identification of new works using online tools. Prepared plans will be then evaluated by appropriate authorities under State Departments.

80. Ans: B

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81. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Madur Floor Mats** is an intrinsic part of the Bengali lifestyle, **Madur mats or Madhurkathi are made of natural fibres.**
 - ◆ It was awarded the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** by the GI Registry in April 2018.
 - ◆ It is a **rhizome-based plant** (Cyperus tegetum or Cyperus pangorei) found abundantly in the alluvial tracts of Purba and Paschim Medinipur of West Bengal.
- **Other Items with GI Tags From Bengal:**
 - ◆ **Wooden Mask of Kushmandi, Purulia Chhau Mask, Gobindobhog Rice, Tulaipanji Rice, Bengal Patachitra, Darjeeling Tea, etc**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

82. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, **Forum for Decarbonizing Transport** was jointly launched by NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI), India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The forum is a part of the **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project**, which focuses on developing a coherent strategy of effective policies and the formation of a multi-stakeholder platform for decarbonising transport in the region. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

83. Ans: C

Exp:

- **e-Shram Portal** is aimed to register **38 crore unorganised workers** such as construction labourers, migrant workforce, street vendors, and domestic workers, among others.
- The workers will be issued an e-Shram card containing a 12 digit unique number. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- All registered unorganised workers will be **provided accidental insurance coverage** through **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)** for a year. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

- The sanctioned amount is Rs 2 lakh for accidental death and permanent disability and Rs 1 lakh in case of partial disability.
- The workers can also get access to Union and state government social security benefits through e-SHRAM portal. The **portal and registration will be useful for the Union and state governments to provide assistance to eligible workers** in case of natural calamities or pandemic.

84. Ans: D

Exp:

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana is a **National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services**, namely, Banking/Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Its main objective is ensuring access to various financial services to the excluded sections i.e. weaker sections & low income groups at an affordable cost and using the technology for the same.
- It allows the **Jan Dhan account holders to withdraw money upto ₹10,000 (OverDraft Facility) in the form of a short-term loan.** This limit was earlier ₹5,000 but the government doubled the amount last year. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The number of accounts under the PMJDY rose to 43.04 crore in August 2021 from 17.9 crore in August 2015.
- There has been a continuous increase in the percentage of operative accounts which is an indication that more and more of these accounts are being used by customers on a regular basis. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

85. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
- Administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies and the offices of the President and Vice President.
- Part XV of the Indian constitution deals with elections, and establishes a commission for these matters.
- Article 324 to 329 of the constitution deals with powers, function, tenure, eligibility, etc of the commission and the members.
- Originally, it had only one election commissioner but after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989, it has been made a multi-member body. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ Presently, it consists of one Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two Election Commissioners (ECs) - appointed by the President.
- ◆ They hold office for a term of 6 years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- **Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)** was started in 2009, as the **flagship program of the ECI for voter education.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ Primary goal is to build an inclusive & participative democracy by encouraging all eligible citizens to vote and make an informed decision & ethical choice.

86. Ans: C

Exp:

- **National Mission on Edible Oil-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)** is a new **Centrally Sponsored Scheme.** It is proposed to have an additional 6.5 lakh hectares for palm oil by 2025-26. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It will involve raising the area under oil palm cultivation to 10 lakh hectares by 2025-26 and 16.7 lakh hectares by 2029-30.
- Oil palm farmers will be provided financial assistance and will get **remuneration under a price and viability formula.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Viability Formula is a Minimum Support Price-type mechanism and the government will fix this at 14.3% of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) price.
- It will eventually go up to 15.3%.
- Another focus area of the scheme is to substantially increase the support of inputs/interventions.
 - ◆ Special assistance will be given to replant old gardens for their rejuvenation.

87. Ans: D

Exp:

- The revamped Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) is often called PMFBY 2.0.
 - ◆ It is **completely voluntary- Enrolment 100% voluntary for all farmers from 2020 Kharif.**
 - ◆ Earlier, it was compulsory for loanee farmers availing Crop Loan/Kisan Credit Card (KCC) account for notified crops. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- PMFBY has replaced the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS). But the **Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme** has not been subsumed under PMFBY. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

88. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Mental Health Care Act 2017** guarantees every affected person access to mental healthcare and treatment from services run or funded by the government.
 - ◆ It has **significantly reduced the scope for the use of Section 309 IPC** and made the **attempt to commit suicide** punishable **only as an exception**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The Mental Health Care Act (MHCA) 2017 came into force in 2018 to meet the requirements of the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which India ratified in 2007**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

89. Ans: A

Exp:

- **National Institute of Social Defence (NISD)** is an Autonomous Body and is registered under **Societies Act XXI of 1860** with the **Government of National Capital Territory (NCT), Delhi**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ It is a **central advisory body for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**. It is a Centre of Excellence on research and training in the field of social defence. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ It is the nodal training and research institute in the field of social defence. It also coordinates and liaises between the government and the non-government organisations at state, national and international levels.
- Recently, the Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment has launched an online portal **TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services)**.
 - ◆ **TAPAS offers various courses in the field of social defence** for the capacity building of stakeholders. It is an initiative of **National Institute of Social Defense (NISD)**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

90. Ans: D

Exp:

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY):

- The scheme was launched in 2014 on the birth anniversary of **Jai Prakash Narayan**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Under the Yojana, Members of Parliament (MPs) are responsible for developing the socio-economic and physical infrastructure of three villages each by 2019, and a total of eight villages each by 2024.

- The MPs are free to identify a suitable Gram Panchayat for **developing Adarsh Gram, other than his/her own village or that of his/her spouse**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

91. Ans: A

Exp:

- The MPS (also called free float) rule **requires all listed companies in India to ensure that at least 25% of their equity shares** are held by non-promoters, i.e. public. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Public shareholders could be individual or financial institutions and they normally buy shares through public offer or secondary markets.
- In order to bring more transparency in the working of listed companies, the concept of minimum public shareholding was introduced.
- The **average promoter holding in India** is among the **highest globally**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

92. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Bharat Net Project** is the world's largest rural **broadband** connectivity programme using Optical fibre. And also a flagship mission implemented by **Bharat Broadband Network Ltd. (BBNL)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- BBNL is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) set up by the Government of India under the Companies Act, 1956 with an authorized capital of Rs 1000 crore.
- It is being **implemented by the Department of Telecommunication under the Ministry of Communications**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) which was launched in October 2011 was renamed as Bharat Net Project in 2015.
 - ◆ NOFN was envisaged as an information superhighway through the creation of a robust middle-mile infrastructure for reaching broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats.

93. Ans.: B

Exp.:

- **ODF+**: This status is given if at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and/or urinating in the open, and all community and public toilets are functional and well maintained. ODF+ status **does not mandatorily** deal with dumping of sewage in water bodies or areas. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**

- **ODF++:** This status is given if the area is already ODF+ and the faecal sludge/septage and sewage are safely managed and treated, with no discharging or dumping of untreated faecal sludge and sewage into the open drains, water bodies or areas. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **ODF:** An area can be notified or declared as ODF if at any point of the day, not even a single person is found defecating in the open.

94. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956** empowers the **Central government to set up an ad hoc tribunal** for the adjudication of a dispute between two or more states in relation to the waters of an inter-state river or river valley. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The decision of the tribunal is **final and binding** on the parties to the dispute. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to have jurisdiction** in respect of any water dispute which may be referred to such a tribunal under this Act. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

95. Ans: D

Exp:

- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children in 2000 as a part of the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime.
 - ◆ The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is responsible for implementing the protocol.
 - ◆ It offers practical help to states with drafting laws, creating comprehensive national anti-trafficking strategies, and assisting with resources to implement them.
- Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.
 - ◆ It entered into force on 28th January 2004.
 - ◆ This also supplements the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime.
 - ◆ The Protocol is aimed at the protection of rights of migrants and the reduction of the power and influence of organized criminal groups that abuse migrants.
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)** is a **non-binding declaration** that establishes the right of every human to live with dignity and prohibits slavery. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- The **Blue Heart Campaign is an international anti-trafficking program** started by the UNODC. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- Sustainable Development Goals: Various SDGs aim to end trafficking by targeting its roots and means viz.

- ◆ Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls),
- ◆ Goal 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all) and
- ◆ Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels).

96. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** launched a project named **Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought (BOLD)** from the village NichlaMandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under the project 5000 saplings of special bamboo species – BambusaTulda and BambusaPolymorpha from Assam – have been planted over 16 acres of vacant arid Gram Panchayat land of village NichlaMandwa.
- KVIC has thus created a world record of planting the highest number of bamboo saplings on a single day at one location.
 - ◆ It is the first of its kind exercise in India. It seeks to create **bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It will **reduce desertification** and provide livelihood and multi-disciplinary rural industry support.
- It will also act as havens of sustainable development and food security.

97. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Article 39A of the Indian Constitution** provides for **free legal aid to poor and weaker sections of the society**, to promote justice on the basis of equal opportunity. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Articles 14 and 22(1) also make it obligatory for the State to ensure equality before the law.
- In 1987, the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act was enacted to give free and competent legal services to the poor.

- ◆ Free legal services under LSA Act are available to a person belonging to Schedule Tribe and Schedule Caste, woman, child, victim of human trafficking, differently abled person, industrial workman, and person in custody in a protective home and the poor.
- ◆ The **Tele-Law programme** enables anyone to seek legal advice without wasting precious time and money.
 - The **service is free for those who are eligible for free legal Aid** as mentioned under Section 12 of the **Legal Services Authority Act, 1987. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - For all others a nominal fee is charged.

98. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, the government reallocated the **Department of Public Enterprises (DPE)** to the finance ministry from the ministry of heavy industries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Finance Ministry will now have six departments** while DPE's parent ministry, the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises will now be called the Ministry of Heavy Industries.
 - ◆ It is the nodal department for all the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
 - ◆ It lays down, in particular, policy guidelines on performance improvement and evaluation, autonomy and financial delegation and personnel management in CPSEs.
 - ◆ It furthermore collects and maintains information in the form of a Public Enterprises Survey on several areas in respect of CPSEs.
- The DPE will now be the **sixth department in the finance ministry** besides economic affairs, revenue, expenditure, financial services and **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM). Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The shift of DPE to the Finance Ministry will help in efficient monitoring of the capital expenditure, asset monetisation and financial health of the CPSEs.

99. Ans: B

Exp:

- **SPARSH (System for Pension Administration Raksha)** is implemented by the **Ministry of Defence. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is a **pensioner portal** available for pensioners to view their pension related information, access services and register complaints, if any. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- SPARSH envisages establishment of Service Centres to provide last mile connectivity to pensioners who may be unable to directly access the SPARSH portal.
 - ◆ The two largest banks dealing with defence pensioners – State Bank of India (SBI) and Punjab National Bank (PNB) – have been co-opted as Service Centres.

100. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Forest Rights Act, 2006 recognizes the forest rights in Forest land** for Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) who have been residing in such forests for generations.
- Forest rights can also be **claimed by any member or community who has for at least three generations (75 years) prior** to the 13th day of December, 2005 (**cut off date**) primarily resided in forest land for bona fide livelihood needs. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **Gram Sabha** is the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of Individual Forest Rights (IFR) or Community Forest Rights (CFR) or both that may be given to FDST and OTFD. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

101. Ans: A

Exp:

- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved some modifications in the **Central Sector Scheme of Financing Facility** under '**Agriculture Infrastructure Fund**'.
 - ◆ It was launched in 2020 as a part of the Rs. 20 lakh crore stimulus package announced in response to the Covid-19 crisis.
- It aims to **provide a medium-long term debt financing facility** for investment in viable projects for **post-harvest management Infrastructure** and community farming assets. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The funds will be provided for setting up of cold stores and chains, warehousing, grading and packaging units, e-marketing points linked to e-trading platforms, besides PPP (Public Private Partnership) projects for crop aggregation sponsored by central/state/local bodies.
- Duration: Extended to 13 years upto 2032-33.
- **Eligible Beneficiaries:** They are **Farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)**, Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Start-ups, and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored PPP Projects.

- ◆ Eligibility has been **extended to State agencies and Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs)**, as well as federations of cooperative organisations, FPOs and SHGs. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Rs. 1 Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to eligible beneficiaries.
 - ◆ Moratorium for repayment may vary subject to minimum of 6 months and maximum of 2 years.
 - ◆ Loans will have interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crore. This subvention will be available for a maximum period of seven years.
- Credit guarantee coverage will be available for eligible borrowers from this financing facility under **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme** for a loan up to Rs. 2 crore. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

102. Ans: A

Exp:

- Five new portals on Ayush Sector have been launched - CTRI (Clinical Trial Registry of India), RMIS (Research Management Information System), SAHI (Showcase of Ayurveda Historical Imprints), AMAR (Ayush Manuscripts Advanced Repository), and e-Medha (electronic Medical Heritage Accession).
 - ◆ Meaning of 'Ayush': Traditional & Non-Conventional Systems of Health Care and Healing Which Include Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy etc.
- **Clinical Trial Registry of India (CTRI):** It is a primary Register of Clinical Trials under the World Health Organization's International Clinical Trials Registry Platform.
- **Research Management Information System (RMIS):** It will be a one stop solution for Research and Development in Ayurveda based studies.
- **Showcase of Ayurveda Historical Imprints (SAHI):** It showcases inscriptions, Archo-botanical Information, Sculptures, classical texts and advanced Archo Genetic studies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Ayush Manuscripts Advanced Repository (AMAR):** It has digitized information on rare and hard to find Manuscripts and catalogues of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa in libraries or in individual collections across India or in other parts of the world.

- **e-Medha (electronic Medical Heritage Accession):** Online public access catalog for more than **12000 Indian medical heritage books through NIC's (National Informatics Centre) e-granthalaya platform.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- ◆ e-Granthalaya: It is a Digital Platform developed by NIC for Government Libraries for Automation of In-house activities as well as member services and Networking for resource sharing.

103. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
 - ◆ It was established in 2005 following the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.
 - ◆ It was constituted under **enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Project Tiger is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme** of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change launched in 1973 to provide central assistance to the tiger States for tiger conservation in designated tiger reserves in India.
 - ◆ The project is **administered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

104. Ans: C

Exp:

- **National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC)** is a central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Power.
 - ◆ National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) Renewable Energy Ltd (REL) is a **100% subsidiary of NTPC.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Recently, NTPC REL signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the **Union Territory of Ladakh** to set up the country's first **Green Hydrogen Mobility project.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ NTPC REL has planned to ply 5 hydrogen buses, to start with, in the region and the company will be setting up a solar plant and a green hydrogen generation unit in Leh towards this end.
 - ◆ This will put **Leh as the first city** in the country to implement a green hydrogen based mobility project. This would be zero emission mobility in true sense.

- NTPC REL will also **set up a solar park at Rann of Kutch in Gujarat** from where it will also generate green hydrogen on a commercial scale under the Ultra-Mega Renewable Energy Power Parks (UMREPP) scheme.
 - ◆ NTPC REL will set up a 4.75 gigawatt (GW) renewable energy park at Rann of Kutch in Khavada, Gujarat. This will be **India's largest solar park** to be built by the largest power producer of the country. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

105. Ans: B

Exp:

- Every year, 15th July is observed as the **World Youth Skills Day**.
 - ◆ It was **designated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in 2014. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The aim is to equip young people around the world with essential skills for employment, work, and entrepreneurship.
- According to the estimates of UNESCO, schools were shut down for over 30 weeks in 50% of the countries between March 2020 and May 2021.
 - ◆ Youth employment fell 8.7% last year, compared with 3.7% for adults.
- The Prime Minister of India announced the 75 newly sanctioned **Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs)** and also launched a portal made specifically for JSS.
 - ◆ JSSs aim to **provide vocational training to non-literates, neo-literates as well as school dropouts in rural areas**, by identifying skills that might be relevant to the market of that region. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Special Initiatives for Skill Development of the Tribal Community:**
 - ◆ **'Going Online As Leaders' -GOAL** are **helping tribal population** with areas like **art and culture, handicraft, textiles and digital literacy** among tribal areas leading to entrepreneurship development among the tribal population. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Similarly, Van Dhan Yojna is effectively connecting the tribal society with new opportunities.

106. Ans: A

Exp:

- Recently, the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)** launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based portal '**SUPACE**' in the judicial system aimed at assisting judges with legal research. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ SUPACE is short for Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency.
- It is a tool that collects relevant facts and laws and makes them available to a judge.
 - ◆ It is **not designed to make decisions**, but only to process facts and to make them available to judges looking for an input for a decision. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Initially, it will be used on an experimental basis by the judges of Bombay and Delhi High Courts who deal with criminal matters.

107. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** is a statutory body established through the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001** under the Union Ministry of Power. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It assists in developing policies and strategies with the **primary objective of reducing the energy intensity of the Indian economy**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ BEE coordinates with designated consumers, designated agencies, and other organizations to identify and utilize the existing resources and infrastructure, in performing its functions.

108. Ans: B

Exp:

- Acting on the request of the Ministry of Home Affairs, **NIMHANS**, an Institute of National Importance, issued **a set of guidelines on the management of mental health issues of the prisoners and prison staff**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ In the Gatekeeper Model for Identification of Mental Illness, selected inmates, trained to identify prisoners at risk of suicide, would refer them to treatment or supportive services.
 - ◆ Prisoners with mental disorders had to be regularly assessed for severity of suicidal risk and also put on regular and supervised medication.
- **Buddy System for Social Intervention:**
 - ◆ It is a type of **social support through trained prisoners** called "buddies" or "listeners". **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It was found to have a good impact on the well-being of suicidal prisoners. Periodic telephone conversations with friends and family would also foster support.



109. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, the **Uttarakhand government** has announced that it will **initiate valuation of its natural resources** in the form of '**Gross Environment Product' (GEP)**.
- It is along the lines of **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**.
- **GEP** was established back in **1997** by ecological economists like **Robert Costanza at the global level**.
 - ◆ It is an **assessment system to measure ecological status**. It is considered as the **product and service value that the ecosystem provides for human welfare and economic and social sustainable development**, including provisioning, regulating and cultural ecosystem services. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Overall, GEP accounts for the economic value of the ecosystem in providing products and services, and it is one of the **components of green GDP**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The **green gross domestic product (green GDP)** is an **indicator of economic growth with environmental factors taken into consideration** along with the standard GDP of a country. It factors **biodiversity losses and costs attributed to climate change**.
 - ◆ The value of ecosystem services is about **twice as much as the global GDP**. Therefore, it would **help in the conservation of the environment** and also help save us from the **effects of climate change**.

110. Ans: A

Exp:

- Foreign funding of persons in India is regulated under **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010** and is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Individuals are **permitted to accept foreign contributions without permission of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ However, the monetary limit for acceptance of such foreign contributions shall be less than Rs. 25,000.
 - ◆ Under the Act, organisations are required to register themselves every five years.
- **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020:**
 - ◆ The Act **bars public servants from receiving foreign contributions**. Public servant includes **any person who is in service or paid by the government**, or remunerated by the government for the performance of any public duty. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ The Act prohibits the transfer of foreign contributions to any other person not registered to accept foreign contributions.

111. Ans: C

Exp:

- The term "Minority" is not defined in the Indian Constitution. However, the Constitution recognises only religious and linguistic minorities.
 - ◆ 6 Minority Communities in India: Jain, Parsi, Buddhist, Christian, Sikh and Muslim (notified by the Government).
- Article 29: It provides that **any section of the citizens residing in any part of India** having a distinct language, script or culture of its own, shall have the right to conserve the same.
 - ◆ It **grants protection to both religious minorities as well as linguistic minorities**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Article 30: Under the article, all minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
 - ◆ The **protection under Article 30 is confined only to minorities (religious or linguistic) and does not extend to any section of citizens (as under Article 29)**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Article 350-B:** The 7th Constitutional (Amendment) Act 1956 inserted this **article which provides for a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities** appointed by the President of India. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

112. Ans: C

Exp:

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated a scheme, namely **Information-Monitoring, Evaluation and Social Audit (I-MESA)** in FY 2021-22. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under this I-MESA Scheme, Social Audits are to be **conducted for all the schemes of the Department starting FY 2021-22**.
- These social audits are done through Social Audit Units (SAU) of the States and **National Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

113. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 (AERA Act)** was passed which set up the **AERA as a statutory body**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- It was set up, keeping in mind that the country **needs to have an independent regulator who has transparent rules** and can take care of the interests of the service providers as well as that of the consumers.
- The AERA **regulates tariffs and other charges (development fee and passenger service fee) for aeronautical services** (air traffic management, landing and parking of aircraft, ground handling services) at major airports. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

114. Ans: C

Exp:

- Manual scavenging is defined as **“the removal of human excrement from public streets and dry latrines, cleaning septic tanks, gutters and sewers”**.
 - ◆ The practice is **driven by caste, class and income divides**.
 - ◆ Therefore, manual scavenging is in **contravention with Article 21** of the Constitution, which guarantees **‘Right to Life’ and that too with personnel dignity**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - **Fundamental rights** in India are the rights guaranteed under **Part III (Articles 12-35) of the Constitution of India**.
- In 1993, India banned the employment of people as manual scavengers (The Employment of **Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993**). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

115. Ans: D

Exp:

- The word ‘forest’ is not defined in any Central Forest Act, namely the Indian Forest Act (1927), or the Forest Conservation Act (1980).
 - ◆ The **Indian Forest Act, 1927** gives **states the rights to notify Reserved Forests in their areas**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ States are responsible for determining their definition of forests; this prerogative stems from a Supreme Court order called the T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs the Union of India 1996 judgment.
- **Category-Wise Forest Classification :**
 - ◆ **Reserved Forests category:**
 - It is under direct supervision of the Government.
 - No public entry allowed for the commercial purpose of cattle grazing.
 - Total area under this category is 4,34,853 sq km.

◆ **Protected Forests category:**

- It is looked after by the government.
- **Local people are allowed** to collect forest produce and cattle grazing without causing any serious damage. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Total area under this category is 2,18,924 sq km.

◆ **Unprotected Forest Category:**

- They are unclassified Forests.
- No restriction on cutting trees or grazing cattle.
- Total area under this category is 1,13,642 sq km.

116. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Lightning** is a very rapid and massive discharge of electricity in the atmosphere. It is the process of occurrence of a natural ‘electrical discharge of very short duration and high voltage between a cloud and the ground or within a cloud’, accompanied by a bright flash and sound, and sometimes thunderstorms.
 - ◆ The Indian Institute of Tropical Management (IITM) concludes that the increase in lightning incidents may be directly related to the climate crisis, and the availability of more moisture over land due to global warming.
 - ◆ **IITM in Pune is the only institution in India that works full-time on thunderstorms and lightning**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- As many as **18.5 million lightning strikes were recorded in India between April 2020 and March 2021**, according to India’s second annual report on lightning released by Lightning Resilient India Campaign (LRIC) recently.
 - ◆ This is an **increase of 34% compared to previous year**; at least 13.8 million strikes were recorded between April 2019 and March 2020. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Lightning Resilient India Campaign (LRIC)** is a joint initiative of Climate Resilient Observing-Systems Promotion Council (CROPC), National Disaster Management Authority, **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, Union Ministry of Earth Science, World Vision India, **UNICEF** among others. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The campaign aims to reduce the number of deaths to less than 1,200 a year by 2022.

117. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)** are the schemes by the centre where there is financial participation by both the centre and states.
 - ◆ CSS are divided into Core of the Core Schemes, Core Schemes and Optional schemes.
 - There are 6 core of the core schemes.
 - ◆ Most of these schemes prescribe specific financial participation by states.
- **The 6 Core of the Core Schemes CSS are:**
 - ◆ **National Social Assistance Programme**
 - ◆ **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Program**
 - ◆ Umbrella Scheme for Development of Scheduled Castes
 - ◆ Umbrella Programme for Development of Scheduled Tribes
 - ◆ Umbrella Programme for Development of Minorities
 - ◆ **Umbrella Programme for Development of Other Vulnerable Groups.**
- Hence, option D is correct.

118. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** is a **statutory organisation** which was constituted in September, 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
 - ◆ It also provides technical services to the **Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change** of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- It was **entrusted with the powers and functions** under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- Principal Functions of the CPCB, as spelt out in the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981:
 - ◆ to promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control and abatement of water pollution.
 - ◆ to improve the quality of air and to prevent, control or abate air pollution in the country.

119. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR)** has devised an **online tracking portal "Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care)"** for children in need of care and protection. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This has been created with a purpose for online tracking and digital real time monitoring mechanism of children who are in need of care and protection.
- NCPDR is a **statutory body** set up in March 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- It is under the **administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- The Commission's mandate is to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the child rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- It inquires into complaints relating to a child's right to free and compulsory education under the Right to Education Act, 2009.
- It monitors the implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

120. Ans: A

Exp:

- The Disaster Management Act, 2005 was passed by the government of India for the efficient management of disasters and other matters connected to it.
 - ◆ The **Act designates the Ministry of Home Affairs as the nodal ministry** for steering the overall national disaster management. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was formally constituted on 27th September 2006, in accordance with the Disaster Management Act, 2005 with the **Prime Minister as its Chairperson (Not headed by Home Minister).** Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

121. Ans: D

Exp

- Recently, the government of India has **dedicated a window 'The Green Gold Collection' on the GeM (Government e-Marketplace) portal** for the marketing of Bamboo Goods. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It showcases a range of exquisitely handcrafted bamboo and bamboo products, handicrafts, disposals and office utility products on the GeM portal.

- ◆ It aims to provide bamboo artisans, weavers and entrepreneurs in rural areas with market access to Government buyers.
- India is the world's second-largest cultivator of bamboo after China, with 136 species and 23 genera spread over 13.96 million hectares, according to the State of Environment report 2018. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The restructured National Bamboo Mission was launched in 2018-19 for the holistic development of the complete value chain of the bamboo sector and is being implemented in a hub & spoke model. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
 - ◆ "Hub & Spoke" model wherein the Mentor Institution, called the "Hub" is centralized and will have the responsibility of guiding the Mentee institution through the secondary branches the "Spoke" i.e. through the services provided to the mentee for self improvement.

122. Ans: B

Exp:

- It is the largest research and development (R&D) organisation in India. It has a pan-India presence and has a dynamic network of 37 national laboratories, 39 outreach centres, 3 Innovation Complexes and 5 units.
- The Prime Minister is the President (Ex-officio) and the Union Minister of Science and Technology is the Vice President (Ex-officio). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- It is ranked 37th among 1587 government institutions worldwide and is the only Indian organization among the top 100 global government institutions, according to the Scimago Institutions Ranking World Report 2021. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - ◆ CSIR holds the 7th rank in Asia and leads the country at the first position.
- It was established in 1942 and is located in New Delhi. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

123. Ans: C

Exp:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) jointly facilitate the observance of World Food Safety Day, in collaboration with Member States and other relevant organizations. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- ◆ It was first celebrated in 2019, to strengthen the commitment to scale up food safety made by the Addis Ababa Conference and the Geneva Forum in 2019 under the umbrella of "The Future of Food Safety".
- The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is an intergovernmental body established jointly by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1963, within the framework of the Joint Food Standards Programme. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The Secretariat of the CAC is hosted at FAO headquarters in Rome.
 - ◆ It was established to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.
 - ◆ The Codex Alimentarius is a collection of international food standards that have been adopted by the CAC.

124. Ans: B

Exp:

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) in October 2020 had mandated all life insurers to launch the Saral Jeevan Bima plans from 1st January 2021. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - ◆ IRDAI is an autonomous body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance.
- Saral Jeevan Bima is a regulator-mandated standard term life insurance plan offering basic protection to people who are self-employed or belong to a lower income category. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ It is a pure term life insurance product that can be purchased by people in the age group of 18 to 65 years and will have a policy term of 5 to 40 years.
- It provides for payment of sum assured in lump sum to the nominee in case of the life assured's unfortunate death during the policy term.
- There are no exclusions, other than suicides. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

125. Ans: B

Exp:

- Army Aviation Corps was raised in November 1986.
- It operates the Dhruv advanced light helicopter, Chetaks, Cheetahs and Chetral helicopters. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It carries out an important role in supporting the army's deployment in high altitude areas, including the Siachen Glacier. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.



- Two women officers have been selected to undergo helicopter pilot training for the first time in the Army Aviation Corps. They will join front-line flying duties on completion of their training in July 2022.
 - ◆ **Till now, women officers were assigned only ground duties (not the front line flying duties) in the Army Aviation Corps. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

126. Ans: C

Exp:

- The Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) Regulations were first notified in 2017 by the Union Ministry of Power (MoP) under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The regulation is in accordance with the fuel consumption standards of 2015 that aim to increase fuel efficiency of vehicles on the road by 35% by 2030. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

127. Ans: B

Exp:

- The report of All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20 provides key performance indicators on the current status of Higher education in the country.
 - ◆ It is the 10th in the series of **AISHE annually released by the Department of Higher Education. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Total Student Enrolment: In the last five years from 2015-16 to 2019-20, there has been a growth of 11.4% in student enrolment.
- Total Enrolment in Higher Education stands at 3.85 crore in 2019-20 as compared to 3.74 crore in 2018-19, registering a growth of 11.36 lakh (3.04 %).
 - ◆ Uttar Pradesh has highest student enrolment in India, it has 49.1% male and 50.9% female students followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.
- Gross Enrolment Ratio: The Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) increased by a minuscule 0.8% in 2019-20.
 - ◆ GER is the number of students enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education.
 - ◆ The percentage of students belonging to the eligible age group enrolled in higher education in 2019-20 is 27.1% against 26.3% in 2018-19 and 24.3% in 2014-2015.
- **Female Enrolment:** There has been an overall increase of over 18% in female enrolment in higher education from 2015-16 to 2019-20. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ However, the share of girl students is lowest in institutes of national importance while female participation in professional courses is lower in comparison to academic courses.

- **Gender Parity Index:** Gender Parity Index (GPI) in Higher Education in 2019-20 is 1.01 against 1.00 in 2018-19 indicating an improvement in the relative access to higher education for females of eligible age group compared to males. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ A GPI of 1 indicates parity between the sexes; a GPI that varies between 0 and 1 typically means a disparity in favour of males; whereas a GPI greater than 1 indicates a disparity in favour of females.

128. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** launched the **Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)** in 2014-15. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under it, **subsidy is provided for purchase of various types of agricultural equipment and machinery** to the extent of 40-50% for States other than NER (North Eastern Region) States and **for NER States it is 100%** limited to Rs.1.25 lakhs per beneficiary. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The agriculture ministry has also **developed a Multilingual Mobile App, 'CHC (Custom Hiring Centres)- Farm Machinery'** which connects farmers with Custom Hiring Service Centres situated in their locality. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

129. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **'National AI Portal'**, celebrated its first anniversary on 28th May, 2021
- National AI Portal is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), **National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and NASSCOM. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It serves as a central hub for Artificial Intelligence (AI) related news, learning, articles, events and activities etc., in India and beyond. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **NeGD:**
 - ◆ In 2009, NeGD was created as an Independent Business Division under the Digital India Corporation (a not-for-profit company set up by MeitY).
- **NASSCOM:** A not-for-profit industry association, is the apex body for the IT and IT enabled products and services sector in India.

130. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC)** stretches from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu and connects India to the production networks of South, Southeast, and East Asia.
 - ◆ It covers West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** is the lead partner of the Government of India in developing ECEC. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- In 2019, the government approved the development of the five industrial corridor projects, being implemented through **National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT)**. The five projects include:
 - ◆ Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC).
 - ◆ Amritsar Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC).
 - ◆ Chennai Bangalore Industrial Corridor (CBIC).
 - ◆ **East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) with Vizag Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC)**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Bangalore Mumbai Industrial Corridor (BMIC).

131. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS)**, which operates the gold and silver hallmarking scheme in India, defines hallmarking as the “accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metal in precious metal articles.” Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is a “guarantee of purity or fineness” of precious metal articles, which started in 2000.
- In India, at present two precious metals namely **gold and silver have been brought under the purview of Hallmarking**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- The BIS certified jewellers can get their jewellery hallmarked from any of the BIS recognized Assaying and Hallmarking Centres (A&HC).

132. Ans: B

Exp:

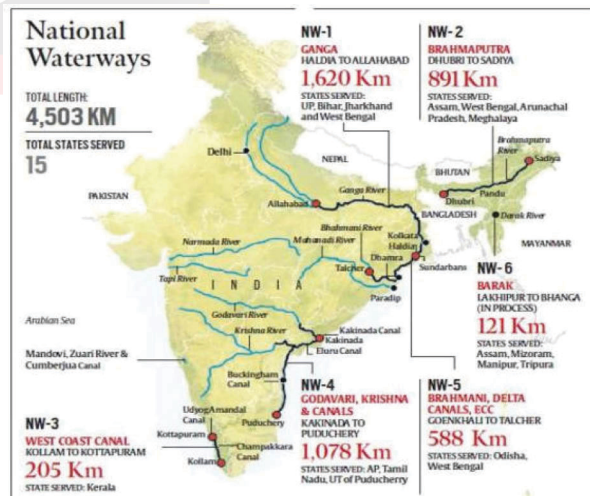
- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** is the National Standard Body of India for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods.

- **BIS is a founder member of ISO (International Organization for Standardization)** and is actively involved in the development of International Standards. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- **India is represented in IEC (International Electro-technical Commission) through BIS**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ IEC is the world’s leading organization for the preparation and publication of International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.

133. Ans: A

Exp:

- India has about 14,500 km of navigable waterways which comprises rivers, canals, backwaters, creeks, etc.
- As per the National Waterways Act 2016, **111 waterways** have been declared as National Waterways (NWs). Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **NW-1: Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System (Prayagraj-Haldia)** with length 1620 km is the longest National Waterway in India. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is implementing the **Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) for capacity augmentation of navigation on the Haldia-Varanasi stretch of Ganga (part of NW-1)** with the technical and financial assistance of the World Bank. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**



134. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **National Career Service (NCS)** was launched in 2015, within the umbrella of the e-governance plan. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ It is a one-stop solution that provides a wide array of employment and career related services to the citizens of India.
- The **Ministry of Labour & Employment is the nodal ministry** for the implementation of the scheme. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The NCS project reaches out to the people of this country through its three essential pillars i.e.
 - ◆ A well designed ICT based portal which is NCS portal,
 - ◆ Country wide set up of Model Career Centers and
 - ◆ Interlinkage with all the states through employment exchanges.

135. Ans: C

Exp:

Constitutional Provisions Related to Governor

- Article 153 says that there shall be a Governor for each State. One person can be appointed as Governor for two or more States.
- A Governor is appointed by the President and is a nominee of the Central Government.
 - ◆ It is stated that the Governor has a dual role.
- He is the constitutional head of the state, **bound by the advice of his council of ministers (CoM)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- He functions as a vital link between the Union Government and the State Government.
- Articles 157 and 158 specify eligibility requirements for the post of governor.
- Governor has the power to grant pardons, reprieves, etc. (Article 161).
- There is a CoM with the CM at the head to aid and advise the Governor in the exercise of his functions, except some conditions for discretion. (Article 163)
- The Governor appoints the Chief Minister and other Ministers (Article 164).
- Governor assents, withholds assent, or reserves the bill for the consideration of the President passed by the Legislative Assembly (Article 200).
- Governors may **promulgate the Ordinances** under certain circumstances (**Article 213**). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

136. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The Board consists of non-official members and a **Chairman** (all of whom are **appointed by Central Government**) and functions with headquarters at Mumbai. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Films can be publicly exhibited in India (on cinema halls, T.V. channels) only after they have been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification.
- At present, films are **certified under 4 categories: U, U/A, A& S.**
 - ◆ Unrestricted Public Exhibition (U)
 - ◆ Unrestricted Public Exhibition - but with a word of caution that Parental discretion required for children below 12 years (U/A)
 - ◆ Restricted to adults (A)
 - ◆ Restricted to any special class of persons (S)
 - ◆ **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

137. Ans: D

Exp:

- Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India.
 - ◆ The word 'yoga' is derived from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness.
- The **idea of International Day of Yoga (IDY) was proposed by India** during the opening of the 69th session of the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**, held in 2014. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The UN proclaimed 21st June as IDY by passing a resolution in December, 2014.
- The Prime Minister of India recently announced the **M-Yoga App** which will help in achieving 'One World One Health'.
 - ◆ The app is a collaboration between the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** and the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (**Ministry of AYUSH**), Government of India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Thousands of candidates have been trained as yoga instructors and trainers through various skilling initiatives like the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ PMKVY is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
 - ◆ Yoga is also a part of the Fit India Movement.

138. Ans: C

Exp:

- India is a **signatory to the United Nations (UN) Single Convention on Narcotics Drugs 1961**, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and the Convention on Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ They prescribe various forms of control aimed to achieve the dual objective of limiting the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes as well as preventing the abuse of the same.
- The **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** was constituted by the Government of India in 1986 under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.
 - ◆ NCB is the **apex coordinating agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is based on Article 47 of the Indian Constitution** which directs the State to endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption, except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drugs injurious to health. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Drug abuse control is the responsibility of the central government.
- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985
 - ◆ It provides for the penalty of property derived from or used in illegal traffic in narcotic drugs.
 - ◆ The Act made an express provision for constituting a Central Authority for the purpose of exercising the powers and functions of the Central Government under the Act.

139. Ans: D

Exp:

- Highways declared by or under law made by Parliament to be National Highways (NHs) - Union List under Seventh Schedule.
 - ◆ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of NHs.
- NHs in the country are notified under the **National Highways Act, 1956**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) was set up under NHAI Act, 1988.
- The **BhoomiRashi portal** was launched in 2018, to **fully digitize and automate the entire process of land acquisition**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

140. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Directorate of Enforcement** is a **specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue**, Ministry of Finance. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- On 1st May 1956, an **'Enforcement Unit'** was formed, in the **Department of Economic Affairs**, for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ In the year 1957, this Unit was **renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate'**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **ED enforces the following laws:**
 - ◆ **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)

141. Ans: C

Exp :

- AgriStack is a collection of technologies and digital databases that focuses on farmers and the agricultural sector. Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Microsoft which requires it to create a 'Unified Farmer Service Interface' through its cloud computing services. This comprises a major part of the ministry's plan of **creating 'AgriStack' (a collection of technology-based interventions in agriculture)**, on which everything else will be built.
- **Shaphari** is a certification scheme for aquaculture products based on the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization's technical guidelines on aquaculture certification.
 - ◆ Shaphari is a **Sanskrit word** that means superior quality of fishery products suitable for human consumption.
- **SAKSHAM (Shramik Shakti Manch) Job Portal** is a dynamic portal for jobs/mapping the skills of Shramiks (workers) vis-a-vis requirements of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and other industries all across the country. It is an all India Portal.
- The **Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) scheme** described as "the Aadhaar for land", is a number that would **uniquely identify every surveyed parcel of land** and prevent land fraud, especially in the hinterlands of rural India, where land records are outdated and often disputed
- **Hence, option C is correct.**



142. Ans: C

Exp:

- This **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** has begun **implementation of a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)** for 2018-2025. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy involving education, de-addiction and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families.
- **International Conventions against illicit use of drugs:**
 - ◆ **Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961.**
 - ◆ **The Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971.**
 - ◆ The UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.
 - **India is a signatory to all the three conventions** and has enacted the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

143. Ans: B

Exp:

- Alcohol prohibition is in force in the states of **Gujarat, Bihar, Mizoram, Nagaland** and the **union territory of Lakshadweep**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- Alcohol is a **subject in the State list under the seventh schedule** of the Indian Constitution. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- Article 47: The Directive Principle in the Constitution of India states that "The state shall undertake rules to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health".

144. Ans: D

Exp:

- The subject of '**relief of the disabled and unemployable**' is **specified in the state list** of the Seventh Schedule of the constitution. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The Supreme Court of India has recently held that persons with physical disabilities have the right to reservation in promotions also.
 - ◆ The case was based on a claim under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995
- The **Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995** recognized the right to reservation in promotion. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

- ◆ Identification of posts for reservation as per Section 32 of the 1995 Act is a prerequisite for appointment; but appointment cannot be frustrated by refusing to identify posts.
- ◆ This Act has been replaced with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016.

145. Ans: A

Exp:

- **National Automotive Testing and Research and development (R&D) Infrastructure Project (NATRIP)** is the largest and most significant **initiative in the automotive sector** which comprises representatives from the **Government of India**, a number of **State Governments** and Indian Automotive Industry. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a flagship project of the **Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- NATRIP aims to create a state of the art testing, validation and R&D infrastructure in the country.
- Recently, **NATRAX- the High Speed Track** in Pithampur, Indore (Madhya Pradesh), has been inaugurated by the Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
 - ◆ It is one of the **state-of-the-art automotive testing and certification centres** under NATRIP.

146. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana - Saubhagya** is to provide energy access to all by last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all remaining un-electrified households in rural as well as urban areas to achieve universal household electrification in the country. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- The **green energy** corridor is a grid connected network for the transmission of **renewable energy** produced from various **renewable energy** projects. The project was envisaged by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) in its innovative report titled '**Green Energy Corridors**'. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

147. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Environment (Protection) Act (EPA)** was enacted in 1986 with the objective of providing the protection and improvement of the environment.
 - ◆ The EPA Act was **enacted under Article 253 of the Indian Constitution** which provides for the **enactment of legislation for giving effect to international agreements**. Hence, **option B is correct.**

- The roots of the enactment of the EPA lies in the **United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held at Stockholm** in June, 1972 (Stockholm Conference), in which India participated, to take appropriate steps for the improvement of the human environment. **Hence, option A is correct.**

- ◆ The Act implements the decisions made at the Stockholm Conference

- The Act is one of the most comprehensive legislations with a pretext to protection and improvement of the environment.

- ◆ It empowers the Central Government to establish authorities charged with the mandate of preventing environmental pollution in all its forms and to tackle specific environmental problems that are peculiar to different parts of the country.

- The **National Environment Appellate Authority (NEAA)** was established by the Central Government under the **The National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997**. **Hence, option D is not correct.**

- ◆ NEAA was established to hear appeals regarding the restriction of areas in which any industries, processes or operations shall be/shall not be carried out subject to certain safeguards **under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.

- **Important Notifications Issued Under EPA:**

- ◆ The **Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (1991)**, which regulates activities along coastal stretches.

- ◆ The **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** of Development Projects Notification. **Hence, option C is correct.**

148. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)** is an umbrella body for the ordnance factories and related institutions, and is currently a **subordinate office of the Ministry of Defence (MoD)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **first Indian ordnance factory** was set up in the year 1712 by the **Dutch Company as a GunPowder Factory**, West Bengal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is a conglomerate of 41 factories, 9 training Institutes, 3 regional marketing centres and 5 regional controllers of safety.
- **Headquarters: Kolkata.**

149. Ans: D

Exp:

- Recently, India achieved 5th global position in solar power deployment by surpassing Italy. Schemes for Promoting Solar Energy in India include:

- ◆ **National Solar Mission:** The aim is to establish India as a global leader in solar energy by creating the policy conditions for its deployment across the country.

- ◆ **Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM):** The scheme covers grid-connected Renewable Energy power plants (0.5 – 2 MW)/ **Solar water pumps/grid connected agriculture pumps.**

- ◆ **Rooftop Solar Scheme:** To generate solar power by installing solar panels on the roof of the houses, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing **Grid-connected Rooftop Solar Scheme (Phase II).**

- ◆ **Atal Jyoti Yojana (AJAY):** It was launched in September 2016 for the **installation of solar street lighting (SSL) systems** in states with less than 50% households covered with grid power (as per Census 2011).

- ◆ **Suryamitra Skill Development Programme:** To provide **skill training to rural youth in handling solar installations.**

- ◆ **Hence, option D is correct.**

150. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Model Panchayat Citizens Charter** is prepared by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)** in collaboration with **National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ **NIRDPR** is an autonomous organisation under the **Union Ministry of Rural Development**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- It has been developed for the delivery of the services across the 29 sectors, aligning actions with localised Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- It is expected that the Panchayats utilising this framework, and with the due approval of Gram Sabha, would draw up a Citizens Charter, detailing the different categories of services rendered to the citizen by the Panchayat, the conditions for such service and also the time limit for such service.

- It will help in making the citizens aware of their rights on the one hand, and to make the Panchayats and their elected representatives directly accountable to the people, on the other hand.

151. Ans: C

Exp:

Civilian Rescue Missions

- **Evacuation from the Gulf (1990-91):**
 - ◆ Until VBM, India's evacuation of civilians from Kuwait during the 1990-91 Gulf war had been the world's largest evacuation exercise of civilians by air.
 - ◆ Around 1,77,000 Indians were caught in the war which left millions homeless and many dead. Air India, at that time, operated around 500 flights over two months.
- **Operation Raahat:**
 - ◆ It was launched by the Indian Armed Forces, to evacuate 4,640 Indian citizens and 960 foreign nationals of 41 countries from **Yemen** during the 2015 Yemen Crisis. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
 - ◆ The evacuation took place both by sea and the air.
- **Operation Maitri:**
 - ◆ The rescue and relief operation was carried out by the government of India and Indian armed forces in the aftermath of the April 2015 **Nepal earthquake**.
 - ◆ The Indian Armed Forces evacuated around 5,188 persons, while nearly 785 foreign tourists were provided transit visas. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Operation Safe Homecoming:**
 - ◆ It was launched by the Indian government on 26th February, 2011 to evacuate its citizens, fleeing from the **Libyan Civil War**.
 - ◆ The air-sea operation was conducted by the Indian Navy and Air India. Around 15,000 civilians were rescued in the operation.
- **Operation Sukoon:**
 - ◆ It was an operation carried out by the Indian Navy to evacuate Indian, Sri Lankan and Nepalese nationals, from the **conflict zone during the 2006 Lebanon War**.
 - ◆ It was one of the largest evacuations conducted by the Indian Navy in which a total of 2,280 people were evacuated. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

152. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee**, Amritsar, Punjab (India), an apex democratically elected body of Sikhs residing all over the world. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was established under a **special Act of Parliament in 1925** to look after the religious affairs, cultural and historical monuments. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

153. Ans: B

Exp:

- Indian Navy has launched Operation **Samudra Setu-II for shipment of Oxygen-filled containers to India**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Seven Indian Naval ships viz. Kolkata, Kochi, Talwar, Tabar, Trikand, Jalashwa and Airavat have been deployed for shipment of liquid medical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries.
 - ◆ Two ships, the INS Kolkata and INS Talwar, have entered the Port of Manama, Bahrain, to carry back 40 tonnes of liquid oxygen to Mumbai.
 - ◆ The INS Jalashwa is enroute to Bangkok while the INS Airavat is on its way to Singapore on a similar mission.
- **Operation Samudra Setu** was launched in May 2020 as part of the national effort to **repatriate Indian citizens from overseas during the Covid-19 pandemic**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

154. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **World Press Freedom Day (WPF)** is an annual celebration of press freedom, observed on 3rd May every year. The main celebration is **organized by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The theme for WPF 2021 is "Information as a Public Good".
- The day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference in 1991.
- The day also marks the 1991 **Windhoek Declaration** (adopted by UNESCO). It is considered a benchmark for ensuring press freedom around the world.
 - ◆ The **Windhoek Declaration** is a statement of press freedom principles put together by African newspaper journalists in 1991. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ The Declaration calls for a free, independent and pluralistic media and is based on a strong belief in the connection between a fully independent press and a successful participatory democracy sector.

155. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently the **United States** has announced the support for waiving Intellectual Property (IP) protection for Covid-19 vaccines.
 - ◆ The decision is a breakthrough in India and South Africa's attempts to get World Trade Organisation (WTO) member countries to agree to such a waiver to fight the pandemic equitably.
- Intellectual property rights (IPR) are the rights **given to persons over the creations of their minds: inventions, literary and artistic works, and symbols, names and images used in commerce. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ They usually give the creator an exclusive right over the use of his/her creation for a certain period of time.
- India is a member of the World Trade Organisation and **committed to the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS Agreement). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The TRIPS Agreement **sets the minimum standards of protection for copyrights and related rights, trademarks, geographical indications (GIs), industrial designs, patents, integrated circuit layout designs, and undisclosed information. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ It establishes minimum standards for the enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPRs) through civil actions for infringement, actions at the border,
 - and at least in regard to copyright piracy and trademark counterfeiting, in criminal actions.

156. Ans: D

Exp:

- The Centre provides the **Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant to the States** under Article 275 of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The grants are released as per the **recommendations of the Finance Commission** in monthly installments to meet the gap in Revenue Accounts of the States post-devolution (of the divisible tax pool of the Centre).

● **Article 275 of the Constitution:**

- ◆ It provides for the payment of such sums as Parliament may by law provide as grants-in aid to such States as Parliament may determine to be in need of assistance.
- ◆ The grants are paid out of the **Consolidated Fund of India** in each year, and different sums may be fixed for different States. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ These grants are to be of the nature of capital and recurring sums as may be necessary.
- ◆ These aim to enable that State to meet the costs of such schemes of development as may be undertaken by it with the approval of the Government of India for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in that State or **raising the level of administration of the Scheduled Areas** there in to that of the administration of the rest of the areas of that State. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ Grants are primarily intended to correct Inter-State disparities in financial resources and to coordinate the maintenance and expansion of the welfare schemes of the State Governments on a uniform national level.

157. Ans: (b)

Exp:

- **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)** was constituted in 2018 by the Government of India under section 132 (1) of the **Companies Act, 2013**. It is an audit regulator. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The NFRA **account is monitored by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- NFRA can undertake investigations related to the companies whose securities are listed on any stock exchange in India or outside India. **Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.**

158. Ans: D

Exp:

- Article 311 (1) says that no government employee either of an all India service or a state government shall be dismissed or removed by an authority subordinate to the one that appointed him/her.
- Article 311 (2) says that no civil servant shall be dismissed or removed or reduced in rank except after an inquiry in which s/he has been informed of the charges and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges.

◆ **People Protected under Article 311: The members of**

- ◆ Civil service of the Union,
- ◆ All India Service, and
- ◆ Civil service of any State,
- ◆ People who hold a civil post under the Union or any State.
- ◆ The protective safeguards given under Article 311 are applicable only to civil servants, i.e. public officers. They are **not available to defence personnel. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- Article 309 empowers the Parliament and the State legislature to regulate the recruitment, and conditions of service of persons appointed, to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of any State respectively.
- According to Article 310, except for the provisions provided by the Constitution, **a civil servant of the Union works at the pleasure of the President** and **a civil servant under a State works at the pleasure of the Governor of that State** (English doctrine of Pleasure). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- But this power of the Government is not absolute.
- Article 311 puts certain restrictions on the absolute power of the President or Governor for dismissal, removal or reduction in rank of an officer.

159. Ans: A

Exp:

- In 1973, the **Dhebar Commission** created **Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)** as a separate category, which are less developed among the tribal groups.
- In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as PVTGs. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ In 1975, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs and declared 52 such groups. In 1993 an additional 23 groups were added to the category, making it a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes.
 - ◆ Among the 75 listed PVTG's the **highest number are found in Odisha.**
 - The **13 PVTGs in Odisha are:** Bonda, Birhor, Chuktia Bhunjia, Didayi, Dungaria Kandha, Hill Kharia, Juang, Kutia Kondh, Lanjia Saora, Lodha, Mankirdia, Paudi Bhuyan and Saora.
 - The **PVTGs in Andaman & Nicobar Islands** are: Great Andamanese, Jarawas, Onges, Sentinelese and Shorn Pens.
 - **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

160. Ans: B

Exp:

- There is a process as per the **Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, 2015** which needs to be followed with children who have been orphaned. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ If someone has information about a child in need of care, then they must contact one of the four agencies: Childline 1098, or the district Child Welfare Committee (CWC), District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) or the helpline of the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.
 - Following this, the CWC will assess the child and place him or her in the immediate care of a Specialised Adoption Agency.
 - The State thus takes care of all such children who are in need of care and protection, till they turn 18 years.
- Once a child is declared legally free for adoption by the CWC, **adoption can be done either by Indian prospective adoptive parents or non-resident Indians or foreigners**, in that order.
 - ◆ India has **ratified Hague Convention** on Intercountry Adoptions, 1993. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)**, a statutory body of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, is the nodal agency for adoption (**and not State Commission for Protection of Child Rights**). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It regulates the adoption of orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated or recognised agencies.

161. Ans: D

Exp:

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

- ◆ Political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which have **secured not less than 1% of the votes in the last general election to an Assembly or Parliament, are eligible** to open current accounts for redemption of electoral bonds. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

162. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** started in the year 1997-98 to **impart quality education to Schedule Tribes children in remote areas.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The schools focus not only on academic education but on the all-round development of the students.
- The objective of EMRS is to provide quality middle and high level education to ST students in remote areas, not only to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional educational courses and as jobs in government and public and private sectors but also to have access to the best opportunities in education at par with the non ST population.
- Each school has a capacity of 480 students, catering to students from Class VI to XII.
- These are being set up by grants **provided under Article 275(1) of the Constitution.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ These are funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
 - ◆ In order to give further impetus to EMRS, it has been decided that by the year 2022, every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an EMRS.
- Eklavya schools are on par with Navodaya Vidyalaya and have special facilities for preserving local art and culture besides providing training in sports and skill development.

163. Ans: B

Exp:

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005 was introduced as a social measure that guarantees “the right to work”. The **Ministry of Rural Development** monitors the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Major Objective:**
 - ◆ **Providing not less than one hundred days of unskilled manual work as a guaranteed employment** in a financial year to every household in rural areas as per demand, resulting in creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ MGNREGA assets include farm, ponds, percolation tanks, check dams, road layer, irrigation channels etc.
- ◆ It is the Gram Sabha and the Gram Panchayat which approves the shelf of works under MGNREGA and fixes their priority.
- ◆ Social Audit of MGNREGA works is mandatory, which leads to accountability and transparency.

164. Ans: C

Exp:

- Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) is a centrally funded scheme, developed by **the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) of the Ministry of Home Affairs. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It was approved in 2009.
 - ◆ It is a secure application that links over 97% of police stations in the country.
- **Objectives of CCTNS:**
 - ◆ CCTNS aims to **make the Police functioning citizen friendly** and more transparent by automating the functioning of Police Stations. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Improve delivery of citizen-centric services through effective usage of ICT.
 - ◆ Provide the Investigating Officers of the Civil Police with tools, technology and information to facilitate investigation of crime and detection of criminals.

165. Ans: A

Exp:

- The power to **create new districts or alter or abolish existing districts rests with the State governments.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This can **either be done through an executive order or by passing a law in the State Assembly.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Many States prefer the executive route by simply issuing a notification in the official gazette.
- The Centre has no role to play in the alteration of districts or creation of new ones. States are free to decide.
 - ◆ The Home Ministry comes into the picture when a State wants to change the name of a district or a railway station.

- ◆ The State government's request is sent to other departments and agencies such as the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Intelligence Bureau, Department of Posts, Geographical Survey of India Sciences and the Railway Ministry seeking clearance.
- ◆ A no-objection certificate may be issued after examining their replies.

166. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019** declared that a transgender person is one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth. It includes transmen and trans-women, persons with intersex variations, gender-queers, and persons with socio-cultural identities, such as kinnar and hijra.
 - ◆ In the case **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) v. Union of India, 2014**, the Supreme Court declared transgender people to be a 'third gender'. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The act provides the right of residence with parents and immediate family members.
 - ◆ It prohibits discrimination against a transgender person in various sectors such as education, employment, and healthcare etc.
- The act established the **National Council for Transgender persons**. It functions under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

167. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **National Institute of Social Defence (NISD)** is an **Autonomous Body** and is registered under **Societies Registration Act of 1860** with the Government of National Capital Territory (NCT), Delhi. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is a central advisory body for the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (and not the Ministry of Women and Child Development)**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It is the nodal training and research institute in the field of social defence.
- It currently focuses on human resource development in the areas of drug abuse prevention, welfare of senior citizens, beggary prevention, transgender and other social defence issues.

168. Ans: A

Exp:

- Under the **Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) Regime**, fertilizers are provided to the farmers at the subsidized rates based on the nutrients (N, P, K & S) contained in these fertilizers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Also, the fertilizers which are fortified with secondary and micronutrients such as molybdenum (Mo) and zinc are given additional subsidy.
 - ◆ NBS policy intends to increase the consumption of P&K fertilizers so that optimum balance (N:P:K= 4:2:1) of NPK fertilization is achieved.
 - ◆ This would improve soil health and as a result the yield from the crops would increase, resulting in enhanced income to the farmers.
 - ◆ Also, as the government expects rational use of fertilizers, this would also ease off the burden of fertilizer subsidy.
- It is being implemented from April 2010 by the **Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

169. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** is a statutory body responsible for enforcing the objectives of the Competition Act, 2002.
 - ◆ The CCI was established under the provisions of the **Competition act 2002 (and not under Companies Act, 2013)**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- CCI was established by the Central Government with effect from 14th October 2003, but it became fully functional on 20th May, 2009.
 - ◆ CCI consists of a Chairperson and 6 other Members appointed by the Central Government. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The Competition Act, 2007, was enacted after amending Competition Act, 2002, that led to the establishment of the CCI and the Competition Appellate Tribunal.
 - ◆ The government replaced the Competition Appellate Tribunal (COMPAT) with the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) in 2017.
 - NCLAT is constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013.

170. Ans: D**Exp:**

- The Supreme Court maintained the right to privacy as a fundamental right in the landmark decision of K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India 2017 after which the Union government had appointed **Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee** for proposing skeletal legislation in the discipline of data protection. **Hence, option D is correct.**
 - ◆ The Committee came up with its report and draft legislation in the form of the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018.
 - ◆ In 2019, Parliament again revised the Bill and much deviation from the 2018 Bill was evident. The new Bill was named as Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019.
- **Bhurelal Committee** is related to Increase in Motor Vehicle Tax.
- **Bimal Jalan committee** is related to the working of capital market infrastructure institutions (MIIIs)
- **C. Rangarajan Committee** is related to review the Methodology for Measurement of Poverty

171. Ans: B**Exp:**

- MCA21 is the online portal of the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- MCA 21 has been part of Mission Mode projects of the Government of India.
- MCA21 has made all company related information accessible to various stakeholders and **the general public. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Recently, the government launched the first phase of the latest update to its digital corporate compliance portal, **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) 21 Version 3.0.**
 - ◆ It will help in improving **Ease of Doing Business in India.** India ranked 63rd out of 190 countries in Ease Doing Business 2020: World Bank Report.
 - ◆ MCA21 Version 3.0 is part of the 2021 Budget announcement.

172. Ans: B**Exp:**

- **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** is a specialised body set up under the National Green Tribunal Act (2010) for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

- ◆ NGT is **mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing the same. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ The NGT has five places of sittings, New Delhi is the Principal place of sitting and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai are the other four.
- Being a statutory adjudicatory body like Courts, apart from original jurisdiction on filing of an application, **NGT also has appellate jurisdiction to hear appeal as a Court (Tribunal). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

173. Ans: B**Exp:**

- The Central Government has introduced the **National Pension System (NPS)** with effect from January 2004 (except for armed forces).
- NPS is being **implemented and regulated by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** in the country.
 - ◆ It works under the Department of Financial Services under the **Ministry of Finance (and not Ministry of Personnel, Public grievances and Pensions). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ National Pension System Trust (NPST) established by PFRDA is the registered owner of all assets under NPS
- NPS was made available to all Citizens of India from May 2009.
 - ◆ **Any individual citizen of India (both resident and Non-resident) in the age group of 18-65 years can join NPS. hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ However, OCI (Overseas Citizens of India) and PIO (Person of Indian Origin) card holders and Hindu Undivided

174. Ans: C**Exp:**

- **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** is the statutory Authority established by an enactment of the Parliament, to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the National Pension System (NPS).
 - ◆ It works under the Department of Financial Services under the **Ministry of Finance. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It performs the function of appointing various intermediate agencies like Pension Fund Managers, Central Record Keeping Agency (CRA) etc.



- ◆ It develops, promotes and regulates the pension industry under the National Pension Scheme (NPS). It also administers the Atal Pension Yojana (APY). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

175. Ans: B

Exp:

- Ayush 64 is a **poly-herbal formulation developed** by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS).
- It is **useful in the treatment of asymptomatic, mild and moderate Covid-19 infection** as an adjunct to standard care. Hence, option B is correct.
- Initially the drug was developed for Malaria in the year 1980 and now is repurposed for Covid-19.

176. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development will set up One Stop Centres (OSCs)** across 10 countries to provide assistance to Indian women who are survivors of gender-based violence.
 - ◆ The missions where the OSCs will come up are Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, UAE, Jeddah and Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, Australia, Canada and Singapore.
- It will also set up 300 OSCs in the country in addition to the nearly 700 existing ones across all districts.
- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** for addressing the problem of violence against women. It was launched in April 2015. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ It is a subscheme of the umbrella scheme for National Mission for Empowerment of Women including Indira Gandhi Matritrav Sahyaog Yojana.
- One stop centre will be established across the country and at least one OSC in every mission around the world to provide integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence.
 - ◆ To support women affected by the violence that they may face within the family or at the workplace or within the community, in private or public places.
- It is funded through Nirbhaya Fund and the **central government provides 100% financial assistance** to the state governments /Union Territories administrations. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

177. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Basel Convention** was adopted on March 22, 1989 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Basel, Switzerland, the “Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal”, generally known as the Basel Convention, came into force in 1992.
 - ◆ It is an **international treaty that aims to reduce the movement of hazardous waste between countries**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It particularly focuses on preventing transfer of hazardous waste from developed to less developed countries.
 - ◆ It provides for cooperation between the parties, including exchange of information on issues relevant to the implementation of the Convention.
- **India is a member of the Basel Convention**.
 - ◆ It **ratified the convention in June 1992** and brought it into force on 22nd September 1992. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - ◆ However, India has not ratified the Basel ban amendment.

178. Ans: B

Exp:

- Recently, the **Telangana government** has selected 16 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) for pilot testing the ambitious ‘**Medicine from the sky**’, the **first-of- its-kind project**.
- The project involves delivery of medicines through multiple drones.
- The project is being launched following the approval granted by the Civil Aviation Ministry.
 - ◆ The Ministry has granted conditional exemption to the Telangana Government from the Unmanned Aircraft System Rules 2021 for conducting experimental Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) drone flights for delivery of vaccines.
- The project would be launched in three waves starting with a pilot followed by mapping the route network for operation of drones for delivering vaccine/medicine in the desired community health centres and PHCs.
- Hence, option B is correct.

179. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Palermo protocols** are three protocols that were adopted by the United Nations to supplement the 2000 Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (the Palermo Convention). These protocols and conventions fall within the jurisdiction of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. They are:
 - ◆ The Protocol to **Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons**, especially Women and Children; and
 - ◆ The Protocol against the **Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air**.
 - ◆ The Protocol against the **Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms**, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition
 - ◆ **Hence, option D is correct.**

180. Ans: D

Exp:

- Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN) is a **non-lapsable reserve fund** for Health in the Public Account. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Proceeds of share of health in the **Health and Education Cess** will be credited into the PMSSN. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Accruals into the PMSSN will be utilized for the flagship schemes of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare namely,
 - ◆ Ayushman Bharat - **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs).
 - ◆ National Health Mission.
 - ◆ Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).
 - ◆ Emergency & disaster preparedness and responses during health emergencies.
 - ◆ Any future programme/scheme that targets to achieve progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the targets set out in the National Health Policy (NHP) 2017.
- Administration and maintenance of the PMSSN is entrusted to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW).
 - ◆ In any financial year, the expenditure on such schemes of the MoHFW would be initially incurred from the PMSSN and thereafter, from Gross Budgetary Support (GBS).

181. Ans: B

Exp:

- Indian Constitution has made elaborate provisions, relating to the distribution of the taxes as well as non-tax revenues and the power of borrowing, supplemented by provisions for grants-in-aid by the Union to the States.
 - ◆ Article 268 to 293 in Part XII deals with the provisions of financial relations between Centre and States.
- The Constitution divides the taxing powers between the Centre and the states as follows:
 - ◆ The Parliament has exclusive power to levy taxes on subjects enumerated in the Union List, the state legislature has exclusive power to levy taxes on subjects enumerated in the State List.
 - ◆ Both can levy taxes on the subjects enumerated in Concurrent List whereas **residuary power of taxation lies with Parliament only. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Distribution of the Tax Revenue:**
 - ◆ Duties Levied by the Union but Collected and Appropriated by the States (Article 268):
 - Includes stamp duties on bills of exchange, cheques, etc.
 - ◆ Taxes Levied as well as Collected by the Union, but Assigned to the States (Article 269):
 - These include taxes on the sale and purchase of goods (other than newspapers) in the course of inter-state trade or commerce or the taxes on the consignment of goods in the course of inter-state trade or commerce.
 - ◆ Levy and Collection of Goods and Services Tax in Course of Inter-State Trade or Commerce (Article 269-A):
 - The **Goods and Services Tax (GST) on supplies in the course of inter-state trade or commerce are levied and collected by the Centre. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- But, this tax is divided between the Centre and the States in the manner provided by Parliament on the recommendations of the GST Council.
 - ◆ Taxes Levied and Collected by the Union but Distributed between the Union and the States (Article 270):
 - This category includes all taxes and duties referred to in the Union List except the following:

- Duties and taxes referred to in Articles 268, 269 and 269-A.
- Surcharge on taxes and duties referred to in Article 271 (this goes to the Centre exclusively).
- Any cess levied for specific purposes.
- Grants-in-Aid: Besides sharing of taxes between the Centre and the States, the Constitution provides for Grants-in-aid to the States from the Central resources. There are two types of grants:
 - ◆ Statutory Grants (Article 275): These grants are given by the Parliament out of the Consolidated Fund of India to such States which are in need of assistance. Different States may be granted different sums.
 - Specific grants are also given to promote the welfare of scheduled tribes in a state or to raise the level of administration of the Scheduled areas therein.
 - ◆ Discretionary Grants (Article 282): It empowers both the Centre and the states to make any grants for any public purpose, even if it is not within their respective legislative competence. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - Under this provision, the Centre makes grants to the states. These grants are known as discretionary grants, the reason being that the Centre is under no obligation to give these grants and the matter lies within its discretion.
 - These grants have a two-fold purpose: to help the state financially to fulfil plan targets; and to give some leverage to the Centre to influence and coordinate state action to effectuate the national plan.

182. Ans: B

Exp:

- Recently, the Centre has released the first instalment of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to States, in the wake of the second wave of Covid-19 that has claimed thousands of lives since April 2021.
- Normally, the first instalment is released in June as per the **recommendations of the Finance Commission**.
- SDRF has been constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
 - ◆ It was constituted based on the **recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

- ◆ It is the primary fund available with the State governments for responses to notified disasters to meet expenditure for providing immediate relief.
- ◆ It is audited by the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)** every year. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation for general category States** and Union Territories and **90% for special category States and Union Territories** (northeastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir). Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ◆ The annual Central contribution is released in two equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.
- Disaster (s) Covered under SDRF: Cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, frost and cold waves.

183. Ans: D

Exp:

- Many scientists are blaming the government-backed model, called SUTRA (Susceptible, Undetected, Tested (positive), and Removed Approach), for having a larger role in creating the perception that a second wave of Covid was unlikely in India.
- Scientists from the IITs of Kanpur and Hyderabad have applied the **SUTRA Model to predict the Covid graph in India**. Hence, **option D is correct**.
 - ◆ It first came into public attention when one of its expert members announced in October 2020 that India was "past its peak".
- The model uses three main parameters **to predict the course of the pandemic** which are:
 - ◆ Beta: Also called contact rate, which measures how many people an infected person infects per day. It is related to the R0 value, which is the number of people an infected person spreads the virus to over the course of their infection.
 - ◆ Reach: It is a measure of the exposure level of the population to the pandemic.
 - ◆ Epsilon: It is the ratio of detected and undetected cases.

184. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** was enacted for the protection of plants and animal species.
- Under this act, the **State Governments (and not Governor of the state) appoint a Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW)** who heads the Wildlife Wing of the department and exercises complete administrative control over Protected Areas (PAs) within a state. **Hence, option B is not correct.**
- The act prohibits the hunting of any wild animal specified in **Schedules I, II, III and IV of the act.**
 - ◆ However, a wild animal listed under these schedules can be hunted only under following circumstances.
 - ◆ It becomes dangerous to human life or to property (including standing crops on any land).
 - ◆ **It is disabled or suffering from a disease that is beyond recovery. Hence, option A is correct.**
- The **Schedule V (and not Schedule VI) of the act enlists animals that are considered as vermin** (small wild animals that carry disease and destroy plants and food). These animals can be hunted. It includes common crows, fruit bats, rats and mice only. **Hence, option C is not correct.**
 - ◆ The Schedule VI provides for regulation in cultivation of a specified plant and restricts its possession, sale and transportation.
- As per the act, the central government of India shall constitute the **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).**
 - ◆ **NBWL serves as an apex body for the review of all wildlife-related matters [and not Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)]** and for the approval of projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries. **Hence, option D is not correct.**

185. Ans: D

Exp:

- Freedom of press is **not expressly protected by Indian legal system** but it is impliedly protected under article 19(1) (a) of the constitution, which states - "All citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression". **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In 1950, the Supreme Court in Romesh Thappar v. State of Madras observed that freedom of the press lay at the foundation of all democratic organisations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- However, Freedom of press is also not absolute. It faces **certain restrictions under Article 19(2)**, which are as follows-

- ◆ Matters related to interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

186. Ans: C

Exp:

- Survey of India is the National Survey and Mapping Organization of the country **under the Department of Science & Technology. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was established in 1767 and is the **oldest scientific department** of the Government of India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is headquartered at Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- The Survey of India acts as adviser to the Government of India on all survey matters, viz Geodesy, Photogrammetry, Mapping and Map Reproduction.

187. Ans: A

Exp:

- The National Security Act, 1980 is a **preventive detention law. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Preventive Detention involves the detainment of a person in order to keep him/her from committing future crimes and/or from escaping future prosecution.
 - ◆ Article 22 (3) (b) of the Constitution allows for preventive detention and restriction on personal liberty for reasons of state security and public order.
- The NSA empowers **the Centre or a State government** to detain a person to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to national security. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The maximum period for which one **may be detained is 12 months.** But the term can be extended if the government finds fresh evidence. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

188. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)**, under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has launched "**Sankalp se Siddhi**" - **Village and Digital Connect Drive. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The main aim of this drive is to activate the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) in the villages. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ The drive will entail 150 teams (10 in each region from TRIFED and State Implementation Agencies/ Mentoring Agencies/Partners) visiting ten villages each.
- ◆ Thus, 100 villages in each region and 1500 villages in the country will be covered.
- ◆ The visiting teams will also identify locations and shortlist potential Van Dhan Vikas Kendras for clustering as TRIFOOD, and SFURTI units as larger enterprises.

189. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
 - ◆ Now, the CBI comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).
- It is the main investigating agency of the Central Government.
 - ◆ It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.
 - ◆ It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates investigation on behalf of Interpol Member countries
- The CBI is **not** a statutory body. It derives its powers from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946. Hence, statement 2 is not correct but statement 3 is correct.**

190. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** is a statutory body set up in 1965 by the Food Corporations Act 1964 under Department of Food & Public Distribution, **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Hence, statement 1 is not correct but statement 2 is correct.**
- It was established against the backdrop of a major shortage of grains, especially wheat.
 - ◆ Simultaneously, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) was created in 1965 to recommend remunerative prices (MSP) to farmers. CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

- It has primary duty to undertake purchase, store, move/transport, distribute and sell food grains and other foodstuffs.

191. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has launched **Tribal Health Collaborative (THC) 'Anamaya'**.
- It is an initiative bringing together governments, philanthropists, national and international foundations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/Community Based Organizations (CBOs) **to end all preventable deaths among the tribal communities of India.**
- It will converge efforts of various Government agencies and organisations to enhance the health and nutrition status of the tribal communities of India. **Hence option C is correct.**

192. Ans: D

Exp:

- Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) is a nodal coordinating, state-owned agency engaged in fishery production and allied activities.
 - ◆ It was established in 1972 under the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act (MPEDA), 1972. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It functions under the Union **Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is headquartered in Kochi, **Kerala. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Its mandate is to increase exports of seafood including fisheries of all kinds, specifying standards, marketing, processing, extension and training in various aspects.

193. Ans: A

Exp:

- Recently the Union Commerce and Industry Minister has inaugurated an electronic platform named e-SANTA, which will connect aqua farmers and the buyers.
- The term e-SANTA was coined for the web portal, meaning Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade in Aquaculture. **Hence, option A is correct.**
- e-SANTA is a digital bridge to end the market divide and will act as an alternative marketing tool between farmers & buyers by eliminating middlemen.
- The farmers can freely list their produce and quote their price while the exporters have the freedom to list their requirements and also to choose the products based on their requirements such as desired size, location, harvest dates etc.

- The Platform is available in many languages, which will help the local population.

194. Ans: A

Exp:

- India Energy Dashboards (IED) is an endeavour to provide single-window access to the energy data for the country.
 - ◆ It is an initial step towards building a comprehensive, open, and freely accessible energy data portal for India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Recently, the government think tank NITI Aayog has launched India Energy Dashboards (IED) Version 2.0. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - ◆ NITI Aayog launched the Version 1.0 in May 2017.

195. Ans: C

Exp:

- The Government has launched 'Aahaar Kranti', a mission dedicated to spread awareness about nutrition.
- The initiative 'Aahaar Kranti' will focus on addressing the problem of hunger and diseases in abundance across India and the world. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Implementation Strategy:**
 - ◆ The messages will be imparted through the curriculum in the form of 'what's and 'why's of nutrition, or through the forms of games or as instructions such as 'how to'.
 - ◆ The content will be provided both online and offline, in all vernacular languages besides English and Hindi.
 - ◆ The programme will focus on training teachers, who, in turn, will pass on the message to the multitudes of students, and through them to their families and finally the society at large. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

196. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)** and the products are regulated under the "Rules for the manufacture, use, import, export & storage of hazardous microorganisms, genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989" (referred to as Rules, 1989) notified under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- These Rules are implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Department of Biotechnology and State Governments through six competent authorities.

- The Rules, 1989 are supported by a series of guidelines on contained research, biologics, confined field trials, food safety assessment, environmental risk assessment etc.
- In India, the **Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)** is the apex body that allows for commercial release of GM crops. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Use of the unapproved GM variant can attract a jail term of 5 years and fine of Rs. 1 lakh under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

197. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, an initiative called the '**Global Youth Mobilization**' has been launched for youths in communities impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It is a movement of young people taking action to improve their lives now and in a post-Covid-19 world.
- It aims to address the negative impact of the pandemic on young people and support them to build back better.
- It is supported by the world's six largest youth organisations, **World Health Organization (WHO)** and **United Nations (UN) Foundation**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- There are an estimated 1.2 billion young people impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic response measures.
 - ◆ Disruptions to education, employment, services and social support have changed the future of an entire generation.
- Funding: With support from the Covid-19 Solidarity Response Fund, Global Youth Mobilization will support and scale-up youth-led solutions and youth engagement programs across the world.
 - ◆ The Covid-19 Solidarity Response Fund was established by the WHO with the help of the UN Foundation and the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation.

198. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Disaster Management Act** was passed by the government of India in 2005 for the 'efficient management of disasters and other matters connected to it. However it came into force in January 2006.
 - ◆ It puts into place a systematic structure of institutions at the national, state and district levels. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- The objective of the act is to manage disasters, including preparation of mitigation strategies, capacity-building and more.
 - ◆ Definition of a “disaster” in Section 2 (d) of the DM Act states that a disaster means a “catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence in any area, arising from natural or man made causes.
- The Act designates the **Ministry of Home Affairs as the nodal ministry** for steering the overall national disaster management. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**, under this act, is tasked with laying down disaster management policies and ensuring timely and effective response mechanisms. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The **National Executive Committee (NEC)** is constituted under **Section 8 of the DM Act to assist the National Disaster Management Authority** in the performance of its functions.

199. Ans: A

Exp:

- AIM-PRIME program is launched to **promote science based, deep technology ideas to market through training and guidance** over a period of 12 months. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Deep technology is based on tangible engineering innovation or scientific advances and discoveries. Deep Tech is often set apart by its profound enabling power, the differentiation it can create, and its potential to catalyse change.
- **Atal Innovation Mission has collaborated with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)** to launch this nationwide programme which will be implemented by Venture Centre - a non-profit technology business incubator hosted by Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research–National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

200. Ans: B

Exp:

- Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) is part of the Climate Change Adaptation Program of the **University of Notre Dame’s Environmental Change initiative (ND-ECI)**. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **ND-GAIN’s Country Index** shows which countries are best prepared to deal with global changes brought about by overcrowding, resource-constraints and climate disruption. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The Country Index uses 20 years of data to rank more than 180 countries annually based on their vulnerability and, uniquely, how ready they are to adapt.

- ◆ Vulnerability is considered in six life-supporting sectors – food, water, health, ecosystem service, human habitat and infrastructure.
- ◆ Overall readiness is measured by considering three components – economic readiness, governance readiness and social readiness.

201. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure empowers the magistrate** of any state or union territory in India to pass an order **prohibiting the gathering of four or more people in a specified area**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is imposed in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger of some event that has the potential to cause trouble or damage to human life or property.
 - ◆ This order can be passed against a particular individual or general public.
- It places restrictions on handling or transporting any kind of weapon in the given jurisdiction. The maximum punishment for such an act is three years.
 - ◆ It also empowers the authorities to **block internet access in the region**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- No order under this section can remain in force for a **period of more than 2 months**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Under the state government’s discretion, it can choose to extend the validity for two more months with the maximum validity extendable to six months.

202. Ans: B

Exp:

- Forests are included in the **Concurrent List in the (Seventh Schedule)** of the Constitution of India.
 - ◆ Through the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds were transferred from State to Concurrent List. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Article 51 A (g) of the Constitution states that it shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests and Wildlife.
- **Article 48 A** in the **Directive Principles of State policy**, mandates that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

203. Ans: A

Exp:

- Manodarpan is an initiative of the Ministry of Education under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- It is aimed to provide psychosocial support to students, family members and teachers for their mental health and well-being during the times of Covid-19.
- Hence, option A is correct.

204. Ans: D

Exp:

- The e-visa system is an innovation introduced by the government in 2014. The facility was expanded in 2017-2018.
- An e-visa also called Electronic Visa is provided in **five categories**—tourist, business, conference, medical, and medical attendant. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** is the nodal ministry that issues visas to foreigners. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The facility is not available for the citizens of Pakistan and they are expected to apply for regular visas from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad.
 - ◆ E-visas are **not valid for foreign diplomats** which are dealt separately. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

205. Ans: D

Exp:

- Left Wing Extremism (LWE) organizations are the groups that try to bring change through violent revolution. They are against democratic institutions and use violence to subvert the democratic processes at ground level.
- These groups prevent the developmental processes in the least developed regions of the country & try to misguide the people by keeping them ignorant of current happenings.
- Government Initiatives to fight Left Wing Extremism (LWE):
 - ◆ **Greyhounds**: It was raised in 1989 as an elite anti-naxal force.
 - ◆ **Operation Green Hunt**: It was started in 2009-10 and massive deployment of security forces was done in the naxal-affected areas.
 - ◆ **LWE Mobile Tower Project**: To improve mobile connectivity in the LWE areas, the Government in 2014, approved installation of mobile towers in LWE affected States.

◆ **Aspirational Districts Programme**: Launched in 2018, it aims to rapidly transform the districts that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas.

◆ **SAMADHAN**: It stands for

- S- Smart Leadership,
- A- Aggressive Strategy,
- M- Motivation and Training,
- A- Actionable Intelligence,
- D- Dashboard Based KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and KRAs (Key Result Areas),
- H- Harnessing Technology,
- A- Action plan for each Theatre, and
- N- No access to Financing.

◆ This doctrine is the one-stop solution for the LWE problem. It encompasses the entire strategy of government from short-term policy to long-term policy formulated at different levels.

● Hence, option D is correct.

206. Ans: D

Exp:

- Recently, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) launched an **Artificial Intelligence (AI) based portal 'SUPACE' in the judicial system** aimed at assisting judges with legal research.
- SUPACE is short for Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court's Efficiency.
- Earlier, the E-Courts Project was conceptualised on the basis of "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary - 2005" submitted by the e-Committee of the Supreme Court.
- SUPACE is a tool that collects relevant facts and laws and makes them available to a judge.
 - ◆ It is not designed to make decisions, but only to process facts and to make them available to judges looking for an input for a decision.
 - ◆ Initially, it will be used on an experimental basis by the judges of Bombay and Delhi High Courts who deal with criminal matters.

207. Ans: A

Exp:

- The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has launched the **Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP)**, that is the next generation highly refined version of the presently used Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP). Hence, statement 1 and 2 are correct.



- The **Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP)** was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in **assistance with the World Bank**, in 2004. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- It continued as the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) during 12th Plan (2012–17) under the National Health Mission with a domestic budget.
- Under it, a Central Surveillance Unit (CSU) at Delhi, State Surveillance Units (SSU) at all State/Union Territories (UTs) head quarters and District Surveillance Units (DSU) at all Districts have been established.

208. Ans: C

Exp:

- After independence, the control over cultivation and manufacture of opium became responsibility of the Central Government with effect from April, 1950.
- At present the **Narcotics Commissioner** along with the subordinates **exercises all powers and performs all functions** relating to superintendence of the **cultivation of the opium poppy and production of opium. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Commissioner derives this power from the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 and Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Rules, 1985.
- The opium poppy can be cultivated only in such tracts as are notified by the Government.
 - ◆ At present these tracts are confined to three States, viz. **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh and Chittorgarh and Jhalawar Districts of Rajasthan constitute about 80% of the total area cultivated.
- India is one of the few countries **internationally permitted** (by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) **to cultivate opium poppy for export. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

209. Ans: A

Exp:

- **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** was constituted under Section 410 of **the Companies Act, 2013** for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).

- ◆ NCLAT also hears appeals **against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.**
- ◆ NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the **Competition Commission of India (CCI). hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

210. Ans: C

Exp:

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialised body set up under the National Green Tribunal Act (2010) for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- **With the establishment of the NGT**, India became the third country in the world to set up a specialised environmental tribunal, only after Australia and New Zealand, and **the first developing country to do so. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The NGT has five places of sittings, New Delhi is the Principal place of sitting and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai are the other four.
- The Tribunal comprises the Chairperson, the Judicial Members and Expert Members.
 - ◆ They shall hold office for a term of five years and are not eligible for reappointment.
- The Chairperson is appointed by the **Central Government** in consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI). **hence, statement 2 is correct.**

211. Ans: A

Exp:

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education) has launched the **Margdarshan and Margdarshak initiatives** of the **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** in order **to improve the technical education** in India.
- The **UchhatarAvishkar Yojana (UAY)** scheme was announced with a view to promote innovation of a higher order that directly impacts the needs of the **Industry** and thereby improves the competitive edge of **Indian manufacturing.**
 - ◆ The scheme focuses on a viable industry-academic collaboration where industry shares a part of the cost of **research.**
- The **Manodarpan** initiative is aimed to **provide psychosocial support to students, family members and teachers** for their mental health and well-being during the times of Covid-19 (**Not related to technical education**).



- 'State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index' or SARAL is the first of its kind index to provide a comprehensive overview of state-level measures adopted to facilitate rooftop solar deployment (Not related to technical education).
- Hence, option A is correct.

212. Ans: D

Exp:

- NITI Aayog, through a discussion paper, has recommended reducing the rural and urban coverage under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, to 60% and 40%, respectively.
- National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 was notified on 10th September, 2013. Foodgrains under NFSA are made available to beneficiaries at subsidized prices. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- NFSA aims to provide for food and nutritional security in the human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
- NFSA covers 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Overall, NFSA caters to 67% of the total population. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

213. Ans: C

Exp:

- Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan aims at providing strategic funding to higher education institutions throughout the country. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ The scheme is being operated in mission mode for funding state universities and colleges to achieve the aims of equity, access and excellence.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in October 2013. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

214. Ans: B

Exp:

- The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has been established under the Ministry of Home affairs (MHA) to act as a nodal point at National level in the fight against cybercrime. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - ◆ The scheme to set up I4C was approved in October 2018, to deal with all types of cybercrimes in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.
 - ◆ This state-of-the-art Centre is located in New Delhi.

- ◆ Various States and Union Territories have given their consent to set up Regional Cyber Crime Coordination Centres.

Objectives:

- ◆ To provide a platform to deal with cybercrimes in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.
 - To coordinate all activities related to implementation of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT) with other countries related to cybercrimes in consultation with the concerned nodal authority in MHA. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- ◆ To create an ecosystem that brings together academia, industry, public and government in prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of cybercrimes.
 - To identify the research problems and take up R&D activities in developing new technologies and forensic tools in collaboration with academia/research institutes within India and abroad.
- ◆ To prevent misuse of cyberspace for furthering the cause of extremist and terrorist groups.
- ◆ Suggest amendments, if required, in cyber laws to keep pace with fast changing technologies and International cooperation.

215. Ans: C

Exp:

- The Supreme Court described privacy and its importance in the landmark decision of K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India in 2017 as a fundamental and inalienable right and attaches to the person covering all information about that person and the choices that he/ she makes. Hence, option C is correct.
- The right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution.

216. Ans: A

Exp

- 25 programmes offered by higher education institutions in India ranked among the top 100 in the world in their respective subject categories, according to the latest edition (11th) of the QS World University Rankings by Subject.
- The 2021 QS's global university performance comparison offered independent data on the performance of 253 programs at 52 Indian higher education institutions, across 51 academic disciplines.



- The number of Indian universities/institutes **in the top 100 subject rankings** has increased from 8 to 12 this year. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ 12 Indian institutions that have made it to the top 100 of the world - IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IISC Bangalore, IIT Guwahati, IIM Bangalore, IIM Ahmedabad, JNU, Anna University, University of Delhi and OP Jindal University.
 - ◆ IIT-Bombay has cornered more top 100 positions than any other Indian institution.
- The government-run Institutions of Eminence (IoE) remains significantly better-represented in the rankings than the private ones.
 - ◆ OP Jindal Global University has entered the global top-100 for law (76th). This is the only top-100 result achieved by a private IoE. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

217. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Overseas Citizens of India (OCI)** cardholders will be entitled to get multiple entry lifelong visas for visiting India for **any purpose**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- OCI cards would **need prior permission** for a set of activities that include **research, journalism, mountaineering, missionary** or Tablighi work, and visits to restricted areas. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- They have **parity with Indian nationals** in the matter of **domestic air fares, entry fees to monuments** and public places. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ OCI cardholders also enjoy parity with NRIs in adoption of children, appearing in competitive exams, purchase or sale of immovable property barring agricultural land and farmhouses, and pursuing professions such as doctors, lawyers, architects, and chartered accountants.

218. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)** is a campaign launched by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals** in 2008 under the name Jan Aushadhi Campaign.
 - ◆ The campaign was revamped as PMBJP in 2015-16.
 - ◆ **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementation agency** for PMBJP. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - The Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India works under the **Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**.
 - BPPI has also developed the Janaushadhi Sugam Application.

- The BPPI supports Janaushadhi Kendras as a part of PMBJP.
 - ◆ These are the centres from where quality generic medicines are made available to all.
 - ◆ Government grants of up to Rs. 2.5 lakhs are provided for setting up of Pradhan Mantri Janaushadhi Kendras.
 - ◆ The Janaushadhi Kendras can be set up by doctors, pharmacists, entrepreneurs, **Self Help Groups (SHGs), NGOs, charitable societies, etc. at any suitable place or outside the hospital premises.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

219. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** was **established by an Act of Parliament** (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997) to regulate telecom services, including fixation/revision of tariffs for telecom services. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It provides a fair and transparent policy environment which promotes a level playing field and facilitates fair competition.
- The TRAI Act was amended to establish a **Telecommunications Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)** to take over the **adjudicatory and disputes functions** from TRAI. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ TDSAT was set up to adjudicate any dispute between a licensor and a licensee, between two or more service providers, between a service provider and a group of consumers, and to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction, decision or order of TRAI.

220. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd.** is a central **Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** under the **Ministry of Power**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is India's largest energy conglomerate with roots planted way back in 1975 to accelerate power development in India.
- It aims to provide reliable power and related solutions in an economical, efficient and environment-friendly manner, driven by innovation and agility.
- It became a **Maharatna company** in May 2010. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is located in New Delhi.

221. Ans: D

Exp:

- Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is a **statutory body under the Ministry of Power** which was setup in 2002 under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It is mandated to implement policy and programmes in the area of energy efficiency and conservation.
- The Ministry of Power has launched “**Energy Efficiency Enterprise (E3) Certifications Programme for the Brick Manufacturing Sector**”.
 - ◆ The E3 Certification Scheme is aimed at tapping huge energy efficiency potential in this sector. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

222. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **State Election Commission** has been entrusted with the function of conducting free, fair and impartial elections to the local bodies in the state.
 - ◆ The elections of the legislative assemblies of states are conducted by the Election Commission of India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Article 243K(1): It states that the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Panchayats (Municipalities under Article 243ZA) shall be vested in a State Election Commission consisting of a **State Election Commissioner to be appointed by the Governor**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Article 243K(2): It states that the tenure and appointment will be directed as per the law made by the state legislature. However, State Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his/her office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of a High Court.

223. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)** is a **Central Sector Scheme** which was announced in December 1993. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Initially, it came under the control of the Ministry of Rural Development. Later, in October 1994, it was transferred to the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.
- **Functioning:**
 - ◆ Each year, MPs receive **Rs. 5 crore in two instalments of Rs. 2.5 crore each**. Funds under MPLADS are **non-lapsable**.

- ◆ Lok Sabha MPs have to **recommend the district authorities** projects in their Lok Sabha constituencies, while **Rajya Sabha MPs** have to spend it in the **state that has elected** them to the House.
- ◆ **Nominated Members** of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can **recommend works anywhere in the country**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

224. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, the **Union Road and Transport Minister** announced the **Vehicle Scrapping Policy** in the Lok Sabha. It was first announced in the Union Budget for 2021-22. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The policy **envisages reducing the population** of old and defective vehicles, bringing down vehicular air pollutants, **improving road and vehicular safety**.
 - ◆ The policy is estimated to cover 51 lakh Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) that are above 20 years of age and another 34 lakh LMVs above 15 years of age.
 - ◆ **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

225. Ans: A

Exp:

- Recently, the Government has launched the **Gram UJALA Programme** - an ambitious scheme **offering the world's cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas** at a mere Rs. 10. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ In its first phase launched from Arrah in Bihar, 15 million LED bulbs will be distributed across villages of 5 districts - Aarah (Bihar), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), and villages in western Gujarat.
- The light-emitting diode (LED) is one of today's most energy-efficient and rapidly-developing lighting technologies.
- The programme will be **financed entirely through carbon credits** and will be the first such programme in India. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The revenue earned from carbon credits will contribute Rs. 60 per LED bulb piece, with the balance Rs. 10 to be paid by the rural consumer.

226. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013** provided for the establishment of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for States.
 - ◆ Thus, the institution of Lokpal is a **statutory body** without any constitutional status. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- **Jurisdiction of Lokpal** includes Prime Minister, Ministers, members of Parliament, Groups A, B, C and D officers and officials of Central Government.

- ◆ However, the jurisdiction of the Lokpal included the Prime Minister except on allegations of corruption relating to international relations, security, the public order, atomic energy and space.

- ◆ The Lokpal **does not have jurisdiction over Ministers and MPs in the matter of anything said in Parliament** or a vote given there. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

227. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Central Information Commission** was established by the Central Government in 2005, **under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005)**. It is **not a constitutional body**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners.
 - ◆ They are **appointed by the President** on the **recommendation of a committee** consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner **shall hold office for such terms as prescribed by the Central Government** or until they attain the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ They are not eligible for reappointment.
 - ◆ The Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019 provided that the Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner shall hold office for such terms as prescribed by the Central Government.
 - **Before this amendment, their term was fixed for 5 years.**

228. Ans: C

Exp:

- **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** founded in 1977, IFAD focuses on rural poverty

reduction, **working with poor rural populations** in developing countries to eliminate poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations and was one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

229. Ans: C

Exp:

- Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) was established in 1994 under Societies Registration Act, 1860 as **an autonomous body promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The concept of '**Farmer Producer Organizations, (FPO)**' consists of **collectivization of producers** especially small and marginal farmers so as to form an effective alliance to collectively address many challenges of agriculture such as improved access to investment, technology, inputs, and markets.
 - ◆ **Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)** provides support for the promotion of FPOs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

230. Ans: A

Exp:

- The National Security Council (NSC) comprises the **three tier structure- Strategic Policy Group (SPG), the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) and the National Security Council Secretariat**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **India formed a National Security Council (NSC) in 1999**, where all aspects of national security are deliberated upon by it. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
- NSC acts as the apex body, **headed by the Prime Minister**.
 - ◆ The Ministers of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs and Finance are its members and the **National Security Adviser acts as its Secretary**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The SPG chaired by the Cabinet Secretary is the principal forum for inter-ministerial coordination and integration of the relevant inputs. The NSAB undertakes long-term analysis and provides perspectives on issues of national security.

231. Ans. D

Exp:

- The Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) are **exempted from registration** with the Foreigners' Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) for any length of stay in India. However, Foreigners visiting India **who hold long-term visas (more than 180 days)** are required to register their presence in India with the Foreigners' Regional Registration Office (FRRO). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Government of India via Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2015 **merged** the Person of Indian Origin (PIO) category with OCI category in 2015. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

232. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)** was established on **2nd October 1961** by the amalgamation of Eastern Shipping Corporation and Western Shipping Corporation.
- Two more shipping companies, Jayanti Shipping Company and Mogul Lines Limited, were merged with SCI in 1973 and 1986 respectively.
 - ◆ It is a Government of India Public Sector Enterprise. It operates and manages vessels that service both national and international lines.
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai.
- Navratna status: SCI was also **awarded the prestigious "Navratna" status by Indian Government in 2008.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In November 2019, the Union Cabinet had **accorded "in-principle" approval for strategic disinvestment** of Government of India's shareholding of 63.75% in SCI along with transfer of management control to a strategic buyer. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

233. Ans: B

Exp:

- **National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA)** is an organization under Department of Pharmaceuticals, **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** which was set up in 1997. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It revises the prices of controlled bulk drugs and formulations and to enforce prices and availability of the medicines in the country, under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 1995.
- The prices are now fixed/revised under Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013.
- It also **monitors the prices of decontrolled drugs** in order to keep them at reasonable levels. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

234. Ans: A

Exp

- The Union Cabinet has approved the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN)** for Health from the proceeds of Health and Education Cess.
 - ◆ The proceeds of Health and Education Cess are levied under Section 136-b of Finance Act, 2007.
- **Salient Features of the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN):**
 - ◆ It is a **non-lapsable reserve fund for Health** in the Public Account. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Proceeds of share of health in the Health and Education Cess will be credited into PMSSN.
 - ◆ Accruals into the PMSSN will be utilized for the flagship schemes of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare namely,
 - **Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).**
 - **Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs).**
 - **National Health Mission.**
 - **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).**
 - **Emergency & disaster preparedness and responses during health emergencies.**
 - Any future programme/scheme that targets to achieve progress towards **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and the targets set out in the **National Health Policy (NHP) 2017.**
 - **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Administration and maintenance of the PMSSN** is entrusted to the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW).** **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - In any financial year, the expenditure on such schemes of the MoHFW would be initially incurred from the PMSSN and thereafter, from Gross Budgetary Support (GBS).

235. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** is the **highest decision-making body** in the Defence Ministry for **deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services** (Army, Navy and Air Force) and the Indian Coast Guard. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Minister of Defence** is the Chairman of the Council. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- It was formed, after the Group of Ministers recommendations on 'Reforming the National Security System', in 2001, post Kargil War (1999).

236. Ans: A

Exp:

- The National Cadet Corps (NCC) was formed in 1948 (on the recommendation of **H. N. Kunzru Committee-1946**), and has its roots to British era uniformed youth entities like University Corps or University Officer Training Corps. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Currently, it has a strength of around 14 lakh cadets from Army, Navy and Air Force wings.
- The NCC falls under the purview of the Ministry of Defence and is headed by a Director General of three-star military rank.
 - ◆ It is open to school and college students on a voluntary basis.
 - NCC is **not a line of defence**. It is a **voluntary three-year programme**, where students are given basic military training in small arms and parades. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - The cadets, though have no liability to join the armed forces once they complete their course

237. Ans: B

Exp:

- The Chief Minister of Rajasthan has **demande d the national project status for the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP)**.
 - ◆ The main advantage of a project which has received national project status is that 90% of the funding for the project will be given by the central government. The estimated cost of the ERCP is around Rs. 40,000 crore. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ERCP aims to harvest **surplus water available during rainy season** in rivers in Southern Rajasthan, Such as **Chambal and its tributaries**, including Kunnu, Parvati, Kalisindh, and Use this water in south-eastern districts of the state, where there is scarcity of water for drinking and irrigation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ERCP is planned to meet drinking and industrial water needs of the southern and south eastern Rajasthan, for humans and Livestock till the year 2051.
- It proposes to provide drinking water to 13 districts of Rajasthan and provide irrigation water for 2.8 lakh hectares of land through 26 different large and medium projects.

- ◆ 13 districts: Jhalawar, Baran, Kota, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Tonk, Jaipur, Karauli, Alwar, Bharatpur, Dausa and Dholpur.

238. Ans: A

Exp:

- The judgement on **Indra Sawhney & Others vs Union of India** case was passed on 16 November, 1992.
 - ◆ It was a nine-judge verdict which decisively laid down several landmark propositions such as 50% threshold in reservations.
 - ◆ It was also known as the **Mandal Commission Case**.
- The **concept of 'creamy layer'** (advanced sections among the backward classes) also gained importance through this judgment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Indra Sawhney verdict had held there would be reservation only in initial appointments and not promotions.
 - ◆ However, addition of the article 16(4A) through the **77th amendment** to the Indian Constitution, **empowered the state to make provisions for reservation** in matters of **promotion** to SC/ST employees, if the state feels they are not adequately represented. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

239. Ans: A

Exp:

- The entry at **serial No. 23 of List II (State List) to the Constitution of India mandates the state government** to own the minerals located within their boundaries. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The entry at **serial No. 54 of List I (Central List) mandates** the Central Government to own the minerals within the exclusive economic zone of India (EEZ). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ In pursuance to this Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act of 1957 was framed.
 - ◆ The central government has the ownership over all offshore minerals (ie, minerals extracted from the sea or ocean floor in the Indian maritime zones such as the territorial waters, continental shelf and exclusive economic zones).

240. Ans: B

Exp:

- Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010
- Foreign funding of persons in India is regulated under FCRA Act and is **implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**



- ◆ Individuals are **permitted to accept foreign contributions without permission of MHA**. However, the monetary limit for acceptance of such foreign contributions shall be less than Rs. 25,000. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Under the Act, organisations are required to register themselves every five years.
- Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020
- **Prohibition to accept foreign contribution:** The Act **bars public servants from receiving foreign contributions**. Public servant includes any person who is in service or pay of the government, or remunerated by the government for the performance of any public duty. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Transfer of foreign contribution: The Act prohibits the transfer of foreign contribution to any other person not registered to accept foreign contributions.
- Aadhaar for registration: The Act makes Aadhaar number mandatory for all office bearers, directors or key functionaries of a person receiving foreign contribution, as an identification document.
- FCRA account: The Act states that foreign contribution must be received only in an account designated by the bank as FCRA account in such branches of the State Bank of India, New Delhi.
- Reduction in use of foreign contribution for administrative purposes: The Act proposes that not more than 20% of the total foreign funds received could be defrayed for administrative expenses. In FCRA 2010 the limit was 50%.
- Surrender of certificate: The Act allows the central government to permit a person to surrender their registration certificate.

241. Ans.B

Exp:

- Recently, the government accepted the 15th Finance Commission's recommendation to maintain the States' share in the divisible pool of taxes to 41% for the five-year period starting 2021-22.
- **Vertical Devolution (Devolution of Taxes of the Union to States):**
 - ◆ It has recommended maintaining the vertical devolution at 41% - the same as in its interim report for 2020-21. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It is at the same level of 42% of the divisible pool as recommended by the 14th Finance Commission.

- ◆ It has made the required adjustment of about 1% due to the changed status of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir into the new Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Horizontal Devolution (Allocation Between the States):**
 - ◆ For horizontal devolution, it has suggested 12.5% weightage to demographic performance, **45% to income distance**, 15% each to population and area, 10% to forest and ecology and 2.5% to tax and fiscal efforts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

242. Ans.B

Exp

- Recently, the government's maternity benefit scheme, or **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**, has crossed 1.75 crore eligible women till the financial year 2020.
- PMMVY is a maternity benefit programme being implemented **in all districts of the country** with effect from 1st January, 2017. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **target 3.1 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** set by the United Nations aims at **reducing the global maternal mortality ratio** to less than 70 per 1,00,000 live births. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

243. Ans: A

Exp:

- During the ongoing session the Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has informed the parliament about **Consumer Welfare Fund (CWF)**.
 - ◆ It was set up under the **Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Act, 2017**. The consumer welfare fund rules of 1992 have been subsumed under the CGST rules, 2017. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Fund has been set up by the Department of Revenue (Ministry of Finance) and is **being operated by the Department of Consumer Affairs (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution)**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

244. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS)** is a **Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP)** of the Ministry of Home Affairs.



- ◆ Approx. 14,000 Police Stations throughout the country have been proposed to be automated besides 6000 higher offices in the police hierarchy. It was approved in 2009. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Its main objective is to make the **Police functioning citizen friendly and more transparent by automating the functioning of Police Stations.**
 - ◆ Improve delivery of citizen-centric services through effective usage of ICT.
 - ◆ Provide the Investigating Officers of the Civil Police with tools, technology and information to facilitate investigation of crime and detection of criminals. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

245. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, the Centre has extended the tenure of the **Rohini Commission** until 31st July, 2021 to submit its report on Sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Rohini Commission was constituted in October 2017 under Article 340 of the Constitution. At that time, it was given 12 weeks to submit its report, but has been given several extensions since, the latest one being the 10th.
 - ◆ **Article 340** deals with the appointment of a commission to investigate the conditions of backward classes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

246. Ans: A

Exp

- The Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) has launched SAKSHAM (Shramik Shakti Manch) Job Portal. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- TIFAC is an **autonomous organization set up in 1988 under the Department of Science & Technology** to look ahead in the technology domain, assess the technology trajectories, and support innovation by networked actions in select areas of national importance. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

247. Ans: D

Exp:

- Recently, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour in its report "Social Security and Welfare Measures for Inter-State Migrant Workers" praised Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for providing sustainable livelihood to the unskilled workers including the inter-state migrant labourers.

- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world. It was launched on 2nd February 2006

- ◆ The primary objective of the scheme is to guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work.

- **Legal Right to Work:**

- ◆ Unlike earlier employment guarantee schemes, the act aims at addressing the **causes of chronic poverty through a rights-based framework.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ At least one-third of beneficiaries have to be women.

- ◆ Wages must be paid according to the **statutory minimum wages** specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the **Minimum Wages Act, 1948.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The most important part of MGNREGA's design is its **legally-backed guarantee** for any rural adult to get work within 15 days of demanding it, failing which an 'unemployment allowance' must be given.

- ◆ This demand-driven scheme enables the self-selection of workers.

- There is an emphasis on strengthening the process of decentralisation by giving a significant role in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in planning and implementing these works.

- ◆ The act **mandates Gram sabhas to recommend the works that are to be undertaken** and at least 50% of the works must be executed by them. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

248. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Article 51** of the Indian Constitution obliges India to:
 - ◆ Foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings of organised peoples with one country.

- ◆ Encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration. ACI is a step in realisation of this constitutional obligation.

- The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 seeks to establish an independent body called the **Arbitration Council of India (ACI)** for the promotion of arbitration, mediation, conciliation and other alternative dispute redressal mechanisms. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The ACI will consist of a Chairperson who is either:
 - ◆ A Judge of the Supreme Court; or
 - ◆ A Judge of a High Court; or
 - ◆ Chief Justice of a High Court; or
 - ◆ An eminent person with expert knowledge in conduct of arbitration.
 - ◆ Other members will include an eminent arbitration practitioner, an academician **with experience in arbitration, and government appointees.**
- **Appointment of Arbitrators:** Under the Act, the Supreme Court and High Courts may designate arbitral institutions, which parties can approach for the appointment of arbitrators.
 - ◆ For **international commercial arbitration**, appointments will be made by the institution designated by the **Supreme Court.**
 - ◆ For **domestic arbitration**, appointments will be made by the institution designated by the concerned **High Court.**
 - ◆ In case there are no arbitral institutions available, the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court may maintain a panel of arbitrators to perform the functions of the arbitral institutions.
 - ◆ An application for appointment of an arbitrator is required to be disposed of within 30 days.
 - ◆ **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

249. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Geospatial data** is data about objects, events, or phenomena that have a location on the surface of the earth.
 - ◆ The location may be static in the short-term, like the location of a road, an earthquake event, malnutrition among children, or dynamic like a moving vehicle or pedestrian, the spread of an infectious disease.
- Recently, the Ministry of Science and Technology **has released new guidelines** for the Geo-Spatial Sector in India **deregulating the existing protocol** and liberalising the sector to a more competitive field.
- **The features include:**
 - ◆ **Open access to its geospatial data and services, including maps, for all Indian entities**, with the exception of sensitive defence or security-related data. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Indian corporations** and innovators are **no longer subject to restrictions nor do they require prior approvals** before they collect, generate, prepare, disseminate, store, publish, update digital geospatial data and maps within the territory of India.

- There shall be **no requirement for security clearance, licence** or any other restrictions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

250. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** has launched an **instant messaging platform** called **Sandes** on the lines of WhatsApp. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ NIC is under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. It provides network backbone and e-Governance support to the Central Government, State Governments and UT Administrations.
- **Sandes App** is a Government Instant Messaging System (GIMS) that can be **used for official or casual use by any Government employee or public user** having a valid Mobile No./Email ID. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

251. Ans: A

Exp:

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has announced the names of the 25 cities selected for the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge under the Smart Cities Mission.
 - ◆ It is a three-year initiative that will support cities to develop, pilot, and scale solutions that enhance the quality of life of young children, their caregivers and families in the public realm.
- It will be open to all smart cities, other cities with more than 5,00,000 population, and capitals of states and Union territories.
- Cities will receive technical assistance and help in capacity-building to re-imagine parks and open spaces, **improve access to early childhood facilities**, adapt public spaces with early childhood-oriented amenities, and create accessible, safe, walkable streets for **young children and families.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Partner Organisations: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF) and World Resources Institute (WRI) India.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

252. Ans: B

Exp:

- WASH is an acronym that stands for the interrelated areas of **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- WASH Strategy has been developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in response to Member State Resolution and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being, SDG 6: Clean Water And Sanitation). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ It is a component of WHO's 13th General Programme of Work 2019–2023 which aims to contribute to the health of three billion through multisectoral actions like better emergency preparedness and response; and one billion with Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

253. Ans: B

Exp.:

- Every year, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) celebrates 21st February as International Mother Language Day to promote mother tongue-based multilingual education. The Yuelu Proclamation, made by UNESCO at Changsha (China) in 2018, plays a central role in guiding the efforts of countries and regions around the world to **protect linguistic resources and diversity.**

254. Ans: A

Exp:

Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA):

- UJALA is a zero-subsidy scheme launched by the Government in 2015.
 - ◆ It is touted as the world's largest domestic lighting project.
- It has been implemented by **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, a joint venture of PSUs **under the Ministry of Power. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Also known as the LED-based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP), it aims to promote the efficient usage of energy for all i.e., its consumption, savings and lighting.
- Every domestic household having a metered connection from their respective Electricity Distribution Company is eligible to get the LED bulbs under the Scheme.
- **Under the Street Lighting National Programme**, EESL replaces the **conventional street lights with LEDs** at its own costs, with no upfront investment by the municipalities, thereby making their adoption even more attractive. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

255. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Community Forest Resource Rights (CFR)** are the rights of Adivasi and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) over customary common forest land within the traditional or customary boundaries of the village or seasonal use of landscape in the case of pastoral communities.
- CFR rights are given under the **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006 recognizes and vest the forest rights and occupation in Forest land in Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) who have been residing in such forests for generations.
 - ◆ **National Forest Policy, 1988** was aimed at maintaining environmental stability and ecological balance through conservation of forests as a natural heritage.
- The **Gram Sabha** is the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of Individual Forest Rights (IFR) or Community Forest Rights (CFR) or both that may be given to FDST and OTFD. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- These can be **recognised over any forest land** including reserved forests, protected forests and protected areas such as Sanctuaries and National Park. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

256. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, the Union Minister for Rural Development inaugurated **Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021** at Noida Haat.
- It is a programme to transform rural India in general and the lives of rural women in particular.
- It is an initiative by the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) organised by the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It aims to bring the **rural women Self Help Groups (SHGs) under one platform so that they can showcase their skills, sell their products, and help them build linkages with bulk buyers.**
 - ◆ Through participation in SARAS Aajeevika Mela, these rural SHG women will get vital national level exposure to understand the demand and taste of urban customers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

257. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Bonded Labour** is a practice in which employers give high-interest loans to workers who work at low wages to pay off the debt.
 - ◆ The Supreme Court of India has interpreted bonded labour as the payment of wages that are below the prevailing market wages and legal minimum wages.
- India is obliged to end modern slavery by 2030 under the Sustainable Development Goal (Target 8.7) of ending forced labour, human trafficking and child labour.
 - ◆ India has also **ratified the ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ India also aspires to improve its rank (53rd out of 167 countries in the year 2018) in the Global Slavery Index.
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - ◆ Article 21 deals with the Right to Life and Personal Liberty.
 - ◆ **Article 23 of the Constitution prohibits forced labour. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Article 24 prohibits the employment of children (below the age of fourteen years) in factories, etc.
 - ◆ Article 39 directs the State to secure the health and strength of workers, men and women, and to see the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength.
- **Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976** extends to the whole of India but implemented by respective state governments.
 - ◆ It provides for an institutional mechanism at the district level in the form of Vigilance Committees.

258. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, the **Ministry of Communications** has decided to set up a **Digital Intelligence Unit (DIU)** as a nodal agency to deal with complaints of unsolicited commercial communication (UCC) and cases of financial fraud, especially in the digital payments space. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Apart from the DIU a Telecom Analytics for **Fraud Management and Consumer Protection (TAF COP)** will also be set up at all the 22 license service area levels.

- It would also ensure strict compliance of the **Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preferences Regulations (TCCPR) 2018** which provides a revised regulatory framework aimed at regulating '**unsolicited commercial communication' (UCC) in India**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

259. Ans.: B

Exp.:

- Every year, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) celebrates 21st February as International Mother Language Day to promote mother tongue-based multilingual education.
- Recently, an initiative **Namath Basai by Kerala State Government** has proved to be very beneficial in educating children from tribal areas by adopting **vernacular languages as medium of instruction**.
- **Google's Project Navlekha** uses technology to protect mother language. The project is aimed at **increasing the online content in Indian local languages**.

260. Ans.: B

Exp.:

- The Inter State Migrant Workers Act, 1979 **covers only labourers migrating through a contractor**, and leaves out independent migrants. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- According to the draft National Migrant Labour policy, migration should be **acknowledged as an integral part of development**, and government policies should not hinder but seek to facilitate internal migration. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The latest government data on migration comes from the 2011 Census. As per the Census, India had **45.6 crore migrants in 2011 (38% of the population)** compared to 31.5 crore migrants in 2001 (31% of the population). Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

261. Ans: D

Exp:

- The National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) has been launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** along with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ◆ These initiatives will further the ongoing efforts of both Ministries to realise the vision of Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- It will create a shared digital infrastructure for urban India, working across the three pillars of people, process, and platform to provide holistic support to cities and towns. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.



262. Ans.A

Exp:

- **Agriculture Technology Management Agency** is a registered society responsible for technology dissemination at the **district level**. It is a focal point for integrating research extension and marketing. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was launched during 2005-06. The funding pattern is 90% by the Central Government and 10% by the State Government. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Objectives:
- To strengthen research – extension – farmer linkages.
 - ◆ To provide an effective mechanism for coordination and management of activities of different agencies involved in technology adoption / validation and dissemination at the district level and below.
 - ◆ To increase the quality and type of technologies being disseminated.
 - ◆ To move towards shared ownership of the agricultural technology system by key shareholders.
 - ◆ To develop new partnerships with private institutions including NGOs.

263. Ans: D

Exp:

- The Prime Minister has laid the foundation of **LightHouse Projects (LHPs)**, as part of the **Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India) initiative**, at **six sites** across six states via videoconference. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Six LHPs consisting of about 1,000 houses each with physical & social infrastructure facilities are being constructed at six places across the country namely **Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Rajkot (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Agartala (Tripura) and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- These projects will showcase the use of the six distinct shortlisted innovative technologies for field level application, learning and replication.
- LHPs will demonstrate and deliver ready to live mass housing at an expedited pace as compared to conventional brick and mortar construction and will be more economical, sustainable, of high quality and durability.

264. Ans.B

Exp:

- Recently, RailTel has proposed to the Ministry of Education its plan for equipping rural schools, run by the central government, with the ability to hold 'smart classes'.
- RailTel is a **"Mini Ratna (Category-I)"** Central Public Sector Enterprise. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is an ICT (Information and Communication Technology) provider and one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure providers in the country owning a Pan-India optic fiber network on exclusive Right of Way (ROW - for laying telecom cables) along Railway track.
- RailTel has been selected for implementation of various mission-mode projects for the Government of India including rolling out the National Knowledge Network, **Bharat Net** and USOF (Universal Service Obligation Fund) funded optical fiber based connectivity project in North East India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

265. Ans: C

Exp:

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960:

- The legislative intent of the Act is to "prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals".
- **The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) was established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Act. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This Act provides for punishment for causing unnecessary cruelty and suffering to animals. The Act defines animals and different forms of animals.
 - ◆ Discusses different forms of cruelty, exceptions, and killing of a suffering animal in case any cruelty has been committed against it, so as to relieve it from further suffering.
- Provides the guidelines relating to **experimentation on animals for scientific purposes. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Act enshrines the provisions relating to the exhibition of the performing animals, and offences committed against the performing animals.
 - ◆ This Act provides for the limitation period of 3 months beyond which no prosecution shall lie for any offences under this Act.

266. Ans.B

Exp:

- The Ministry of Railways has launched an exclusive portal to promote and develop the railways' freight business - Freight Business Development Portal.

- **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC)** starts at Sahnawal (Ludhiana) in **Punjab** and ends at Dankuni in West Bengal. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The EDFC route has coal mines, thermal power plants and industrial cities. Feeder routes are also being made for these.
 - ◆ The EDFC route covers Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
 - ◆ The World Bank is funding a majority of the EDFC.
- The **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC)** is around 1,500-km. WDFC starts from Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in Mumbai**, touching all major ports along the way. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The WDFC covers Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.
 - ◆ It is being funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

267. Ans.C

Exp

- Recently, the **Rastriya Kamdhenu Aayog** has announced 'Kamdheni Gau-Vigyan Prachar-Prasar Exam' with an aim to "infuse curiosity" among people about the importance of cows, and to "sensitise and educate" them about the bovine species.
- **It has been constituted to organize animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines** and to take steps for preserving and improving breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a high-powered permanent body to formulate policies and to provide directions for the implementation of schemes related to cattle so as to lay more emphasis on livelihood generation for small & marginal farmers, women and youth entrepreneurs.
- **Its functions are an integral part of Rashtriya Gokul Mission.**
 - ◆ Rashtriya Gokul Mission was initiated by Government of India in December 2014 with the aim of development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds, genetic upgradation of bovine population and enhancing milk production and productivity of bovines thereby making milk production more remunerative to the farmers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

268. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** is a specialized **agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- World Food Day is celebrated every year around the world on 16th October. The day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the founding of the FAO in 1945.
 - ◆ It is one of the UN food aid organisations based in Rome (Italy). Its sister bodies are the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- The **Codex Alimentarius Commission or CAC** is the body responsible for all matters regarding the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)** was started by the FAO to safeguard and support the world's agricultural heritage systems. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ GIAHS are outstanding landscapes of aesthetic beauty that combine agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage.

269. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)** is celebrated on 9th January every year to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India.
 - ◆ 9th January was chosen as the day to celebrate PBD since it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa, led India's freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- On the occasion, several events such as PBD Convention, **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award** and Bharat ko Janiye Quiz are organised.
 - ◆ PBD Conventions are held once every two years.
- **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award:**
 - ◆ It is the **highest honour conferred on a Non-Resident Indian, Person of Indian Origin; or an organisation or institution established and run by Non-Resident Indians or Persons of Indian Origin**, who have made significant contribution in better understanding of India abroad, support India's causes and concerns in a tangible way, community work abroad, welfare of local Indian community, philanthropic and charitable work, etc. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ During the PBD convention, select eminent Indian diaspora members are awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards in the presence of the President of India.

270. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, the Union government has announced a new online single window clearance portal for the coal sector.
 - ◆ The coal sector can be the biggest contributor towards the target of India becoming a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025.
 - ◆ Despite having the world's fourth-largest coal reserves, India is importing coal.
 - ◆ The next tranche of commercial mining auction would be launched in January 2021.
- **Recent Initiatives in Coal Sector:**
 - ◆ **UTTAM (Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal):** In April 2018, the Ministry of Coal launched UTTAM Application for coal quality monitoring. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ **Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India (SHAKTI):** Launched in May 2017, for allocation of future coal linkages in a transparent manner for the power sector. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - ◆ **PARIVESH** is a **web-based application** which has been developed for online submission and monitoring of the proposals submitted by the proponents for **seeking Environment, Forest, Wildlife and Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ) Clearances from Central, State and district level authorities.**
 - **PARIVESH Mechanism** for forest and environment related clearances would likely be **merged into this single window clearance mechanism** which is expected to **help with the operationalisation of the coals blocks** that are set to be auctioned in the upcoming auctions.

271. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** provides a comprehensive insurance cover against failure of the crop thus helping in stabilising the income of the farmers.

- It includes all the food & oilseed crops and annual commercial/horticultural crops for which past yield data is available. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The prescribed premium is 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all rabi crops. In the case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium is 5%.
 - ◆ Premium cost over and above the farmer share is **equally subsidized by States and Gol.** However, Gol shares 90% of the premium subsidy for North Eastern States to promote the uptake in the region. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Crop Insurance app provides for easy enrollment of farmers and facilitates easier reporting of crop loss within 72 hours of occurrence of any event.
- To assess crop losses, satellite imagery, remote-sensing technology, drones, artificial intelligence and machine learning are used.

272. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)** has recently cleared a deal worth Rs. 48,000 crore for the acquisition of 83 Tejas Light Combat Aircraft for the Indian Air Force.
- CCS is chaired by the **Prime Minister of India.** Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Major decisions with respect to the **significant appointments**, issues of national security, defence expenditure of India are taken by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

273. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP)** aims at blending ethanol with petrol, thereby bringing it under the category of biofuels and saving millions of dollars by cutting fuel imports and decreasing carbon emissions.
 - ◆ **E20 Fuel:** Earlier, the Indian government had invited public comments for introducing adoption of E20 fuel (a blend of 20% ethanol with gasoline).
 - ◆ The target is to **achieve 20% blending of ethanol by 2025.** The current permissible level of blending is 10% of ethanol, though India reached only 5.6% of blending in 2019. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- **Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana, 2019:** The objective of the scheme is to create an ecosystem for setting up commercial projects and **to boost research and development in the 2G Ethanol sector.** Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- **National Biofuel Policy 2018:** The Policy categorises biofuels as “Basic Biofuels” viz. First Generation (1G) bioethanol & biodiesel and “Advanced Biofuels” - Second Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels, Third Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG etc. to enable extension of appropriate financial and fiscal incentives under each category.

274. Ans.C

Exp:

- **Indian Railway Finance Corporation(IRFC)** is a subsidiary of the Indian Railways, it is the **dedicated market borrowing arm** of the Indian Railways. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It follows a financial leasing model to finance the acquisition of rolling stock assets, which includes locomotives, coaches, wagons, trucks, flats, electric multiple units, containers, cranes, trollies, etc.
- It plays a significant role in supporting the capacity enhancement of the Indian Railways by financing the majority proportion of their annual plan outlay which gives a long term business visibility, the brokerage fees.
- It is also into **leasing railway infrastructure assets** and national projects of the Government of India (project assets) and lending to other entities under the Ministry of Railways (MoR). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

275. Ans: B

Exp:

Provisions of Borrowings under Indian Constitution

- **Borrowing by Centre and the States:** Chapter II in Part XII of the Constitution of India deals with borrowing. Article 292 covers borrowing by the Central Government, and Article 293 covers borrowing by States.
- **Empowering State Legislatures:** Article 293(1) provides State legislatures the power by law to enable or limit the State’s executive powers of borrowing and giving guarantees.
- **Consent of the Centre:** Under clauses (3) and (4) of **Article 293, State Governments need to obtain the consent of the Centre** for raising fresh loans in case they are indebted to the latter, and such consent may be granted subject to conditions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Entry 37** of the **List 1 of the Seventh schedule** of the Constitution gives powers of raising foreign loans only to the Centre. Thus, KIIFB borrowings are in violation of the Constitution and encroachment on the powers of the Centre. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

276. Ans.C

Exp:

- Recently, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched **“ShramShakti”- a National Migration Support Portal**, to smooth the formulation of state and national level programs for migrant workers.
- **ShramShakti portal** has been launched to **collect data** related to tribal migrant workers and **link them with the existing welfare schemes. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Pradhan Manti Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY)** is a market-linked tribal entrepreneurship development program for forming clusters of tribal **SHGs and strengthening them into Tribal Producer Companies. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

277. Ans: C

Exp:

- The redevelopment of New Delhi Railway Station (NDLS) has become the **first project to be undertaken on the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)** concept in the NCR.
 - ◆ The project has been approved by the Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- RLDA is a **statutory body under the Ministry of Railways** responsible for the development of vacant railway land. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) integrates land use and transport planning and aims to develop planned sustainable urban growth centers, having walkable and livable communes with high density mixed land-use.

278. Ans: A

Exp:

- A cyberattack is any type of offensive maneuver that targets computer information systems, infrastructures, computer networks, or personal computer devices.
- **Ways of Cyber Attack:**
 - ◆ **Phishing or Spoofing attacks:**
 - ◆ **Spoofing is an identity theft where a person is trying to use the identity of a legitimate user.** Phishing is where a person steals the sensitive information of users like bank account details. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**



◆ **Malware or Spyware:**

- **Spyware** is classified as a type of malware (malicious software) **designed to gain access to or damage one's computer**, often without one's knowledge. Spyware **gathers one's personal information** and relays it to advertisers, data firms, or external users.

◆ **SIM Swap:**

- Original SIM gets cloned and becomes invalid, and the duplicate SIM can be misused to access the user's online bank account to transfer funds.

- ◆ Man-in-the-middle attacks during online payments or transactions, etc.

● **International Mechanisms to curb Cybercrimes:**

- ◆ **The International Telecommunication Union (ITU):** It is a **specialized agency within the United Nations** which plays a leading role in the standardization and development of telecommunications and **cyber security issues**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ **Internet Governance Forum (IGF):** It brings together all stakeholders i.e. government, private sector and civil society on the Internet governance debate.

- ◆ **Budapest Convention on Cybercrime:** It is an international treaty that seeks to address Internet and computer crime by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations.

- It came into force on 1st July 2004. **India is not a signatory to this convention. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

279. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Covid-19 Performance Index** was compiled by the **Sydney-based Lowy Institute, an Australian think tank**, which sought to measure the response of countries to the Pandemic. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It assessed 98 countries.
 - ◆ China was not included in the study because all of its testing rates are not publicly available.
- India has been ranked 86th in the Index.
- **Top Countries: New Zealand** topped the rankings closely followed by Vietnam, **Taiwan**, Thailand and **Cyprus**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Bottom Countries:** Brazil stood at the bottom of the index. The USA was the fifth-worst performing country, it stood at 94 out of 98 countries.

280. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, a new scheme **"New India Literacy Programme"** for the **period FYs 2022-2027** to cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with **National Education Policy 2020** has been approved. **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.**
- The objective of the New India Literacy Programme
 - ◆ To **impart not only foundational literacy and numeracy** but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of the 21st century. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Other components include:
 - **Critical life skills** (including financial literacy, **digital literacy**, commercial skills, health care and awareness, child care and education, and family welfare).
 - **Vocational skills development** (with a view towards obtaining local employment)
 - **Basic education** (including preparatory, middle, and secondary stage equivalency);
 - **Continuing education** (including engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, technology, culture, sports, and recreation, as well as other topics of interest or use to local learners, such as more advanced material on critical life skills).

281. Ans: C

Exp:

- India is **not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol**, the key legal documents pertaining to refugee protection. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India lacks **specific legislation** to address the problem of refugees, in spite of their increasing inflow.
 - ◆ However, The Supreme Court in the **National Human Rights Commission vs. State of Arunachal Pradesh (1996)** held that "while all rights are available to citizens, persons including foreign citizens are entitled to the right to equality and the right to life, among others."
- The refugees and asylum seekers are entitled to the rights in **Articles 14 (Right to Equality), 20 (Protection with Respect to Conviction of Offenses) and 21 (Right to Life) of the Constitution**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

282. Ans: B

Exp:

First Information Report (FIR):

- FIR is a **written document** prepared by the police when they receive information about the commission of a **cognizable offense**.
- The term **FIR is not defined in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, or in any other law. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ However, in police regulations or rules, information recorded under Section 154 of CrPC is known as First Information Report (FIR).
- There are three important elements of an FIR:
 - ◆ The information must relate to the commission of a cognizable offense,
 - ◆ It should be given in writing or orally to the head of the police station,
 - ◆ It must be written down and signed by the informant, and its key points should be recorded in a daily diary.

Zero FIR:

- When a police station receives a complaint regarding an alleged offense that has been committed in the jurisdiction of another police station, it registers an FIR, and then transfers it to the concerned police station for further investigation.
 - ◆ This is called a Zero FIR.
- No regular FIR number is given. After **receiving the Zero FIR, the concerned police station registers a fresh FIR** and starts the investigation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

283. Ans: C

Exp:

Green Hydrogen/Green Ammonia Policy:

- Under the policy, the government is offering to set up **manufacturing zones for production**, connectivity to the **ISTS (Inter-State Transmission System)** on priority basis, and free transmission for 25 years if the production facility is commissioned before June 2025. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This means that a **green hydrogen producer will be able to set up a solar power plant** in Rajasthan to supply renewable energy to a green hydrogen plant in Assam and would not be required to pay any **inter-state transmission charges**.
 - ◆ Besides, **producers will be allowed to set up bunkers near ports** for storage of green ammonia for export by shipping. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

- **Production target** has also been raised **five times** from 1 million tonnes (m) to 5 mt by 2030.
 - ◆ In October, 2021 it was announced that **India is targeting initially around 1 million tonnes** annual green hydrogen production by 2030.
- Manufacturers of Green hydrogen and ammonia are allowed to **purchase renewable power from the power exchange** or set up **Renewable Energy (RE) capacity** themselves or through any other developer, anywhere.
- Further, it **provides facility for producers to bank any surplus renewable energy generated with discoms** (power distribution companies) for upto 30 days and use it as required.
- **Discoms may also procure renewable energy to supply green hydrogen producers but will be required to do so at a concessional rate** which will only include the cost of procurement, wheeling charges and a small margin as determined by the state commission, under the new policy.
 - ◆ Such procurement **would also count towards a state's Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO)** under which it is required to procure a certain proportion of its requirements from renewable energy sources.
- To **ensure ease of doing business** a **single portal for carrying out** all the activities including statutory clearances in a time bound manner will be set up by MNRE (Ministry of New and Renewable Energy).

284. Ans: B

Exp:

Kisan Drones:

- Recently, the Prime Minister has **flagged off 100 Kisan drones** in different cities and towns of India to spray pesticides in farms across India.
 - ◆ He also flagged off **"Drone Kisan Yatra"** to promote **chemical-free farming in India. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The Kisan drone will have an unmanned tank filled with insecticides and nutrients.
- The drones are expected to have a high capacity of 5 to 10kg.
- The drone will spray the same amount of pesticide on about one acre of land in just 15 minutes.
 - ◆ It will save time, will **require less effort and spraying will be done uniformly.**
- They will also be **used to carry vegetables, fruits, fish, etc to the markets from the farms. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**



- ◆ These items will be **supplied directly to the market with minimal damage**, consuming lesser time, resulting in more profits to farmers and fishermen.
- Kisan Drones will be **used to boost the agricultural sector** in the country.
- The use of Kisan Drones will be **promoted for crop assessment, digitization of land records** and spraying of insecticides and nutrients.
- It will usher in a **new edge revolution as high capacity drones** will be used to carry vegetables, fruits, fishes to the market directly from the farms.
- The development of the drone market in India will **generate fresh employment and new opportunities for the youth**.

285. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Purple Revolution:**
- **About:**
 - ◆ The Purple or Lavender Revolution was **launched in 2016 by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology** through the **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research's (CSIR) Aroma Mission**. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Lavender cultivation is practised in almost all the 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir.
 - ◆ Under the mission, **first-time farmers were given free lavender saplings**, while those who had cultivated lavender before were **charged Rs. 5-6 per sapling**. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **Aim:**
 - ◆ To support domestic aromatic crop based agro economy by moving from imported aromatic oils to homegrown varieties.
- **Products:**
 - ◆ Main product is Lavender oil which sells for at least Rs. 10,000 per litre.
 - ◆ Lavender water, which separates from lavender oil, is used to make incense sticks.
 - ◆ Hydrosol, which is formed after distillation from the flowers, is used to make soaps and room fresheners.
- **Significance:**
 - ◆ It is in sync with the government policy of doubling farm incomes by 2022.
 - ◆ It will help in providing means of livelihood to budding farmers and agri-entrepreneurs and give a boost to Start-Up India campaign and promote a spirit of entrepreneurship in the region.

- Over 500 youth had taken benefit from the purple revolution and augmented their income many-fold.

286 Ans: D

Exp:

- The government has set up the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM-CARES Fund) to deal with any kind of emergency or distress situation like posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The **Fund is a public charitable trust (not statutory)** with the Prime Minister as its Chairman. Other Members include Defence Minister, Home Minister and Finance Minister. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Fund enables micro-donations as a result of which a large number of people will be able to contribute with the smallest of denominations.
- It will strengthen disaster management capacities and encourage research on protecting citizens.
- Contribution to PM - CARES Fund Qualifies as CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) Expenditure. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

287. Ans: A

Exp:

- Traditional & Non-Conventional Systems of Health Care and Healing Which Include Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homeopathy etc.
 - ◆ Allopathy is not a part of AYUSH. **Hence, statement 1 is correct but statement 2 is not correct.**
- The market size of the AYUSH sector has grown by 17 % in 2014-20 to reach USD 18.1 billion.
- In terms of global share, **India has grown faster in the AYUSH market as compared to the world** and accounts for **about 2.8 %** of the market, which is likely to hold. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The Ayush market is currently estimated to be around USD 10 bn and it is projected to see a 50 % increase over the course of the next five years.

288. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (ASFPA)** gives **unfettered powers to the armed forces and the Central armed police forces** deployed in **"disturbed areas"** to **kill anyone acting in contravention of law and arrest and search any premises without a warrant and with protection from prosecution and legal suits**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

◆ The law first came into effect in 1958 to deal with the uprising in the Naga Hills, followed by the insurgency in Assam.

- The Act was amended in 1972 and the powers to declare an area as “disturbed” were conferred concurrently upon the Central government along with the States. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

289. Ans: C

Exp:

State of Children in India

- **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) Findings:** The recent NFHS 5 survey has revealed a mixed picture on child health and nutrition.
- On one hand there are definite positives like reduction in child mortality rates, improvements in the levels of nutrition indicators like stunting and wasting etc. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- On the other hand, incidents of anaemia among children have gone up from 58.6% in NFHS 4 to an alarming level of 67.1% in this round, leading experts to point out that more efforts are needed for meeting the 2030 SDG targets. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

290. Ans: B

Exp:

- Bhasha Sangam Initiative is an initiative to teach basic sentences of everyday usage in 22 Indian languages (Eighth Schedule languages). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- It is developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The idea is that people should acquire basic conversational skills in an Indian language other than their mother tongue.
 - ◆ It is available on DIKSHA, ePathshala and through 22 booklets.

291. Ans: A

Exp:

Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration Tracking (IVFRT)

Scheme:

- It seeks to interlink and optimize functions relating to immigration, visa issuance, registration of foreigners and tracking of their movements in the country. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- Its core objective is modernisation and upgradation of immigration and visa services.

- It has been identified and included as one of the Mission Mode Projects to be undertaken by the Ministry of Home Affairs under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). Hence statement 2 is not correct.

- Currently, it covers 192 Indian missions across the globe, 108 Immigration Check Posts in India, 12 Foreigners Regional Registration Officers and offices and more than 700 Foreigners Registration Officers, Superintendents of Police/Deputy Commissioners of Police across the country.

- After the commencement of IVFRT, the number of visa and Overseas Citizen of India cards issued increased from 44.43 lakh in 2014 to 64.59 lakh in 2019 at a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 7.7%.

292. Ans: A

Exp:

- The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 which came into force on 9th November, 1995 to establish a nationwide uniform network for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief and the second senior most Judge of the Supreme Court of India is the Executive Chairman of the Authority. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

293. Ans: C

Exp:

- The National Health Authority (NHA) has been constituted as an autonomous entity under the Society Registration Act, 1860 for effective implementation of the Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) in alliance with state governments. Hence, statement 1 is not correct but statement 2 is correct.
 - ◆ Inter-alia, this will include, formulation of AB PMJAY policies, development of operational guidelines, implementation mechanisms, coordination with state governments, monitoring and oversight of AB PMJAY amongst others.
- The State Health Agency (SHA) is the apex body of the State Government responsible for the implementation of AB PM-JAY in the State.
- AB PM-JAY offers a sum insured of Rs.5 lakh per family for secondary care as well as tertiary care, under a cashless and paperless access to health services framework.



- ◆ Under PMJAY, cashless and paperless access to services are provided to the beneficiaries at the point of service. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

294. Ans: C

Exp:

- Budget is the government's blueprint on expenditure, taxes it plans to levy, and other transactions which affect the economy and lives of citizens.
 - ◆ According to **Article 112 of the Indian Constitution**, the Union Budget of a year is referred to as the Annual Financial Statement (AFS). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Budget Division of the Department of Economic Affairs in the Finance Ministry is the nodal body responsible for preparing the Budget.
- There are three major components—**expenditure, receipts and deficit indicators**. Depending on the manner in which they are defined, there can be many classifications and indicators of expenditure, receipts and deficits. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

295. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code 1860** was passed by the Indian Parliament in 1983.
 - ◆ The section of 498A of the Indian Penal Code is a criminal law.
- It is defined that if the **husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjected such woman towards cruelty would be punished with imprisonment** for a term which might extend to 3 years and may also be liable for fine.
- Section 498 A of Indian Penal Code is one of the **greatest rescues for Violence against Women (VAW)**, which is a reflection of the pathetic reality of the domestic violence occurring within the four walls of a house.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

296. Ans: A

Exp:

About PM GatiShakti:

- PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for Multi-Modal Connectivity, **launched in October 2021**, is an initiative **aimed at coordinated planning and execution of infrastructure projects**. The objective is **to bring down logistics costs**.
- **GatiShakti is a digital platform** bringing development projects of 16 ministries, including railways and roadways, together for integrated planning and implementation.
- When launched, the **GatiShakti scheme subsumed the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline** announced in 2019.
- Its scope will **encompass the seven engines** (Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways and Logistics Infrastructure).
- It will also include the **infrastructure developed by the state governments** as per the GatiShakti Master Plan.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

297. Ans: B

Exp:

- Recently, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has released a **Draft National Higher Educational Qualification Framework (NHEQF)** as a part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to assess students at different levels.
- The **framework is not intended to promote a uniform curriculum or national common syllabus**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The purpose is to bring up/elevate all HEIs (Higher Education Institutions) to a common level of benchmarking to ensure that all institutions are providing quality education.
- The draft framework has outlined several learning level "descriptors" or parameters based on which students can be assessed at every level.
 - ◆ These parameters include generic learning outcomes, constitutional, ethical, and moral values, employment ready skills, entrepreneurship mindset, and application of knowledge and skills among others. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**