



An Institute for Civil Services

1 Yr. Complete CURRENT AFFAIRS REVISION

through 450 MCQ

PART - 1

- **Polity & Governance-1**
- **Polity & Governance-2**
- **Schemes + Programmes**
- **India Year Book**





IAS Prelims - 2019

CURRENT AFFAIRS

(POLITY AND GOVERNANCE PART - I)

Time Allowed: 1 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 100

Roll No.:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS TEST BOOKLET DOES NOT HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TORN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. Please note that it is the candidate's responsibility to encode and fill in the Roll Number carefully and without any omission or discrepancy at the appropriate places in the OMR Answer Sheet. Any omission/ discrepancy will render the Answer Sheet liable for rejection.
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. DO NOT write anything else on the Test Booklet.
4. While writing name and Roll No. on the top of the OMR Sheet in appropriate boxes use **"ONLY BLACK BALL POINT PEN"**.
5. This Test Booklet contains **100 items (questions)**. Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response, mark the response which you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.
6. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate **OMR Answer Sheet** provided.
7. All items carry equal marks. **(2 marks each)**
8. After you have completed filling in all your responses on the Answer Sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to the Invigilator only the Answer Sheet. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. Sheets for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.
10. Penalty for wrong answers:
THERE WILL BE **PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED** BY A CANDIDATE IN THE OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTION PAPERS.
 - (a) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, **one-third of the marks** assigned to that question will be **deducted as penalty**.
 - (b) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a wrong answer even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question.
 - (c) If a question is left blank, i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be no penalty for that question.

DO NOT OPEN THIS TEST BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SO

1. Consider the following statements regarding North Eastern Council (NEC):

1. North Eastern Council was established under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971.
2. Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) is the ex-officio chairman of the North Eastern Council.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

2. With reference to Central Vigilance commission, consider the following statements:

1. It was created on the recommendations of K. Santhanam Committee on Prevention of corruption.
2. The term of the members is five years or 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The maximum gap between two sessions of Parliament cannot be more than six months.
2. The Speaker from time to time summons each House of Parliament to meet.
3. A 'session' of Parliament is the period spanning between the first sitting of a House and its prorogation (or dissolution in the case of the Lok Sabha).

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

4. Recently Indian Railways and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) have jointly launched an awareness campaign on Protection of children. Consider the following statements regarding National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR):

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
3. The Child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC):

1. The members of the commission including the chairman are appointed by the President.
2. The strength of the commission is fixed and mentioned in the constitution.
3. The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

6. Consider the following statements:

1. As per Article 35A, everyone has the right to buy properties or land in Jammu and Kashmir.
2. It was added by amending Constitution under Article 368.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

7. With reference to National Register of Citizen (NRC), consider the following statements:

1. The National Register of Citizen (NRC) is being updated as per the provisions of The Citizenship Act, 1955 under The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.
2. Assam and Manipur are the only Indian states having National Register of Citizen (NRC).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

8. In the context of Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, consider the following statements:

1. A person can be named an offender under this law if there is an arrest warrant against him or her for involvement in economic offences involving at least Rs. 100 crore or more and has fled from India to escape legal action.
2. Vijay Mallya has become the first person to be declared a fugitive offender under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act.
3. Enforcement Directorate will be investigative agency under the Act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

9. Consider the following statements regarding Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2018:

1. As per the bill, commercial courts and commercial divisions in High courts can decide commercial disputes with value of at least Rs. 1 crore.

2. The Bill allows states to constitute commercial courts where High Courts have original jurisdiction.
3. The Bills allows state governments to notify commercial appellate courts at the district judge level in areas where High Courts do not have original civil jurisdiction.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

10. With reference to the difference between Censure motion and No Confidence motion, consider the following statements:

1. In case of no confidence motion, reasons must be stated for its adoption in the Lok Sabha while in case of censure motion no such reasons for its adoption are required to be stated in the Lok Sabha.
2. No confidence motion can only be moved against the entire council of ministers while censure motion can be moved against an individual minister, a group of ministers and the entire council of ministers.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

11. With reference to "cVIGIL", consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission of India has launched cVIGIL mobile application for citizens.
2. It will allow anyone in the election-bound state to report violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

12. Consider the following statements regarding Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP):

1. It was launched by the Election Commission of India.
2. The main aim of the programme is to inform and educate people about the importance of voting and to motivate voters.
3. It is designed based on the socio-economic and demographic profile of that state.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

13. Consider the following statements:

1. Denotified tribes are those that were labelled as criminals through legislation by British government and were denotified post-independence.
2. Bhiku Ramjildate Commission had recommended to set up a permanent commission for the Denotified (DNT), Semi-Nomadic (SNT), and Nomadic Tribes (NT).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

14. Consider the following statements regarding Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha:

1. He is sub-ordinate to the Chairman and is directly responsible to the Chairman.
2. He can vote for the first instance while presiding over the house.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

15. With reference to Restricted Area Permit, consider the following statements:

1. Under it, foreign nationals are not normally allowed to visit protected or restricted area unless Government is satisfied that there are extra-ordinary reasons to justify their visit.
2. Every foreigner, except citizen of Bhutan, who desires to enter and stay in protected or restricted area, is required to obtain special permit from competent authority having power to issue such permits to foreigner, seeking it.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

16. Consider the following statements regarding Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL):

1. It has been established by Union Ministry of Power by virtue of Section 110 of The Electricity Act, 2003.
2. It is conferred with original jurisdiction to hear petitions under Section 121 of the Act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

17. Consider the following statements regarding the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act:

1. The benami property refers to property purchased by a person in the name of some other person.
2. The act provides for establishment of an Adjudicating Authority by the State Government.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

18. Consider the following statements regarding Arbitration & Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018:

1. The Bill establishes Arbitration Council of India (ACI) as an independent body for promotion of arbitration, mediation, conciliation and other alternative dispute redressal mechanisms.
2. The Bill allows Supreme Court and High Courts to designate arbitral institutions, which parties can approach for appointment of arbitrators.
3. As per the bill there is no time limit to file written submissions before an arbitral tribunal.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

19. Consider the following statements:

1. The NOTA option is available only in Lok Sabha and state's assembly election.
2. NOTA option was first used in 2013 assembly elections.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

20. Consider the following statements:

1. Sedition in India is defined by Section 124 A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).
2. Sedition is an act that brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in India by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

21. Consider the following statements:

1. Under proxy voting, a registered elector can delegate his/her voting power to a representative.
2. Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2017 extends the facility of 'proxy voting' to overseas Indians, on the lines of service voters.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

22. Consider the following statements regarding Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013:

1. It allows setting up of anti-corruption ombudsman called Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayukta at the State-level.
2. The States will have to institute Lokayukta within six months of the commencement of the Act
3. The Lokpal will cover all categories of armed forces, public servants, including the Prime Minister.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

23. Which of the following is not a constitutional body?

- (a) Joint State Public Service Commission
- (b) Finance Commission
- (c) Comptroller and Auditor General of India
- (d) Central Information Commission

24. Consider the following statements regarding Anti-Defection law:

1. The Ninth Schedule contains the provisions with respect to the disqualification of members of Parliament and the state legislatures on the ground of defection.
2. The Chairman/Speaker has been given the final authority to decide questions of disqualification of a member of a House.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

25. With reference to the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission consider the following statements:

1. It addresses grievances of aggrieved consumer for goods and services having value over Rs. 1 crore.
2. The commission is headed by sitting or retired judge of Supreme Court of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

26. Consider the following statements regarding office of profit:

1. The term has been defined in Representation of the People Act, 1951
2. According to Articles 102(1) and 191(1) of the Constitution, an MP or MLA is barred from holding an office of profit as it can put them in a position to gain a financial benefit.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

27. With reference to President's Rule consider the following statements:

1. Every time a state loses its ability to function as per the Constitution, it comes under the direct control of the central government, which is referred as the President's rule.
2. President's Rule in a state can continue for one year.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

28. Consider the following statements regarding Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2018:

1. It amends the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and replaces the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018.
2. The bill provides for supersession of the MCI and its reconstitution within a period of three years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

29. Among the Directive Principles of State Policy which of the following is an example for liberal-intellectual principles?

- (a) To promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operation basis in rural areas.
- (b) To make provision for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.
- (c) To secure for all citizens a uniform civil code throughout the country.
- (d) To prohibit the consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs those are injurious to health.

30. Consider the following statements:

1. Section 377 of Indian Penal Code is related to criminalization of homosexuals.
2. It was introduced by Lord Macaulay in 1860.
3. The 172nd report of the Law Commission of India recommended the deletion of Section 377.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

31. With reference to HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017 consider the following statements:

1. It prohibits requirement for HIV testing as pre-requisite for obtaining employment or accessing health care or education.
2. It mentions that every HIV infected or affected person below age of 18 years has right to reside in shared household and enjoy facilities of household.
3. It gives right to every person in care and custody of the state to HIV prevention, testing, treatment and counseling services.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

32. Consider the following statements:

1. Section 498A of Indian Penal Code was introduced with affirmed object to combat the menace of harassment to a woman at the hands of her husband and his relatives.
2. Section 498A can only be invoked by wife/ daughter-in-law or her relative.
3. Making the dowry law compoundable was also among the recommendations made by the Law Commission and the Justice Malimath Committee.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

33. Consider the following statements with respect to Triple Talaq Ordinance:

1. Triple talaq will be recognised as a crime only when a woman or her blood relative files a complaint with the police.
2. The law is applicable to whole country without any exceptions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

34. With respect to Money Bill consider the following statements:

1. A money bill can be introduced / originated in either House of the Parliament.
2. President can withhold assent to money bill but cannot return it for reconsideration.
3. There is no question of joint sitting in case of money bills.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

35. Consider the following statements regarding Election Commission of India:

1. Conditions of service and tenure of office of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioner are determined by President.
2. The chief election commissioner or an election commissioner holds office for a term of 6 years or age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

36. Consider the following statements:

1. The appointment, posting and promotion of district judges in a state are made by the Chief Justice of India.
2. A person to be appointed as district judge should be an advocate or a pleader for seven years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

37. Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Justice and other judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President of India.
2. The senior most judge of the Supreme Court is appointed as the Chief Justice of India as mentioned in the constitution.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

38. Consider the following statements regarding amendments to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act:

1. It is a gender-oriented law that focuses on girls under the age of 18.
2. The amendments are proposed to protect children from sexual offences in times of natural calamities and disasters.
3. The amendment also proposes to alter the definition of sexual assault to include administering hormones to children expedite their sexual maturity for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

39. In the context of procedure of renaming of the state in India consider the following statements:

1. A bill for renaming a state may be introduced in the Parliament on the recommendation of the President.
2. Before the introduction of the bill, the President shall send the bill to the respective state assembly for expressing their views within a stipulated time.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

40. Consider the following regarding Competition Commission of India:

1. It was set up to replace the anachronistic Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission.
2. Chairman and members are appointed by the central government.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

41. Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on January 26, 1950.
2. Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) is nodal Ministry for the celebration of Constitution Day.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

42. With reference to National Commission for Women consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body established under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.
2. Chairperson is appointed by the Central Government and is person who is committed to the cause of women.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

43. Consider the following statements:

1. A person to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court should have been an advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years.

2. A person appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court, before entering upon his Office, has to make and subscribe an oath or affirmation before the Chief Justice of India.
3. The Constitution has not fixed the tenure of a judge of the Supreme Court.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

44. Consider the following statements:

1. Parliamentary privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament, individually and collectively, so that they can "effectively discharge their functions".
2. The presiding officer of the house is the first level of scrutiny of a privilege motion.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

45. Consider the following statements regarding the legislative powers of the Governor:

1. Governor has the power to dissolve the state assembly.
2. He nominates two members in state legislative assembly from the Anglo-Indian Community if in view; the community is not well represented.
3. He appoints 1/6th members of the State legislative Council in states wherever there is bicameral legislature.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

46. Consider the following statements regarding Central Bureau of Investigation:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
3. It is exempted from Right to Information (RTI) Act.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

47. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 20 constitutes the limitation on the legislative powers of the Union and State legislatures.
2. As per the Doctrine of Double Jeopardy no person shall be prosecuted and punished for the same offence more than once.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

48. With reference to Article 370 which was recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. Under Article 370, the Centre has no power to declare financial emergency under Article 360 in the state.
2. Under Article 370, the Indian Parliament cannot increase or reduce the borders of the state.
3. According to this article, except for defence, foreign affairs finance and communications, Parliament needs the state government's concurrence for applying all other laws.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

49. Consider the following statements regarding Comptroller and Auditor General:

1. He is appointed by the President.
2. Second schedule has the oath of affirmation for CAG
3. He can be removed from office in a manner and on grounds like Judge of a Supreme Court.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

50. Consider the following statements:

1. Vote on Account deals only with the expenditure side of the government's budget.
2. Interim Budget is a complete set of accounts, including both expenditure and receipts.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

CURRENT AFFAIRS

(POLITY AND GOVERNANCE PART - I)

Answer Key

Q. 1	(a)	Q. 14	(d)	Q. 27	(a)	Q. 40	(c)
Q. 2	(a)	Q. 15	(c)	Q. 28	(a)	Q. 41	(b)
Q. 3	(b)	Q. 16	(c)	Q. 29	(c)	Q. 42	(c)
Q. 4	(c)	Q. 17	(a)	Q. 30	(d)	Q. 43	(b)
Q. 5	(b)	Q. 18	(a)	Q. 31	(d)	Q. 44	(c)
Q. 6	(d)	Q. 19	(c)	Q. 32	(d)	Q. 45	(b)
Q. 7	(a)	Q. 20	(b)	Q. 33	(a)	Q. 46	(c)
Q. 8	(d)	Q. 21	(c)	Q. 34	(c)	Q. 47	(c)
Q. 9	(c)	Q. 22	(c)	Q. 35	(b)	Q. 48	(d)
Q. 10	(b)	Q. 23	(d)	Q. 36	(b)	Q. 49	(b)
Q. 11	(c)	Q. 24	(b)	Q. 37	(a)	Q. 50	(c)
Q. 12	(d)	Q. 25	(c)	Q. 38	(c)		
Q. 13	(c)	Q. 26	(b)	Q. 39	(c)		

1. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

North Eastern Council

- **Statement 1 is correct:** *NEC was established under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971* as an apex level body for securing balanced and coordinated development and facilitating coordination with the States.
- Subsequent to the Amendment of 2002, NEC has been mandated to function as a regional planning body for the North Eastern Area and while formulating a regional plan for this area, shall give priority to the schemes and projects benefiting two or more states provided that in the case of Sikkim, the Council shall formulate specific projects and schemes for that State.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Detail about the members:
 - Home Minister shall be the Chairman and
 - Minister of DoNER as Vice Chairman, NEC and
 - All the Governors and Chief Ministers of North Eastern States will be Members.
- **In News:** The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) for the nomination of the Union Home Minister as ex-officio Chairman of North Eastern Council (NEC). The Cabinet has also approved that Minister of State (Independent Charge); Ministry of DoNER would serve as Vice Chairman of the Council.

2. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

Central Vigilance Commission

- **Statement 1 is correct:** CVC is an apex probity watchdog of Union Government formed to address governmental corruption. *It was set up by Central Government in February 1964 on the recommendations of K. Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.* It has status of statutory autonomous body and free of control from any executive authority as per the provisions of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act, 2003.

- **Composition:** Presently, the body consists of central vigilance commissioner along with 2 vigilance commissioners.
- **Appointment:** They are **appointed by the President of India** on the recommendations of a committee consisting of **Prime Minister, Union Home Minister and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha** (if there is no LoP then the leader of the single largest Opposition party in the Lok Sabha).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** **Term:** *Their term is 4 years or 65 years, whichever is earlier.*
- **Removal:** The Central Vigilance Commissioner or any Vigilance Commissioner can be removed from his office **only by order of the President on the ground of proved misbehavior or incapacity** after the Supreme Court, on a reference made to it by the President, has, on inquiry, reported that the Central Vigilance Commissioner or any Vigilance Commissioner, as the case may be, ought to be removed.
- **In News:** Former NIA Chief Shri Sharad Kumar has been appointed as the Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi.

3. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Sessions of Parliament: Summoning

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The President from time to time summons each House of Parliament to meet.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The maximum gap between two sessions of Parliament cannot be more than six months. In other words, the Parliament should meet at least twice a year. There are usually three sessions in a year, viz,
 - The Budget Session (February to May);
 - The Monsoon Session (July to September); and
 - The Winter Session (November to December).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** A 'session' of Parliament is the period spanning between the first sitting of a House and its

prorogation (or dissolution in the case of the Lok Sabha). During a session, the House meets every day to transact business. The period spanning between the prorogation of a House and its reassembly in a new session is called 'recess'.

- **In News:** The Monsoon Session of Parliament will be held from July 18 to August 10, 2018. It will span over 24 days and will have 18 sittings.

4. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was set up in **March 2007 under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** *The Child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group.*
- 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.
- **In News:** Indian Railways and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) have jointly launched an awareness campaign on Protection of children in contact with Railways.

5. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The UPSC consists of a chairman and other members **appointed by the President of India.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** *The Constitution, without specifying the strength of the Commission has left the matter to the discretion of the president, who determines its composition.* Usually, the Commission consists of nine to eleven members including the chairman.

- Further, no qualifications are prescribed for the Commission's membership except that one-half of the members of the Commission should be such persons who have held office for at least ten years either under the Government of India or under the government of a state.
- The Constitution also authorizes the president to determine the conditions of service of the chairman and other members of the Commission.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** *The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.*
- However, they can relinquish their offices at any time by addressing their resignation to the president. They can also be removed before the expiry of their term by the president in the manner as provided in the Constitution.
- **In News:** The President has appointed Shri Arvind Saxena as Chairman, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

6. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

Article 35A

- Article 35A of the Constitution empowers Jammu and Kashmir legislature to define permanent residents (PR) of state.
- The Article allows the state of Jammu and Kashmir to grant special privileges and rights to permanent residents but denies rights to several others who too have genuine claims.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** *It debars non-residents of Jammu and Kashmir from buying land or property getting a government job or voting in Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.*
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It was **added through Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954 issued under Article 370 of Constitution by the President of India and not by amending constitution under Article 368.**
- The PR law enacted by Jammu and Kashmir legislature in pursuance of Article 35A replicates state subject law promulgated by Dogra King Maharaja Hari Singh in 1927 following a strong campaign by Kashmiri

Pandits, who had opposed to hiring of civil servants from Punjab because it affected their representation in administration.

- **In News:** Article 35A of the Constitution is now being vigorously contested with its constitutional validity being challenged before the Supreme Court. It has managed to create widespread legal and political controversy, despite it not even finding a mention in the regular sequential text of the Constitution.

7. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

National Register of Citizen (NRC)

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** *It is a list of all bona fide Indian citizens of Assam, the only state with such a document.*
- **Statement 1 is correct:** *The NRC is being updated as per the provisions of The Citizenship Act, 1955 and The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.*
- The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a list that contains names of Indian citizens of Assam. It was last prepared after Census in 1951. Assam, which had faced an influx of people from Bangladesh since the early 20th century, is the only state having an NRC.
- It will include persons whose names appear in any of the electoral rolls up to the midnight of 24th March, 1971 or National Register of Citizens, 1951 and their descendants.
- The process of verification involved house-to-house field verification, determination of authenticity of documents, family tree investigations in order to rule out bogus claims of parenthood, and linkages and separate hearings for married women.
- **In News:** The Supreme Court extended the deadline for submission of claims and objections for inclusion in the Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC) from December 15 to December 31, 2018.

8. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

Fugitive Economic Offender Act

- **Statement 1 is correct:** *A person can be named an offender under this law*

if there is an arrest warrant against him or her for involvement in economic offences involving at least Rs. 100 crore or more and has fled from India to escape legal action.

- **The procedure:**

- The investigating agencies have to file an application in a Special Court under the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002 containing details of the properties to be confiscated, and any information about the person's whereabouts.
- The Special Court will issue a notice for the person to appear at a specified place and date at least six weeks from the issue of notice.
- Proceedings will be terminated if the person appears. If not the person would be declared as a Fugitive Economic Offender based on the evidence filed by the investigating agencies.
- The person who is declared as a Fugitive Economic Offender can challenge the proclamation in the High Court within 30 days of such declaration according to the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** *Enforcement Directorate (under Ministry of Finance) will be investigative agency under the Act.*
- **Statement 2 is correct:** *Vijay Mallya has become the first person to be declared a fugitive offender under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act.* The order was passed under Section 2F of FEOA against Mallya by the PMLA court.
- **In News:** Absconding liquor baron Vijay Mallya on Saturday became the first person to be declared a fugitive economic offender by the special court hearing cases under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA).

9. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

The Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2018

- It replaces the ordinance promulgated by President in May 2018 and amends Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act, 2015.
- The Act enables creation of commercial divisions in High Courts and commercial courts at district level to adjudicate commercial disputes such as disputes related to contracts for provision of goods and services and construction contracts.
- The amendment is aimed at improving ease of doing business in India.
- Key Features of Bill
 - **Statement 1 is incorrect: Reduction in pecuniary limits:** Under the parent Act, commercial courts and commercial divisions in High courts can decide commercial disputes with value of at least Rs. 1 crore. **The Bill reduces this limit to Rs. 3 lakh.**
 - **Statement 2 is correct: Establishment of certain commercial courts:** The parent Act empowers state governments to constitute commercial courts at district judge level, after consulting concerned High Court. It had barred such commercial courts to be constituted in cases where High Court has original jurisdiction to hear commercial cases. **The Bill removes this bar and allows states to constitute commercial courts where High Courts have original jurisdiction.**
 - **Statement 3 is correct: Commercial Appellate Courts:** The Bills allows state governments to notify commercial appellate courts at the district judge level in areas where High Courts do not have ordinary original civil jurisdiction. These Appellate Courts will hear appeals against order of commercial court below level of district judge.
 - **Mediation:** It introduces pre-institution mediation process in cases where no urgent, interim relief is contemplated. This aims to provide for opportunity to parties to resolve commercial disputes outside ambit of courts through authorities. This will also help in reinforcing investor's confidence in the resolution of commercial disputes.
 - **Counterclaims not to be transferred:** The Bill removes provision of counterclaim in relation to transfer of suits in a commercial dispute of at least Rs. 1 crore in civil court.
- **In News:** A bill to amend the law for speedy disposal of commercial disputes and seeking to reduce the pecuniary jurisdiction of commercial courts from Rs 1 crore to Rs 3 lakh was passed by the Lok Sabha.

10. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Difference between Censure Motion and Motion of No Confidence

- **Statement 1 is incorrect: In case of censure motion, reasons must be stated for its adoption in the Lok Sabha** while in case of motion of no confidence no such reasons for its adoption are required to be stated in the Lok Sabha.
- **Statement 2 is correct: No confidence motion can only be moved against the entire council of ministers while censure motion can be moved against an individual minister, a group of ministers and the entire council of ministers.**
- Censure motion is moved for censuring the council of ministers for specific policies and action and no confidence motion on the other hand, is moved for ascertaining the confidence of Lok Sabha in the council of ministers.
- The council of ministers need not resign from the office if censure motion is passed in the Lok Sabha while in case of motion of no confidence, the council of minister must resign from office if the motion is passed.
- **In News:** BJP led NDA Government wins No Confidence motion in Lok Sabha.

11. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

cVigil

- **Both the statements are correct: The Election Commission of India has launched Cvigil mobile application for citizens to report any violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during elections.**
- The app aims at empowering people across the country to share evidence

of malpractice by political parties, their candidates and activists directly with ECI.

- At present its beta version has been released and will be made available for use during forthcoming Assembly elections Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Rajasthan.
- **Features of cVigil: It will allow anyone in election-bound state to report violations of MCC.** By using this app, vigilant citizens can immediately report on incidents of misconduct anonymously and in real-time by clicking picture or record video of up to two minutes and uploading it on the app.
- **The identity of the complainant will be kept confidential** and will be provided with Unique ID to track and receive the follow up updates on the mobile.
- The app also has inbuilt features to prevent its misuse. It will be active only in States where elections have been announced. The app also facilitates sharing of geo-tagged photographic and video evidence without disclosing identity of sender. The uploaded information will be transmitted to control room and from there to field units or flying squads, mapped on Geographic Information System (GIS) for further action.
- **In News:** Election Commission of India launches Mobile App "cVIGIL" to enable citizens to report on violation of election code of conduct.

12. Correct option:(d)

Explanation:

Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** SVEEP or Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation is a programme **launched by the Election Commission of India.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The main aim of the programme is to inform and educate people about the importance of voting and to motivate voters. The Election Commission of India is hoping to make Indian Democracy more participative through SVEEP.
- **Statement 3 is correct: It is designed based on the socio-economic and demographic profile of that state.**

• **SVEEP objectives:**

- Educating individuals about the importance of voting
- Increase participation in elections through voter registration and turnout
- Increase participation in terms of ethical and informed voting process
- Consistent education about the democracy and voting process in India
- **In News:** Election Commission of India has launched a dedicated portal for the ECI's 'Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation' (SVEEP).

13. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Denotified Tribes

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Denotified tribes are those that were labelled as criminals through a legislation by British government and were denotified post-independence, the Nomadic tribes maintain constant geographical mobility while semi-nomads are those who are on the move but return to fixed habitations once a year, mainly for occupational reasons.
- **Bhiku Ramjildate Commission's Recommendation**
 - National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes (NCDNT) Chairman Bhiku Ramjildate handed over its report.
 - The Commission report has noted that post-independence policies for these communities have been mostly "symbolic reparations", with post-liberalization policies alienating them further from their land and occupations.
 - The Commission has made a total of 20 recommendations, the major recommendations of the Commission are as follows:
 - **Poorest:** The report has called the tribes, the poorest of the poor, most marginalized and most downtrodden communities, who are subjected to social stigma, atrocity, and exclusion.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Permanent Commission:** The Idade Commission has proposed to **set up a permanent commission** that should have a prominent community leader as its chairperson, and a senior Union Government bureaucrat, an anthropologist and a sociologist as members.
- **Recognition:** It recommended that these 'most deprived' communities be recognized as Scheduled DNT/NT/ SNT.
- **Constitutional protection:** The panel recommended granting Constitutional protection to the people belonging to the de-notified tribes, nomadic or semi-nomadic tribes in India, under a separate third schedule after Schedules Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- **Separate schedule for the tribe:** A separate schedule will bring these communities under the cover of reservation in jobs and education and the protection of Prevention of Atrocities Act.
- **Others:** Some of the issues have also been raised by the panel's report with regard to all the concerned ministries involving the repealing of the Habitual Offenders Act, provision of PDS cards, special housing schemes for the largely landless community, establishment of a separate academy to preserve their art and culture, special education and health schemes.
- **National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic & Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT)**
 - The present National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes (NCDNT) started functioning in 2015, under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
 - The first NCDNT was constituted in the year 2003, reconstituted in 2005 (Renke Commission), which submitted its report in 2008.
- **In News:** The NITI Aayog has given its approval to a proposal by Idade Commission constituted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to set up a permanent commission for Denotified (DNT), Semi-Nomadic (SNT), and Nomadic Tribes (NT).

14. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

Deputy Chairman of RajyaSabha

- The Deputy Chairman is elected by the RajyaSabha itself from amongst its members. Whenever the office of the Deputy Chairman falls vacant, the RajyaSabha elects another member to fill the vacancy. The Deputy Chairman vacates his office in any of the following three cases:
 - If he ceases to be a member of the RajyaSabha;
 - If he resigns by writing to the Chairman; and
 - If he is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the members of the RajyaSabha. Such a resolution can be moved only after giving 14 days' advance notice.
- The Deputy Chairman performs the duties of the Chairman's office when it is vacant or when the Vice-President acts as President or discharges the functions of the President. He also acts as the Chairman when the latter is absent from the sitting of the House. In both the cases, he has all the powers of the Chairman.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** *It should be emphasised here that the Deputy Chairman is not subordinate to the Chairman. He is directly responsible to the RajyaSabha.*
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** *Like the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, while presiding over the House, cannot vote in the first instance; he can only exercise a casting vote in the case of a tie.*
- Further, when a resolution for the removal of the Deputy Chairman is under consideration of the House, he cannot preside over a sitting of the House, though he may be present.
- When the Chairman presides over the House, the Deputy Chairman is like any other ordinary member of the House. He can speak in the House, participate in its proceedings and vote on any question before the House.
- Like the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman is also entitled to a regular salary and allowance. They are fixed by Parliament and are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

- **In News:** Harivansh Narayan Singh has been elected as the new deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

15. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Restricted Area Permit (RAP)

- RAP regime was notified under the **Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963**.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under it, foreign nationals are not normally allowed to visit protected or restricted area unless Government is satisfied that there are extra-ordinary reasons to justify their visit.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Every foreigner, **except citizen of Bhutan**, who desires to enter and stay in protected or restricted area, is required to obtain special permit from competent authority having power to issue such permits to foreigner, seeking it.
- Citizens of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan and foreign nationals of Pakistani origin **are exception and are not allowed to enter such areas**.
- **In News:** The Centre is planning to revisit its decision to lift the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) system from 29 islands of Andaman and Nicobar.

16. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** *It has been established by Union Ministry of Power in April 2004 by virtue of Section 110 of The Electricity Act, 2003.*
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It has jurisdiction throughout India has been set up to hear appeals or original petitions against orders of Adjudicating officer or The Central Regulatory Commission or State Regulatory Commission or Joint Commission constituted under Electricity Act.
- It is conferred with original jurisdiction to hear petitions under Section 121 of the Act and issue directions to any appropriate commission for performance of its statutory functions.

- It consists of Chairperson and three other Members. Every Bench constituted by Chairperson consists of at least one Judicial Member and one Technical Member. The tribunal ordinarily sits at Delhi.
- Justice Manjula Chellur took oath as Chairperson of Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (ATE), Ministry of Power. Prior to this appointment, she was Chief Justice of Bombay High Court. She has been appointed for a period of 3 years or until further orders, whichever is earlier
- **In News:** Justice Manjula Chellur took oath as Chairperson of Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (ATE), Ministry of Power.

17. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

Benami Transactions (Prohibition) (Amendment) Act, 2016

- The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016 designed to curb black money was passed by parliament in August 2016, came into effect in November 2016. The new law amended the Benami Transactions Act, 1988 and renamed the same as Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions (PBPT) Act, 1988. The amendment act strengthens the parent Act in terms of legal and administrative procedure. The aim of the act is to redirect the unaccounted money into the financial system.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The benami (without a name) transaction refers to property purchased by a person in the name of some other person. The person on whose name the property has been purchased is called the **benamdar** and the property so purchased is called the **benami property**. The person who finances the deal is the real owner.
- Persons indulging in benami transactions may face up to **7 years' imprisonment and fine**.
- Furnishing false information is punishable by imprisonment **up to 5 years and fine**.
- Properties held benami are liable for confiscation by government without compensation
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** *The act provides for establishment of an Adjudicating*

Authority by the Central Government.

It shall be consisting of a Chairperson and at least two other members. A person who has been member of Revenue Service or Income Tax only can become chairperson or member of adjudicating authority. The case shall be decided in a year's time, once it is referred by the initiator to the adjudicating authority

- Initiating Officer may pass an order to continue holding property and may then refer case to Adjudicating Authority which will then examine evidence and pass an order.
- Appellate Tribunal will hear appeals against orders of Adjudicating Authority. High Court can hear appeals against orders of Appellate Tribunal.
- **In News:** The prosecution of accused persons in almost 100 confirmed cases instituted under the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act has scuttled as the Special Courts meant for the purpose have not yet been set up across the country.

18. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

Arbitration and Conciliation Bill (Amendment) 2018

- The Act contains provisions to deal with domestic and international arbitration, and defines the law for conducting conciliation proceedings.
- **Statement 1 is correct: Arbitration Council of India (ACI):** The Bill establishes ACI as an independent body for promotion of arbitration, mediation, conciliation and other alternative dispute redressal mechanisms. It will frame policies for grading arbitral institutions and accrediting arbitrators, make policies for establishment, operation and maintenance of uniform professional standards for all alternate dispute redressal matters and maintain depository of arbitral judgments (awards) made in India and abroad.
- **Composition of ACI:** It will consist of Chairperson who is either Judge of Supreme Court or Judge of High Court or Chief Justice of High Court or eminent person with expert knowledge in conduct of arbitration. Its other members will

include eminent arbitration practitioner, academican with experience in arbitration and government appointees.

- **Statement 2 is correct: Appointment of arbitrators:** The Bill allows Supreme Court and High Courts to designate arbitral institutions, which parties can approach for appointment of arbitrators. For international commercial arbitration, appointments will be made by institution designated by Supreme Court. The institution designated by concerned High Court will make appointments for domestic arbitration appointments. In case there are no arbitral institutions available, then concerned High Court Chief Justice can maintain panel of arbitrators to perform functions of arbitral institutions. The application for appointment of arbitrator is required to be disposed of within 30 days.
- **Relaxation of time limits:** The Bill proposed to remove time restriction for international commercial arbitrations. Earlier under the parent Act, arbitral tribunals were required to make their award within period of 12 months for all arbitration proceedings.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect: Completion of written submissions:** The Bill requires written claim and defence to claim in arbitration proceeding **should be completed within six months of appointment of arbitrators**. Currently, there is no time limit to file written submissions before an arbitral tribunal.
- **Confidentiality of proceedings:** The Bill provides that all details of arbitration proceedings will be kept confidential except for the details of the arbitral award in certain circumstances. Disclosure of the arbitral award will only be made where it is necessary for implementing or enforcing the award.
- **In News:** The Lok Sabha passed the Arbitration and Conciliation Bill (Amendment) 2018, which provides for time-bound settlement of disputes as well as accountability of the arbitrator.

19. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

None of the Above (NOTA)

- NOTA is ballot option designed to allow voter to indicate disapproval of all of the candidates in a voting system.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** It was introduced in 2013 after Supreme Court of India directed Election Commission to provide NOTA button in the electronic voting machines. NOTA option was first used in 2013 assembly elections held in four States — **Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh**. 2014 Lok Sabha election was first general election to see its nationwide use of NOTA, where it polled 1.1% of the votes.
- **NOTA is not right to reject** i.e. candidate with maximum votes wins the election irrespective of the number of NOTA votes polled. Election Commission also has clarified that even though votes cast as NOTA are counted, they are considered as invalid votes so they will not change outcome of election process.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Election Commission of India (EC) had removed NOTA (None of the Above) option from ballot papers of Rajya Sabha, Legislative Council elections following directive of Supreme Court. The NOTA option henceforth will be only available in direct elections such as Lok Sabha and state assembly elections.
- **In News:** A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra observed that the NOTA option is applicable only for direct elections and not the Rajya Sabha polls.

20. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Sedition

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Sedition in India is defined by **Section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code**.
- Section 124 A was introduced by the British colonial government in 1870 when it felt the need for a specific section to deal with radical Wahabi movement of the 19th century, led by Syed Ahmed Barelvi and centred around Patna.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Section 124 A of IPC says, "Whoever, 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 shall be punished with

imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine."

- **In News:** Law commission of India has publicized a consultative paper for a comprehensive public discussion regarding Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code 1860, which deals with sedition.

21. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill of 2017

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Voting in an Indian election can be done in three ways — **in person, by post and through a proxy. Under proxy voting, a registered elector can delegate his voting power to a representative.** This was introduced in 2003 for elections to the Lok Sabha and Assemblies, but on a limited scale.
- Only a "classified service voter" — a definition that includes members of the armed forces, BSF, CRPF, CISF, General Engineering Reserve Force and Border Road Organisation — is allowed to nominate a proxy to cast vote on his behalf in his absence. A classified service voter can also vote by postal ballot.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2017, proposes to amend Section 60 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and extend the facility of proxy voting to Indian voters living abroad.
- It proposes to eliminate the Section 20A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, which requires overseas electors to be physically present in their electoral constituencies to cast their votes.
- **In News:** During the recent monsoon session, Lok Sabha passed a Bill that proposes to allow non-resident Indians to use proxies to cast votes on their behalf in Indian elections.

22. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Act allows setting up of anti-corruption ombudsman called **Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayukta at the State-level.**

- The Lokpal will consist of a chairperson and a maximum of eight members.
- The Lokpal will cover all categories of public servants, including the Prime Minister.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** *But the armed forces do not come under the ambit of Lokpal.*
- The Act also incorporates provisions for attachment and confiscation of property acquired by corrupt means, even while the prosecution is pending.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The States will have to institute Lokayukta **within one year of the commencement of the Act.**
- The Act also ensures that public servants who act as whistleblowers are protected.
- **Powers:**
 - The Lokpal will have the power of superintendence and direction over any investigation agency including CBI for cases referred to them by the ombudsman.
 - As per the Act, the Lokpal can summon or question any public servant if there exists a prima facie case against the person, even before an investigation agency (such as vigilance or CBI) has begun the probe.
 - Any officer of the CBI investigating a case referred to it by the Lokpal shall not be transferred without the approval of the Lokpal.
 - An investigation must be completed within six months. However, the Lokpal or Lokayukta may allow extensions of six months at a time provided the reasons for the need of such extensions are given in writing.
 - Special courts will be instituted to conduct trials on cases referred by Lokpal.
- **In News:** Government has constituted eight-member search committee headed by former Supreme Court judge, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, to recommend names for posts of Lokpal chairperson and members.

23. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

Central Information Commission (CIC)

- Central Information Commission (CIC) was established in 2005 by Central Government under provisions of **Right to Information (RTI) Act (2005).**
- It plays important role in maintaining transparency in system of governance essential for healthy democracy. Such kind of transparency check aims to curb corruption, nepotism, oppression and misuse or abuse of the authority.
- Central Information Commission (CIC) is designated **statutory authority** to receive and inquire into complaint from any person.
- The general superintendence, direction and management of affairs of Commission are vested in Chief Information Commissioner who is assisted by Information Commissioners.
- CIC submits annual report to Union government on the implementation of the provisions of RTI Act. The central government in turn places this report before each house of Parliament. It can order inquiry into any matter if there are reasonable grounds.
- It can secure compliance of its decisions from the public authority.
- It can recommend steps to be taken for promoting such conformity, if public authority does not conform to provisions of RTI Act.
- It examines any record which is under control of the public authority and which may be withheld from it on any grounds during the enquiry. While inquiring, it has powers of civil court.
- **In News:** The 13th Convention of Central Information Commission was held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind. It was attended by Chief Information Commissioner, Information Commissioners, State Information Commissioners, former information Commissioners, Central Public Information officer, NGOs and other stake holders.

24. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Anti-Defection Law

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The 52nd amendment to the Constitution added the **Tenth Schedule, which laid down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection.**

- A **Member of Parliament** or state legislature was deemed to have defected if he either voluntarily resigned from his party or disobeyed the directives of the party leadership on a vote. That is, they may not vote on any issue in contravention to the party's whip.
- **Independent members** would be disqualified if they joined a political party.
- **Nominated members** who were not members of a party could choose to join a party within six months; after that period, they were treated as a party member or independent member.
- The law also made a few exceptions. Any person elected as speaker or chairman could resign from his party, and rejoin the party if he demitted that post. A party could be merged into another if at least two-thirds of its party legislators voted for the merger. The law initially permitted splitting of parties, but that has now been outlawed.
- **Deciding Authority**
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** *The question as to whether a member of a House of Parliament or State Legislature has become subject to disqualification will be determined by the Chairman/Speaker of the House and his decision will be final.*
 - Where the question is with reference to the Chairman/Speaker himself it will be decided by a member of the House elected by the House in that behalf and his decision will be final.
 - All proceedings in relation to any question as to disqualification of a member of a House under the Tenth Schedule shall be deemed to be proceedings in Parliament within the meaning of Article 122.
- **Rule-Making Power**
 - **The Chairman or the Speaker of a House has been empowered to make rules for giving effect to the provisions of the Tenth Schedule.** The rules are required to be laid before each House and are subject to modifications/disapproval by the House.
 - The Chairman or the Speaker of the House may without prejudice to the

provision of Article 105 or as the case may be, Article 194, and to any other power which he may have under the Constitution direct that any willful contravention by any person of the rules made under paragraph 8 of the Tenth Schedule may be dealt with in the same manner as a breach of privilege of the House.

- **In News:** In a major relief to the AIADMK government in Tamil Nadu, the Madras High Court has upheld the state Assembly Speaker's decision disqualifying 18 AIADMK legislators last year.

25. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)

- NCDRC is quasi-judicial commission set up under Consumer Protection Act of 1986.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** *It addresses grievances of aggrieved consumer for goods and services having value over Rs. 1 crore.*
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It was established in 1988 and is headquartered in New Delhi. The commission is **headed by sitting or retired judge of Supreme Court of India.**
- **Statutory Provisions:** Section 21 of Consumer Protection Act, 1986 posits that NCDRC shall have jurisdiction to entertain complaint valued more than Rs. 1 crore and also have appellate and revisional jurisdiction from orders of state commissions or district fora as case may be. Section 23 of Act provides that any person aggrieved by order of NCDRC, may appeal against such order to Supreme Court within period of 30 days.
- **In News:** Department of Consumer Affairs & NCDRC organized conference to review functioning of State Commissions and District Fora.

26. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Office of profit

- Office of profit is a position in government which cannot be held by Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) or Member

of Parliament (MP). The post can yield salaries, perquisites and other benefits.

- **Statement 1 is incorrect: It has not been defined in Constitution or Representation of the People Act, 1951.** But different courts have interpreted it as position with certain duties that are more or less of public character. However, legislator cannot be disqualified from either Parliament or state assembly for holding any office. It can be done only in case of holding: an office; office of profit; office under union or state government; office exempt by law from purview of disqualificatory provisions. All four conditions have to be satisfied before MP and MLA can be disqualified.
- **Basic criteria to disqualify an MP or MLA:**
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** According to Articles 102(1)(a) and 191(1)(a) of Constitution, legislators (MP or MLA) can be barred from holding office of profit under Central Government or state government as it can put them in position to gain financial benefit.
 - They can be disqualified in case they are being of unsound mind, undischarged insolvent and not being Indian citizen or for acquires citizenship of another country. Under the RPI, 1951 too, holding an office of profit is grounds for disqualification.
- **In News:** President RamNathKovind has dismissed a petition seeking disqualification of 27 AAP MLAs from Delhi on grounds of having held 'office of profit' as chairpersons of patient welfare committees (RogiKalyanSamiti) constituted by Delhi government.

27. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

President's Rule

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution, the Union government can take over the affairs of the state government when state government is unable to function according to the constitutional provisions. This is called as President's rule in the state.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: President's Rule in a state can continue for 6 months.** It can be extended, with the approval of both the houses done every 6 months, for a maximum of 3 years

- For President's rule to continue over a year every 6 months following conditions should be met:
 - There should already be a National emergency across the country, or in the whole or any part of the state.
 - The Election Commission of India should certify that the conduct of elections is not possible in the concerned state.
- **In News:** President Ram NathKovind signed the proclamation paving the way for imposition of central rule in the Jammu and Kashmir State

28. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2018

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It amends the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and replaces the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2018. The Act sets up the Medical Council of India (MCI) which regulates medical education and practice.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: Supersession of the MCI:** The 1956 Act provides for supersession of the MCI and its reconstitution within a period of three years. **The Bill amends this provision to provide for the supersession of the MCI for a period of one year.** In the interim period, the central government will constitute a Board of Governors, which will exercise the powers of the MCI.
- The Act provides for the Board of Governors to consist of up to seven members including persons of eminence in medical education, appointed by the central government. The Bill amends this provision to allow for eminent administrators to be selected in the Board. Further, **the Bill provides for the Board of Governors to be assisted by a Secretary General appointed by the central government.**
- **In News:** The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2018 to supersede the Medical Council of India.

29. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Directive Principles of State Policy

- The Constitution does not contain any classification of Directive Principles. However, on the basis of their content and direction, they can be classified into three broad categories, viz, socialistic, Gandhian and liberal-intellectual. The principles included in liberal-intellectual category represent the ideology of liberalism. They direct the state:
- **Option (c) is correct:** *To secure for all citizens a uniform civil code throughout the country (Article 44).*
- To provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years **(Article 45).**
- To organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines **(Article 48).**
- To protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wild life **(Article 48 A).**
- To protect monuments, places and objects of artistic or historic interest which are declared to be of national importance **(Article 49).**
- To separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State **(Article 50).**
- To promote international peace and security and maintain just and honourable relations between nations; to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations, and to encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration **(Article 51).**
- **In News:** Law Commission has released a Consultation Paper on Family Law Reform. This consultation on family law reforms in India, discusses a range of provisions within all family laws, secular or personal, and suggests a number of changes to in the form of potential amendments and fresh enactments.

30. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

Section 377 of Indian Penal Code

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code dating back to 1860, introduced during the British rule

of India, **criminalises sexual activities "against the order of nature"**, including homosexual sexual activities. Prior to that, sexual activities, including amongst homosexuals, were not penalised in India.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is rooted in the legacies of British colonial states where in it was **introduced by Lord Macaulay in 1860 as a part of IPC**. According to the section "Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, shall be punished".
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **172nd report of the Law Commission of India recommended the deletion of Section 377** but no action was taken.
- **A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court decriminalised homosexuality**, with a prayer to the LGBTQ community (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) to forgive history for subjecting it to brutal suppression.
- Bench unanimously held that criminalisation of private consensual sexual conduct between adults of the same sex under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code was clearly unconstitutional.
- **Section would apply to "unnatural" sexual acts like bestiality. Sexual act without consent continues to be a crime under Section 377.**
- **In News:** Section 377 will not apply to consensual same-sex acts, says Supreme Court.

31. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017

- The Act safeguards rights of people living with HIV and affected by HIV. It also addresses HIV-related discrimination, strengthen existing programme by bringing in legal accountability and establish formal mechanisms for inquiring into complaints and redressing grievances.
- The Act seeks to prevent and control spread of HIV and AIDS, prohibits discrimination against persons with HIV and AIDS. It lists various grounds on which discrimination against HIV positive persons and those

living with them is prohibited.

- These discrimination grounds include denial, termination, discontinuation or unfair treatment with regard to (i) employment (ii) educational establishments (iii) health care services, (iv) standing for public or private office, (v) residing or renting property and (vi) provision of insurance.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** It also prohibits requirement for HIV testing as pre-requisite for obtaining employment or accessing health care or education.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It mentions that every HIV infected or affected person below age of 18 years has right to reside in shared household and enjoy facilities of household.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It also prohibits any individual from publishing information or advocating feelings of hatred against HIV positive persons and those living with them. It gives right to every person in care and custody of the state to HIV prevention, testing, treatment and counseling services.
- It mentions that person between 12 to 18 years of age having sufficient maturity in understanding and managing affairs of his HIV or AIDS affected family will be competent to act as guardian of another sibling below 18 years of age. This will be applicable in matters relating to admission to educational establishments, operating bank accounts, managing property, care and treatment, amongst others.
- **In News:** Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued notification for bringing Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017 in force from 10th September, 2018.

32. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

Section 498A of Indian Penal Code

- Section 498A, which was passed by the Parliament in 1983, states that "whoever, being the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjects such woman to cruelty shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be

liable to fine'

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In 1983, 'Section 498-A of the IPC was introduced with affirmed object to combat the menace of harassment to a woman at the hands of her husband and his relatives.
- The fact that Section 498-A is a **cognizable and non-bailable offence** has lent it a dubious place of pride amongst the provisions that are used as weapons
- The simplest way to harass is to get the husband and his relatives arrested under this provision.
- In quite a number of cases, bed-ridden grand-fathers and grand-mothers of the husbands, their sisters living abroad for decades are arrested.
- The Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Husbands help men at the receiving end of anti-dowry laws.
- The rate of charge-sheet filing for the year 2012, under Section 498A IPC was at an exponential height of 93.6% while the conviction rate was at a staggering low at 14.4% only (NCRB data)
- **Statement 2 is correct:** 498A can only be invoked by wife/daughter-in-law or her relative.
- A typical case goes on for years (5-7 years is typical) and the conviction rate is about 2% only.
- In most cases 498A complaint is followed by the demand of huge amount of money (extortion) to settle the case out of the court.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Making the dowry law compoundable was also among the recommendations made by the Law Commission and the Justice Malimath Committee.
- **In News:** Taking note of the 'misuse' of Section 498A, the Supreme Court has said that the accused can now seek anticipatory bail.

33. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

Triple Talaq Ordinance

- Triple talaq remains cognizable with a maximum of three years imprisonment and a fine.

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Triple talaq will be recognised as a crime only when a woman or her blood relative files a complaint with the police.
- A compromise can be achieved only when the woman is willing and says so to a magistrate. A magistrate can grant bail only after the wife's consent.
- The custody of children from the marriage will go to the woman.
- The mother is entitled to maintenance determined by a magistrate.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The law *doesn't affect Jammu and Kashmir*.
- **In News:** Triple Talaq Ordinance passed

34. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Money Bill

- The money bills have special features which make the procedure of their passage in parliament distinct. These special features are as follows:
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** A money bill can be introduced / originated **only in Lok Sabha (or in legislative assembly in case of bicameral legislature in states)**.
- A money bill can be introduced only on prior recommendations of the President (or governor in case of state)
- A money bill can be a government bill only. No private bill can be a money bill.
- Once a money bill is passed in Lok Sabha, it is transmitted to Rajya Sabha for its consideration. But Rajya Sabha has limited powers in this context. It can neither reject nor amend the money bill. It can make only recommendations and has to return the bill with or without recommendations to Lok Sabha in 14 days
- The Lok Sabha may or may not accept the recommendations of Rajya Sabha. Whether or not accepted those recommendations, thus returned bill is considered passed in both houses. If Rajya Sabha does not even return the bill in 14 days, it is considered passed in both houses.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** President can withhold assent to money bill but cannot return it for reconsideration of the Lok Sabha.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** There is no question of joint sitting in case of money bills because opinion of Rajya Sabha is immaterial in their case.
- **In News:** The Supreme Court has upheld the Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid. The court also upheld the passage of the Aadhaar Act as a Money Bill.

35. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Election Commission of India

- For the conduct of free and fair elections, **an independent Election Commission has been provided for in Article 324.**
- In India, the Election Commission consists of three members. These all are **appointed by the President for a term which is fixed by the President.**
 - **Statement 1 is incorrect:** However, conditions of service and tenure of office of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioner are determined by an act of parliament titled **The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Act, 1991**. This act has fixed the following:
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** The chief election commissioner or an election commissioner shall hold office for **a term of 6 years or age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.**
 - The chief election commissioner and other commissioners are **paid a salary equal to the salary of a judge of the Supreme Court.**
 - On retirement, they are entitled **to a pension payable to a judge of the Supreme Court.**
 - All business of the election commission shall, as far as possible, be transacted unanimously.
 - If the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners differ in opinion on any matter, such matter shall be decided according to the opinion of the majority.
- **In News:** Election Commission of India recently told the Supreme Court that repeated publication of propaganda

lauding the achievements of a candidate in an election is nothing but "paid news".

36. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

District Courts

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The appointment, posting and promotion of district judges in a state are made **by the governor of the state in consultation with the high court**. A person to be appointed as district judge should have the following qualifications:
 - He should not already be in the service of the Central or the state government.
 - **Statement 2 is incorrect:** He should have been an advocate or a pleader **for seven years**.
 - He should be recommended by the high court for appointment.
- Appointments of other Judges (other than district judges) to the judicial service of a state are made by the governor of the state after consultation with the State Public Service Commission and the high court.
- **In News:** Supreme Court expresses concern over the high level of vacancy in subordinate courts.

37. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

Chief Justice of India

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Chief Justice and other judges of the Supreme Court are **appointed by the President of India**. While appointing the Chief Justice, the President is constitutionally required to consult such other judges of the Supreme Court as he deems proper, but outgoing Chief Justice is always consulted.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Normally, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court is appointed as the Chief Justice of India, although **there is no constitutional requirement to do so**. While appointing other judges, the **President is bound to consult the Chief Justice and other**

senior judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, if he deems proper.

- **In News:** Justice Ranjan Gogoi sworn in as 46th Chief Justice of India.

38. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** **POSCO is a gender-neutral law protects both boys and girls under the age of 18**. The amendments proposed are:
 - The amendments provide for stringent punishment, including the death penalty, for committing aggravated penetrative sexual assault crime on a child, both boys and girls, below the age of 18.
 - The amendments extend the punishment for aggravated penetrative sexual assault from a minimum of 10 years to a minimum of 20 years, up to a maximum of life imprisonment and even the death penalty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The amendments are proposed to protect children from sexual offences in times of natural calamities and disasters.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The amendment also proposes to alter the definition of sexual assault to include administering hormones to children expedite their sexual maturity for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.
- **In News:** The Union Cabinet has approved amendments to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The amendments are proposed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

39. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Procedure of Renaming of the State in India

- The renaming of a state requires Parliamentary approval under Article 3 and 4 of the Constitution.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** A bill for renaming a state may be introduced in the Parliament on the recommendation of the President.

- Before the introduction of the bill, the President shall send the bill to the respective state assembly for expressing their views within a stipulated time. The views of the state assembly are not binding, neither on the President nor on the Parliament.
- On the expiry of the period, the bill will be sent to the Parliament for deliberation. The bill in order to take the force of a law must be passed by a simple majority.
- The bill is sent for approval to the President. After the approval of the said bill, the bill becomes a law and the name of the state stands modified.
- **In News:** West Bengal government's move to rename WB as "Bangla" has hit a roadblock after concerns that the new name may sound like Bangladesh, and it would be difficult to differentiate the two at international forums.

40. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Competition Commission of India

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) was set up to replace the anachronistic **Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC)**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) was established under the Competition Act, 2002 for the administration, implementation and enforcement of the Act, and was duly constituted in March 2009. **Chairman and members are appointed by the central government.**
- The following are the **objectives of the Commission**:
 - To prevent practices having adverse effect on competition.
 - To promote and sustain competition in markets.
 - To protect the interests of consumers.
 - To ensure freedom of trade.
- **Functions of the commission:**
 - It is the duty of the Commission to eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition, promote and

sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.

- The Commission is also required to give opinion on competition issues on a reference received from a statutory authority established under any law and to undertake competition advocacy, create public awareness and impart training on competition issues.
- The Competition Act, 2002, as amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates combinations (acquisition, acquiring of control and M&A), which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India.
- **In News:** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has amended the Combination Regulations. This amendment inter alia provide certainty & transparency and expedites faster disposal of combination cases before CCI.

41. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Indian Constitution

- **Statement 1 is incorrect: The Constitution Day of India (or Samvidhan Diwas)** is observed every year on 26th November to mark the anniversary of adoption of Constitution and also spread awareness of Indian Constitution. On this day in 1949, constitution of India was adopted and **came into force on January 26, 1950.**
- **Statement 2 is correct: Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE)** is nodal Ministry for the celebration of Constitution Day.
- This year (November 26, 2018) it was third edition of the Constitution Day (69th anniversary of adoption of Constitution) after it was instituted in October 2015 as part of year-long nationwide celebrations of 125th birth Anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar, Chairman of the Drafting Committee of Constituent Assembly.
- **In News:** The 69th Constitution Day was observed across India on November 26, 2018 to mark the adoption of the Indian Constitution by the Constituent Assembly.

42. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

National Commission for Women (NCW)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** NCW is a statutory body established under the **National Commission for Women Act, 1990**. It was established in January 1992 to review constitutional and legal safeguards for women.
- It recommends remedial legislative measures, advise Government on all policy matters affecting women and facilitate redressal of grievances related to women.
- The first Commission was constituted in January **1992 with Jayanti Patnaik as Chairperson**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Commission comprises of Chairperson, five Members and Member-Secretary. **Chairperson is appointed by the Central Government** and is person who is committed to the cause of women. Besides Chairperson, commission has **five members nominated by Central Government**.
- **Ministry of Woman and Child Development (WCD)** has nominated three members to National Commission for Women (NCW) in pursuance **Section 3 of the NCW Act, 1990**. They are Chandramukhi Devi, Soso Shaiza, and Kamlesh Gautam. All three are BJP members. They will hold office for period of **three years or till age of 65 years or until further orders from date of assumption of charge of office, whichever is the earlier**. The new appointments now leave two positions vacant in NCW. Rekha Sharma is current chairperson of NCW.
- **In News:** Ministry of Woman and Child Development (WCD) has nominated three members to National Commission for Women (NCW) in pursuance Section 3 of the NCW Act, 1990.

43. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Supreme Court

- The judges of the Supreme Court are **appointed by the president**. The chief justice is appointed by the president

after consultation with such judges of the Supreme Court and high courts as he deems necessary. The other judges are appointed by president after consultation with the chief justice and such other judges of the Supreme Court and the high courts as he deems necessary. The consultation with the chief justice is obligatory in the case of appointment of a judge other than Chief justice.

- A person to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court should have the following qualifications:
 - He should be a citizen of India.
 - **Statement 1 is correct:** (a) He should have been a judge of a High Court (or high courts in succession) for five years; or (b) **He should have been an advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years;** or (c) He should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president. From the above, it is clear that the Constitution has not prescribed a minimum age for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** A person appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court, before entering upon his Office, has to make and subscribe **an oath or affirmation before the President**, or some person appointed by him for this purpose.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Constitution has not fixed the tenure of a judge of the Supreme Court. However, it makes the following three provisions in this regard:
 - He holds office until he attains **the age of 65 years**. Any question regarding his age is to be determined by such authority and in such manner as provided by Parliament.
 - He can resign his office by writing **to the president**.
 - He can be removed from his office by the President on the recommendation of the Parliament.
- **In News:** Justices Hemant Gupta, R Subhash Reddy, M R Shah and Ajay Rastogi were sworn-in as the Judges of the Supreme Court. Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi administered oath of office to the four judges.

44. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Parliamentary Privileges

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Parliamentary privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament, individually and collectively, so that they can "effectively discharge their functions". When any of these rights and immunities are disregarded, the offence is called a breach of privilege and is punishable under law of Parliament.
- **Statement 2 is correct: The Speaker/RS chairperson is the first level of scrutiny of a privilege motion.** The Speaker/Chair can decide on the privilege motion himself or herself or refer it to the **privileges committee of Parliament**. If the Speaker/Chair gives consent under Rule 222, the member concerned is given an opportunity to make a short statement.
- **In the Lok Sabha, the Speaker nominates a committee of privileges consisting of 15 members as per respective party strengths.** A report is then presented to the House for its consideration. The Speaker may permit a half-hour debate while considering the report. The Speaker may then pass final orders or direct that the report be tabled before the House.
- A resolution may then be moved relating to the breach of privilege that has to be unanimously passed. **In the Rajya Sabha, the deputy chairperson heads the committee of privileges, that consists of 10 members.**
- **In News:** Claiming they had misled Parliament on the Rafale fighter jet deal issue, the Congress may move a breach of privilege motion against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharama.

45. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Powers of Governor with regard to state legislature

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Governor has powers **to summon and prorogue state legislature and dissolve the state assembly**.

- **He addresses the first session of the state legislature** after the general elections in the state.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** He also **appoints 1/6th members of the State legislative Council** in states wherever there is bicameral legislature.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** He also **nominates one member in state legislative assembly from the Anglo-Indian Community** if in view; the community is not well represented.
- **In News:** Jammu and Kashmir Governor recently dissolved the State Assembly (which has been in suspended animation) when two political parties separately staked claim to form a government.

46. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is India's premier investigating agency that handles all high-profile cases. Its job is to ensure a fair and an impartial probe.
- Origins of CBI can be traced back to the **Special Police Establishment (SPE) set up in 1941** in order to cases of bribery and corruption in War & Supply Department of India during World War II.
- The need of a Central Government agency to investigate cases of bribery and corruption was felt even after the end of World War II. So, DSPE (Delhi Special Police Establishment) Act, 1946 was brought that gave legal power of investigating cases to CBI.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect: CBI is not a statutory body as it is not established by an Act of the Parliament.**
- CBI investigates cases related to economic crimes, special crimes, cases of corruption and other high-profile cases.
- **Statement 2 is correct: CBI comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.** Various organizations under this Ministry are Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), CBI, Central Information Commission (CIC), etc.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** *CBI is exempted from Right to Information (RTI) Act* similar to National Investigating Agency (NIA), National Intelligence Grid (Natgrid), etc.
- **CBI is headed by a Director, an IPS (Indian Police Service) officer of the rank of Director General of Police.** The director is selected based on CVC Act, 2003 for two years-term. Several other ranks in CBI are filled through recruitment by SSC or deputation from Police, Income Tax Department and Customs Department.
- The appointment procedure of CBI Director has undergone several changes over time.
- Initially, appointments were made as per Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
- **2003:** DSPE Act revised on Supreme Court's recommendation. A committee that had members from Central Vigilance Commission, Secretaries from Home Ministry, Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievances would send recommendations to Central Government for appointment of CBI Director.
- **2014:** The Lokpal Act provided a committee headed by Prime Minister and members as Leader of Opposition/ Leader of single largest opposition party, Chief Justice of India/ a Supreme Court Judge for appointment of CBI Director was formed. Home Ministry sends list of eligible candidates to DoPT that prepares the final list and send it to the committee.
- Established in 1902 by the British Government, CID (Crime Investigation Department) is an investigation and intelligence department of state police. On the other hand, CBI is an agency of the Central Government.
- The ten regional zones of CBI are in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Guwahati, Kolkata, Patna, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Bhopal and Delhi.
- Central Government can authorize CBI to investigate cases in any state with the consent of the concerned state. Supreme Court and High Courts can also order the CBI to investigate without state's consent.

- **In News:** Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have withdrawn the "general consent" granted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), effectively curtailing the agency's powers in the States without prior permission.

47. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Article 20 of Constitution of India and Doctrine of Double Jeopardy

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 20 has taken care to safeguard the rights of persons accused of crimes. Persons here mean the citizens, non-citizens as well as corporations. Please note that this article cannot be suspended even during an emergency in operation under Article 359. **Article 20 also constitutes the limitation on the legislative powers of the Union and State legislatures.**
- **Article 20 (1)** says that no person shall be convicted of any offence except for violation of a law in force at the time of the commission of the Act charged as an offence, nor be subjected to a penalty greater than that which might have been inflicted under the law in force at the time of the commission of the offence. **This is called Ex-Post facto Law.** It means that legislature cannot make a law which provides for punishment of acts which were committed prior to the date when it came into force. This means that a new law cannot punish an old act.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Article 20(2)** says that no person shall be prosecuted and punished for the same offence more than once. This is called **Doctrine of Double Jeopardy**. The objective of this article is to avoid harassment, which must be caused for successive criminal proceedings, where the person has committed only one crime. There is a law maxim related to this – **nemo debet bis vexari. This means that no man shall be put twice in peril for the same offence.**
- **In News:** The Supreme Court of India has ruled that the bar of double jeopardy does not arise if an accused was discharged of a criminal offence, even before the commencement of trial, on the basis of an invalid sanction for prosecution.

48. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

Article 370

- Article 370 of the Indian Constitution is a **'temporary provision' which grants special autonomous status to Jammu & Kashmir.**
- Under **Part XXI of the Constitution of India**, which deals with **"Temporary, Transitional and Special provisions"**, the state of Jammu & Kashmir has been accorded **special status under Article 370.**
- All the provisions of the Constitution which are applicable to other states are not applicable to J&K.
- **Statement 3 is correct: According to this article, except for defence, foreign affairs finance and communications, Parliament needs the state government's concurrence for applying all other laws.** Thus the state's residents live under a separate set of laws, including those related to citizenship, ownership of property, and fundamental rights, as compared to other Indians.
- Indian citizens from other states cannot purchase land or property in Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Statement 1 is correct: Under Article 370, the Centre has no power to declare financial emergency under Article 360 in the state.** It can declare emergency in the state only in case of war or external aggression. The Union government can therefore not declare emergency on grounds of internal disturbance or imminent danger unless it is made at the request or with the concurrence of the state government.
- **Statement 2 is correct: Under Article 370, the Indian Parliament cannot increase or reduce the borders of the state.**
- The Jurisdiction of the Parliament of India in relation to Jammu and Kashmir is confined to the matters enumerated in the Union List, and also the concurrent list. **There is no State list for the State of Jammu and Kashmir.**
- At the same time, while in relation to the other States, the residuary power of legislation belongs to Parliament, **in the**

case of Jammu and Kashmir, the residuary powers belong to the Legislature of the State, except certain matters to which Parliament has exclusive powers such as preventing the activities relating to cession or secession, or disrupting the sovereignty or integrity of India.

- The power to make laws related to preventive detention in Jammu and Kashmir belong to the Legislature of J & K and not the Indian Parliament. **Thus, no preventive detention law made in India extends to Jammu & Kashmir.**
- **Part IV (Directive Principles of the State Policy) and Part IVA (Fundamental Duties) of the Constitution are not applicable to J&K.**
- **In News:** The Supreme Court has refused to entertain a fresh petition on Article 370, which gives special autonomous status to Jammu and Kashmir, and said that the issues raised in it were already part of the pending pleas.

49. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Comptroller and Auditor General

As per Article 148

- **Statement 1 and 3 are correct:** There shall be a CAG of India who would be **appointed by President** and who can be **removed from office in a manner and on grounds like Judge of a Supreme Court.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: Third schedule has the oath of affirmation for CAG**
- **Salary** and other conditions of work to be defined by a Law enacted by the Parliament. **Salary specified in second schedule.**
- Once left office, **CAG is not eligible for a Government of India or Government of State jobs.**
- Conditions of service of persons serving in the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and the administrative powers of the Comptroller and Auditor-General are prescribed by President after consultation with CAG, subject to any law by parliament.
- Expenses and salary drawn upon **Consolidated Fund of India**

- **In News:** CAG Rajiv Mehrishi appointed as Vice-Chair of UN Panel of Auditors

50. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Budget

- **Article 266** of the Constitution of India mandates that **Parliamentary approval is required to draw money from the Consolidated Fund of India**. Besides, **Article 114 (3)** of the Constitution stipulates that no amount can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund **without the enactment of a law (appropriation bill)**.
- A vote on account essentially means that the government seeks the approval of Parliament for meeting expenditure — paying salaries, ongoing programmes in various sectors etc — with no changes in the taxation structure, until a new government takes over and presents a full Budget that is revised for the full fiscal.
- The reasoning is that there is little time to get approvals from Parliament for various grants to ministries and departments, and to debate these as well as any provisions for changes in taxation.
- More importantly, the reasoning is that it would be the prerogative of the new government to signal its policy direction, which is often reflected in the Budget.
- **Difference between Full Budget and Vote on Account:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Full Budget deals with both expenditure and revenue side but **Vote-on-account deals only with the expenditure side of the government's budget**.
- The vote-on-account is **normally valid for two months** but full budget is valid for 12 months (a financial year).
- As a convention, a vote-on-account is treated as a formal matter and passed by Lok Sabha without discussion. But passing for budget happens only after discussions and voting on demand for grants.
- **Interim Budget**
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** An Interim Budget is not the same as a 'Vote on Account'. While a 'Vote on Account' deals only with the expenditure side of the government's budget, an **Interim Budget is a complete set of accounts, including both expenditure and receipts**. An Interim Budget gives the complete financial statement, very similar to a full Budget.
- **In News:** On February 1, the government is set to present its last Budget ahead of the elections. Conventionally, a government at the end of its term has gone in for a vote on account rather than a full Budget. Therefore, experts are divided over the issue. While few are in favour of a full budget, others oppose it on the ground that this is an election year and the government has already presented 5 full budgets.



IAS Prelims - 2019

CURRENT AFFAIRS

(POLITY AND GOVERNANCE PART - II)

Time Allowed: 1 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 100

Roll No.:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS TEST BOOKLET DOES NOT HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TORN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. Please note that it is the candidate's responsibility to encode and fill in the Roll Number carefully and without any omission or discrepancy at the appropriate places in the OMR Answer Sheet. Any omission/ discrepancy will render the Answer Sheet liable for rejection.
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. DO NOT write anything else on the Test Booklet.
4. While writing name and Roll No. on the top of the OMR Sheet in appropriate boxes use **"ONLY BLACK BALL POINT PEN"**.
5. This Test Booklet contains **100 items (questions)**. Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response, mark the response which you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.
6. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate **OMR Answer Sheet** provided.
7. All items carry equal marks. **(2 marks each)**
8. After you have completed filling in all your responses on the Answer Sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to the Invigilator only the Answer Sheet. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. Sheets for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.
10. Penalty for wrong answers:
THERE WILL BE **PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED** BY A CANDIDATE IN THE OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTION PAPERS.
 - (a) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, **one-third of the marks** assigned to that question will be **deducted as penalty**.
 - (b) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a wrong answer even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question.
 - (c) If a question is left blank, i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be no penalty for that question.

DO NOT OPEN THIS TEST BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SO

1. Consider the following statements regarding contempt of court:

1. Section 10 of The Contempt of Courts Act of 1971 defines the power of the High Court to punish contempt of its subordinate courts.
2. The limitation period of actions of contempt is six months from the date on which the contempt is alleged to have been committed.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements regarding curative petition:

1. The concept of curative petition was first evolved by the Supreme Court of India in the matter of Rupa Ashok Hurra vs. Ashok Hurra and Anr. (2002)
2. The petition is to be sent to the three senior most judges and judges of the bench who passed the judgement affecting the petition.
3. There is a one year time limit for filing Curative petition.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

3. Among which of the following is a subject under concurrent list?

- (a) Foreign Affairs
- (b) Railways
- (c) Public Order
- (d) Prevention of cruelty to animal

4. With reference to zonal councils consider the following statements:

1. Zonal councils have been established by the Parliament to promote interstate cooperation and coordination.
2. They are statutory bodies established

under the States Reorganisation Act 1956.

3. The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of all the Councils.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

5. Consider the following statements regarding Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation during Emergency Situations) Bill, 2016:

1. Karnataka has become the first state to give legal protection to good samaritans through a legislation amidst the rising incidents of accidental deaths in India.
2. The legislation aims to give protection to good samaritans and ensure immediate medical assistance for road accident victims within the 'golden hour'.
3. In medical terms, the 'golden hour' is the first hour after a traumatic injury when emergency treatment is very crucial.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

6. Consider the following statements:

1. The President has the power to summon or prorogue the Houses of Parliament and to dissolve the lower House.
2. Speaker has the power to summon a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament in case of a deadlock between them.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

7. Consider the following statements regarding Voter Verifiable Paper Audit

Trail (VVPAT) system:

1. The Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail is a method that provides feedback to voters
2. VVPAT machines can be accessed by polling officers only.
3. It operates under a Direct Recording Election system (DRE).

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

8. Consider the following statements with respect to the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution:

1. The President is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.
2. The elected members of the district council hold office for a term of five years

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

9. Consider the following statements regarding 73rd Amendment Act of 1992:

1. The act gives a constitutional status to the panchayati raj institutions.
2. The chairperson of panchayats at the intermediate and district levels shall be elected in such manner as the state legislature determines.
3. The chairperson of a panchayat at the village level shall be elected indirectly—by and from amongst the elected members thereof.

Which of the above statements are incorrect?

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

10. In a bid to counter growing incidents of exploitation of Indian women by NRI (Non Resident Indian) spouses, the government has introduced a Bill in the Rajya Sabha. In this context consider the following statements:

1. According to the new Bill, a marriage between an NRI and an Indian citizen will have to be registered within 60 days from the date of marriage.
2. Necessary legal provisions have been created in the criminal code and the Passports Act, 1967, to initiate action against erring NRI spouses.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

11. Consider the following statements regarding the Bill to amend Cinematograph Act:

1. It aims to check piracy, particularly the release of pirated versions of films on the internet that causes huge losses to the film industry and the exchequer.
2. The bill proposes to make film piracy offences punishable with imprisonment of up to three years and fines that may extend to Rs. 10 lakh or both.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

12. In which of the following cases the bill does not lapse?

- (a) If the president has notified the holding of a joint sitting before the dissolution of Lok Sabha.
- (b) A bill originated in the Lok Sabha but pending in the Lok Sabha.
- (c) A bill originated and passed by the Rajya Sabha but pending in Lok Sabha.
- (d) A bill originated and passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha.

13. Consider the following statements regarding the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes:

1. It was established by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution through the Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003.
2. The commission submits its report annually to the Governor of concerned state.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

14. Consider the following statements regarding Sarojini Mahishi report:

1. It had recommended granting primacy for the Kannadigas in the private sector jobs.
2. It recommended 100 per cent reservation for Kannadigas in all state government departments and PSUs.
3. A minimum 65 per cent reservation for Kannadigas for Group B jobs in Central government departments and PSUs.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

15. Consider the following statements regarding finance commission:

1. It is appointed by the President under Article 280 of the Constitution.
2. The concept of Finance Commission was borrowed from the Irish Constitution.
3. It is the duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the President as to the principles which should govern the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

- (d) 1, 2 and 3

16. Consider the following statements regarding Permanent Residence Certificate:

1. It is issued by the state government of Arunachal Pradesh.
2. It is a domicile certificate issued to the residents of the state who stayed therein over a period.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

17. Consider the following statements regarding Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016:

1. It seeks to allow illegal migrants from certain minority communities in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan eligible for Indian citizenship.
2. The Bill provides that the registration of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders may be cancelled if they violate any law.
3. The bill also proposed to relax the requirements of citizenship by naturalization.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

18. Consider the following statements regarding Model Code of Conduct:

1. It comes into force immediately on announcement of the election schedule by the commission.
2. The Code remains in force till the end of the electoral process.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

19. Consider the following statements regarding ethics committee:

1. It formulates Code of Conduct for members and suggests amendments to it from time to time.
2. Any person may make a complaint to the Committee regarding alleged unethical behaviour or breach of Code of Conduct by a member or alleged incorrect information of a member's interests.
3. The ethics committee in Lok Sabha has 10 MPs.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

20. With reference to the difference between pardoning powers of President and Governor consider the following statements:

1. The power of the President to grant pardon extends in cases where the punishment or sentence is by a Court Martial but Article 161 does not provide any such power to the Governor.
2. The President can grant pardon in all cases where the sentence given is sentence of death but pardoning power of Governor does not extend to death sentence cases.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

21. Consider the following statements about Inter State Council (ISC):

1. It was established by the recommendation of Sarkaria Commission.
2. Its functions are complementary to Supreme Court's jurisdiction to decide a legal controversy between the governments.

3. It is not a permanent constitutional body.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

22. Which of the following statement about Article 35A is/are incorrect?

1. The Article bars non-J&K state subjects to settle and buy property in Jammu & Kashmir.
2. It was not the part of original constitution but incorporated later by the Presidential Order.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

23. With reference to Office of Profit, consider the following statements:

1. It is defined under the Constitution.
2. It is defined under Representation of People's Act.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

24. Which of the above statements about Delimitation are correct?

1. It is an act or process of fixing limits of boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country.
2. It doesn't apply to states and Union Territories having population less than 6 million.
3. The Delimitation Commission in India is statutory body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

25. Consider the following statements about Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSC)

- 1. All bills in the parliament are referred to these committees.
- 2. Recommendations of the committee are binding.
- 3. No outside expert opinions are taken by the Committees

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

26. With reference to whip, consider the following statements:

- 1. Every Political Party has its own whip
- 2. He regulates and monitors the behaviour of members in the Parliament.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

27. Consider the following statements about Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP):

- 1. It is a central sector scheme under which 100 per cent financial assistance is being provided to the states through the nodal Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- 2. The TSP funds are allocated from the consolidated fund of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

28. What are the grounds for Preventive Detention in India?

- 1. security of state
- 2. foreign affairs or security of India
- 3. maintenance of public order
- 4. maintenance of supplies and essential services and defence

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

29. Consider the following statements about Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme

- 1. It was introduced recently by the Government.
- 2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

Which of the above statements is/are correct:

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

30. Which of the following statements about Cauvery Water Management Agency (CWMA) is/are correct?

- 1. It is a permanent body under the Union Ministry of Water Resources and its decisions are final and binding on all the party States.
- 2. It regulates the release of water by Karnataka, at the inter-state contact point at Billigundulu gauge.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

31. Which of the following is/are the provisions under Right To Information Act (RTI)?

1. It empowers citizens with the right to access information under the control of 'public authorities' and imposing penalties on officials of public authorities for failing to disclose information.
2. Public Authority under RTI act means any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted by or under the Constitution.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

32. Consider the following statements about Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS)

1. It was developed by the Election Commission with the help of Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
2. It uses QR codes for uniqueness of the Service Voters and the secrecy in transmission is ensured by the use of OTP and PIN.
3. It was first used in by-elections in Puducherry.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

33. Consider the following statements about National Commission For Minority Education Institutions (NCMEI)

1. It works under Ministry of Human Resource Development.
2. The Chairman of the commission should have been a judge of High Court and must belong to a minority community.

3. Linguistic minorities remain outside the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

34. Consider the following statements about Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA):

1. It is a revamped version of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan
2. It is a centrally sponsored scheme which aims at making rural local bodies self-sustainable, financially stable and more efficient.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

35. Consider the following statements about Competition Commission of India (CCI)

It is a quasi-judicial body.

It is the youngest and the only cross-sector regulator in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

36. Which of the following statements about e-vidhan project is/are correct?

1. It is a mission mode project to digitize and make the functioning of State Legislatures in India paperless.
2. It is a software suite of public website, secure website, house applications and mobile apps that fully automate the functioning of legislative assembly
3. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is the Nodal Ministry for the project.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

37. Consider the following statements about North Eastern Council (NEC)

1. It is a statutory body
2. It is the nodal agency for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region
1. It is a regional planning body.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

38. Which of the following releases the Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) report?

- (a) Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) Amnesty International
- (d) Ministry of Urban Development

39. Which of the following releases the Corruption Perception Index?

- (a) Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) Amnesty International
- (d) Transparency International

40. Consider the following statements about Blue Aadhar:

1. It will not include child's biometric information.
2. It is mandatory for children below 5 years to get an Aadhaar.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect

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

41. Consider the following statements about Medical Council of India:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It establishes the uniform and high standards of medical education in India.
3. It registers doctors to practice in India

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

42. Which of the following statements about National Register of Citizen (NRC) is/are correct?

1. NRC contains the names of bona fide Indian Citizens that distinguish them from the foreigners.
2. It is updated periodically.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

43. Which of the following statements about Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is/are correct?

1. It is supported by World Bank.
2. Mahila Kisan Sashakti Karan Pariyojna (MKSP) is one of the components of NRLM.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

44. Which of the state became the first in India to operationalise a social audit law?

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Meghalaya
- (c) Sikkim
- (d) Goa

45. Consider the following statements about Finance Commission (FC):

1. It is a quasi-judicial body.
2. Its recommendations are only advisory in nature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct

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

46. Consider the following statements about Tribunals in India:

1. It is an administrative body established for the purpose of discharging quasi-judicial duties.
2. An Administrative Tribunal is neither a Court nor an executive body rather a midway between the two.
3. They are established on recommendation of Swaran Singh Committee

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

47. With reference to E-Samiksha, consider the following statements:

1. It is an online monitoring and compliance mechanism.
2. It is used for tracking the progress on projects & policy initiatives by Prime Minister on a real-time basis.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

48. Consider the following statements about UN Convention against Torture (CAT):

1. It is an international human rights instrument aimed to prevent torture and cruel, inhuman degrading treatment or punishment around the world.
2. This convention is in force since second world war.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

49. An electoral system in which two systems are merged into one combining the positive features from more than one electoral system is?

- (a) Hybrid Electoral System
- (b) First Past The Post System
- (c) Proportional Representation
- (d) Mixed systems

50. Consider the following statements about National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD):

1. It was established on the recommendations of Shivaraman Committee.
2. The bank provides funds to State governments for undertaking developmental and promotional activities in rural areas.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

CURRENT AFFAIRS

(POLITY AND GOVERNANCE PART - II)

Answer Key

Q. 1	(a)	Q. 14	(a)	Q. 27	(c)	Q. 40	(b)
Q. 2	(a)	Q. 15	(b)	Q. 28	(d)	Q. 41	(d)
Q. 3	(d)	Q. 16	(c)	Q. 29	(b)	Q. 42	(c)
Q. 4	(d)	Q. 17	(d)	Q. 30	(c)	Q. 43	(c)
Q. 5	(d)	Q. 18	(c)	Q. 31	(c)	Q. 44	(b)
Q. 6	(a)	Q. 19	(a)	Q. 32	(d)	Q. 45	(c)
Q. 7	(d)	Q. 20	(c)	Q. 33	(d)	Q. 46	(d)
Q. 8	(b)	Q. 21	(d)	Q. 34	(c)	Q. 47	(c)
Q. 9	(c)	Q. 22	(d)	Q. 35	(c)	Q. 48	(a)
Q. 10	(b)	Q. 23	(c)	Q. 36	(d)	Q. 49	(a)
Q. 11	(c)	Q. 24	(d)	Q. 37	(d)	Q. 50	(c)
Q. 12	(a)	Q. 25	(d)	Q. 38	(a)		
Q. 13	(a)	Q. 26	(c)	Q. 39	(c)		

1. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

Contempt of Court

- Contempt of court is the offence of being defiant to or disrespectful to a court of law. Being impolite to legal authorities in the courtroom, or rebelliously failing to follow a court order may draw Contempt of Court proceedings. A judge can levy sanctions such as a penalty or prison for someone found guilty of contempt of court.
- In India, the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, divides contempt into civil contempt and criminal contempt.
- **Civil contempt** is a 'wilful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other processes of a Court or wilful breach of an undertaking given to the court'.
- **'Criminal contempt'** is 'the publication (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever which:
 - Scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court.
 - Prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with the due course of any judicial proceeding.
 - Interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner.'
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under Constitution of India, Articles 129 and 215 empowers the Supreme Court and High Court respectively to punish people for their respective contempt. **Section 10 of The Contempt of Courts Act of 1971 defines the power of the High Court to punish contempt of its subordinate courts.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **limitation period of actions of contempt is one year from the date on which the contempt is alleged to have been committed.**
- **In News:** The Supreme Court has issued contempt notices to the RBI for failing to reveal under the Right to Information Act intelligence received on loan defaulters and details of action taken against banks in connection with fraud.

2. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

Curative Petition

- The curative petition is fairly a new concept in the Indian legal system. It is the last judicial resort available for redressal of grievances in court which is normally decided by judges in-chamber. It is only in rare cases that such petitions are given an open-court hearing.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The concept of curative petition was first evolved by the Supreme Court of India in the matter of **Rupa Ashok Hurra vs. Ashok Hurra and Anr. (2002)** where the question was whether an aggrieved person is entitled to any relief against the final judgement/order of the Supreme Court, after dismissal of a review petition.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** **No time limit is given for filing Curative petition.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** To entertain the curative petitions, the Supreme Court has laid down certain specific conditions: The petitioner will have to establish that there was a genuine violation of principles of natural justice and fear of the bias of the judge and judgement that adversely affected him; The petition shall state specifically that the grounds mentioned had been taken in the review petition and that it was dismissed by circulation; The petition is to be sent to the three senior most judges and judges of the bench who passed the judgement affecting the petition, if available; If the majority of the judges on the above bench agree that the matter needs hearing, then it would be sent to the same bench (as far as possible); and The court could impose "exemplary costs" to the petitioner if his plea lacks merit.
- **In News:** The Supreme Court will hear in April a curative petition filed by the Centre seeking Rs 7,844 crore additional money from US-based Union Carbide Corporation (UCC), now owned by Dow Chemicals, to provide compensation to victims of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy.

3. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

Concurrent List

- The Constitution of India has provided for a division of powers between the Central and state governments. Under the **Seventh Schedule, there are three lists – the Union, State and Concurrent.**
- **The Union List** has a range of subjects under which the **Parliament may make laws**. This includes defence, foreign affairs, railways, banking, among others.
- **The State List lists** subjects under which the legislature of **a state may make laws**. Public order, police, public health and sanitation; hospitals and dispensaries, betting and gambling are some of the subjects that come under the state.
- **The Concurrent List** includes subjects that give powers to **both the Centre and state governments**. Subjects like Education including technical education, medical education and universities, population control and family planning, criminal law, **prevention of cruelty to animals**, protection of wildlife and animals, forests etc. However, given that there can be conflict when it comes to laws passed by Parliament and state legislatures on the same subject, the Constitution provides for a central law to override a state law.
- **In News:** Telangana TRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao has called for an economic and political overhaul in India. KCR's pitch, like that of many regional leaders, is an increase in state autonomy by weakening the concurrent list.

4. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

Zonal Councils

- **All the statements are correct:** Zonal councils have been established by the Parliament to promote interstate cooperation and coordination.
- **They are statutory bodies** established under the States Reorganisation Act 1956 and **not constitutional bodies**.
- They are only deliberative and advisory bodies

- There are 5 five Zonal councils namely:
 - **The Northern Zonal Council**, comprising the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh.
 - **The Central Zonal Council**, comprising the States of Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
 - **The Eastern Zonal Council**, comprising the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, and West Bengal.
 - **The Western Zonal Council**, comprising the States of Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
 - **The Southern Zonal Council**, comprising the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.
- The North Eastern States i.e. (i) Assam (ii) Arunachal Pradesh (iii) Manipur (iv) Tripura (v) Mizoram (vi) Meghalaya (vii) Sikkim and (viii) Nagaland are not included in the Zonal Councils and their special problems are looked after by **the North Eastern Council, set up under the North Eastern Council Act, 1972.**
- **Composition of Zonal Councils**
 - **Chairman – The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of each of these Councils.**
 - **Vice Chairman–** The Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone act as Vice-Chairman of the Zonal Council for that zone by rotation, each holding office for a period of one year at a time.
 - **Members–** Chief Minister and two other Ministers as nominated by the Governor from each of the States and two members from Union Territories included in the zone.
 - **Advisors–** One person nominated by the Planning Commission (which has been replaced by NITI Ayog now) for each of the Zonal Councils, Chief Secretaries

and another officer/Development Commissioner nominated by each of the States included in the Zone.

- Union Ministers are also invited to participate in the meetings of Zonal Councils depending upon necessity.
- **In News:** The 23rd meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council was held recently at Kolkata under the Chairmanship of the Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh.

5. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation during Emergency Situations) Bill, 2016

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The legislation aims to give protection to good samaritans and ensure immediate medical assistance for road accident victims within the 'golden hour' and encourage people to offer first aid to victims without fear of harassment in the hands of police and investigations.
- Under the new law, the Karnataka government will provide financial help to good samaritans who help victims in a timely manner, they will be exempted from repeated attendance in courts and police stations, in case attendance is mandatory, expenses of such "running around to courts and police stations" will be taken care through the proposed 'Good Samaritan Fund'.
- After admitting the accident victim to the hospital, the good samaritan can leave immediately, all government as well as private hospitals are bound to give first aid to the accident victims.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** With this, **Karnataka has become the first state to give legal protection to good samaritans through a legislation amidst the rising incidents of accidental deaths in India**, which saw 1,50,785 people getting killed in road accidents in 2016.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** In medical terms, the 'golden hour' is the first hour after a traumatic injury when emergency treatment is very crucial.
- **In News:** The president has given his assent to the Karnataka Good Samaritan

and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation during Emergency Situations) Bill, 2016.

6. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

Legislative Powers of the President

- **Statement 1 is correct: Summoning, Prorogation, Dissolution:** Indian President shall have the power to summon or prorogue the Houses of Parliament and to dissolve the lower House.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** He shall also have the power to summon a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament in case of a deadlock between them. **[Arts. 85, 108]**
- **The Opening Address:** The President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together, at the **first session after each general election to the House of the People** and at the commencement of the **first session of each year**, and "inform Parliament of the causes of its summons" **[Art. 87]**.
- **The Right to send Messages:** Apart from the right to address, the Indian President shall have the **right to send messages to either House of Parliament either in regard to any pending Bill or to any other matter**, and the House must then consider the message "with all convenient dispatch" **[Art. 86(2)]**.
- **Nominating Members to the Houses:** President has been given the power to nominate certain members to both the Houses upon the supposition that adequate representation of certain interests will not be possible through the competitive system of election. Thus,
 - In the Council of States, 12 members are to be nominated by the President from persons having special knowledge or practical experience of literature, science, art and social service **[Art. 80(1)]**.
 - The President is also empowered to nominate not more than two members to the House of the People from the Anglo-Indian community, if he is of opinion that the Anglo-Indian community is not adequately represented in that House **[Art. 331]**.

- **Laying Reports before Parliament:** The President is brought into contact with Parliament also through his power and study to cause certain reports and statements to be laid before Parliament, so that Parliament may have the opportunity of taking action upon them.
- **In News:** The President's address to the joint sitting of Parliament at the beginning of the Budget Session every year is a Constitutional requirement.

7. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) system

- **Statement 1 is correct:** *The Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail is a method that provides feedback to voters.*
- It is an independent verification printer machine and is attached to electronic voting machines.
- It allows voters to verify if their vote has gone to the intended candidate.
- When a voter presses a button in the EVM, a paper slip is printed through the VVPAT. The slip contains the poll symbol and name of the candidate.
- It allows the voter to verify his/her choice. After being visible to the voter from a glass case in the VVPAT for seven seconds, the ballot slip will be cut and dropped into the drop box in the VVPAT machine and a beep will be heard.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** VVPAT machines can be **accessed by polling officers only.**
- VVPAT is a machine which dispenses a slip with the symbol of the party for which a person has voted for. The slip dropped in a box but the voter cannot take it home.
- Enables to verify vote: Instant feedback to voter that vote polled has been allocated to the intended candidate.
- Enables authorities to count the votes manually if there is a dispute in the electronically polled votes.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** *It operates under a Direct Recording Election system (DRE) which detects fraud and existent malfunctions.*

- Will ensure greater transparency in voting process.
- Gives both the voters and political parties an assurance.
- **In News:** The Election Commission recently informed the Madras High Court that it had made it clear way back in 2017 that there shall be 100% use of the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) system during the Lok Sabha election this year to gain voter confidence.

8. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Sixth Schedule

- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** *The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.* Thus, he can increase or decrease their areas or change their names or define their boundaries and so on.
- If there are different tribes in an autonomous district, the governor can divide the district into several autonomous regions.
- **Statement 2 is correct: Composition:** Each autonomous district has a district council consisting of 30 members, of whom four are nominated by the governor and the remaining 26 are elected on the basis of adult franchise. **The elected members hold office for a term of five years (unless the council is dissolved earlier) and nominated members hold office during the pleasure of the governor.** Each autonomous region also has a separate regional council.
- The district and regional councils administer the areas under their jurisdiction. They can make laws on certain specified matters like land, forests, canal water, shifting cultivation, village administration, inheritance of property, marriage and divorce, social customs and so on. But all such laws require the assent of the governor.
- **Village councils:** The district and regional councils within their territorial jurisdictions

can constitute village councils or courts for trial of suits and cases between the tribes. They hear appeals from them. **The jurisdiction of high court over these suits and cases is specified by the governor.**

- **Powers and functions:** The district council can establish, construct or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries, roads and so on in the district. It can also make regulations for the control of money lending and trading by non-tribals. But, such regulations require the assent of the governor. The district and regional councils are empowered to assess and collect land revenue and to impose certain specified taxes.
- The acts of Parliament or the state legislature do not apply to autonomous districts and autonomous regions or apply with specified modifications and exceptions.
- The governor can appoint a commission to examine and report on any matter relating to the administration of the autonomous districts or regions. He may dissolve a district or regional council on the recommendation of the commission.
- **In News:** The government has introduced Constitution (125th Amendment) Bill in Rajya Sabha to increase the financial and executive powers of the 10 Autonomous Councils in the Sixth Schedule areas of the northeastern region. The amendment will impact one crore tribal people in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

9. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

73rd Amendment Act of 1992

- This act has added a new **Part-IX to the Constitution of India**. This part is entitled as 'The Panchayats' and consists of provisions from **Articles 243 to 243 O**. In addition, the act has also added a new **Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution**. This schedule contains 29 functional items of the panchayats. It deals with Article 243-G.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** *The act gives a constitutional status to the panchayati raj institutions.* It has brought them under the purview of the justiciable part of the Constitution. In other words, the state governments are under constitutional obligation to adopt the new panchayati raj system in accordance with the provisions of

the act. Consequently, neither the formation of panchayats nor the holding of elections at regular intervals depends on the will of the state government any more.

- **The act provides for a three-tier system of panchayati raj in every state**, that is, panchayats at the village, intermediate, and district levels. Thus, the act brings about uniformity in the structure of panchayati raj throughout the country. **However, a state having a population not exceeding 20 lakh may not constitute panchayats at the intermediate level.**
- **Statement 2 and 3 are incorrect:** All the members of panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels shall be elected directly by the people. Further, **the chairperson of panchayats at the intermediate and district levels shall be elected indirectly—by and from amongst the elected members thereof. However, the chairperson of a panchayat at the village level shall be elected in such manner as the state legislature determines.**
- **In News:** The Rajasthan Assembly has passed two Bills which seek to end the minimum education criterion for panchayat and civic poll candidates—Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and the Rajasthan Municipality (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

10. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Bill to counter exploitation by NRI spouses

- The Bill is aimed at prevent victimisation of Indian nationals in fraudulent marriages.
- The Bill will create accountability and protect those who are trapped in fraudulent marriages and are abandoned by their spouses.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** According to the new Bill, a marriage between an NRI and an Indian citizen will have to be registered within 30 days from the date of marriage.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Necessary legal provisions have been created in the criminal code and the Passports Act, 1967, to initiate action against erring NRI spouses.
- The introduction of the Bill was necessitated

by the Ministry of External Affairs due to numerous complaints received from Indian nationals, mostly women deserted or harassed by their Non-Resident Indian spouses. It is expected that the Bill will serve as a deterrent for NRI spouses, who use marriages as a tool of exploitation.

- **In News:** In a bid to counter growing incidents of exploitation of Indian women by NRI (Non Resident Indian) spouses, the government has introduced a Bill in the RajyaSabha.

11. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- The Bill seeks to amend provisions of Cinematograph Act, 1952, in order to tackle film piracy by including penal provisions for unauthorized camcording and duplication of films.
- **Statement 1 is correct: It aims to check piracy**, particularly the release of pirated versions of films on the internet that causes huge losses to the film industry and the exchequer.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The bill proposes to make film piracy offences punishable with imprisonment of up to **three years and fines that may extend to Rs. 10 lakh or both**.
- The proposed amendment states that any person, who without the written authorisation of the copyright owner, uses any recording device to make or transmit a copy of a film, or attempts to do so, or abet the making or transmission of such a copy, will be liable for such a punishment.
- **In News:** The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2019 was introduced in RajyaSabha. The Bill seeks to amend provisions of Cinematograph Act, 1952 in order to tackle film piracy by including penal provisions for unauthorized camcording and duplication of films.

12. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

Bills in Indian Parliament

Cases when a bill lapse:

- A bill originated in the LokSabha but pending in the LokSabha – lapses.
- A bill originated and passed by the RajyaSabha but pending in LokSabha – lapses.
- A bill originated and passed by the LokSabha but pending in the RajyaSabha – lapses.
- A bill originated in the RajyaSabha and returned to that House by the LokSabha with amendments and still pending in the RajyaSabha on the date of the dissolution of LokSabha- lapses.
- Cases when a bill does not lapse:
- A bill pending in the RajyaSabha but not passed by the LokSabha does not lapse.
- **Option (a) is correct: If the president has notified the holding of a joint sitting before the dissolution of LokSabha, does not lapse.**
- A bill passed by both Houses but pending assent of the president does not lapse.
- A bill passed by both Houses but returned by the president for reconsideration of RajyaSabha does not lapse.
- Some pending bills and all pending assurances that are to be examined by the Committee on Government Assurances do not lapse on the dissolution of the LokSabha.
- **In News:** The contentious Citizenship (amendment) Bill and the one on banning triple talaq are set to lapse on June 3 when the term of the present LokSabha ends as they could not be passed in the RajyaSabha which has adjourned sine die.

13. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It was established by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution through the Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003. By this amendment, the erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was replaced by two separate Commissions namely- (i) the National Commission for Scheduled

Castes (NCSC), and (ii) the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST).

- **Composition:** The term of office of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and each member is **three years from the date of assumption of charge**. The Chairperson has been given the rank of Union Cabinet Minister and the Vice-Chairperson that of a Minister of State and other Members have the ranks of a Secretary to the Government of India.
- **Powers:** NCST is empowered to investigate and monitor matters relating to safeguards provided for STs under the Constitution or under other laws or under Govt. order. The Commission is also authorized to inquire into specific complaints relating to rights and safeguards of STs and to participate and advise in the Planning Process relating to socio-economic development of STs and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and States.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: Report:** *The commission submits its report to the President annually* on the working of safeguards and measures required for effective implementation of Programmes/ Schemes relating to welfare and socio-economic development of STs.
- **In News:** Foundation Day of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes is being observed on 19th February, 2019. The Commission will be celebrating fifteen years on 19th February, 2019.

14. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

Sarojini Mahishi Report

- **Statement 1 is correct:** *Sarojini Mahishi report had recommended granting primacy for the Kannadigas in the private sector jobs.*
- The government would be incorporating the provisions to withdraw government concessions to the firms on non-compliance.
- The Karnataka government had formed a committee headed by former union minister Sarojini Mahishi in 1983 to recommend job opportunities for Kannadigas in Karnataka. The important recommendations of the committee included:

- **Statement 2 is correct:** *100 per cent reservation for Kannadigas in all state government departments and PSUs.*

- 100 per cent reservation for Kannadigas for Group C and D jobs in Central government departments and PSUs.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** *A minimum 80 per cent reservation for Kannadigas for Group B jobs in Central government departments and PSUs*

- 65 per cent reservation for Kannadigas for Group A jobs in Central government departments and PSUs.

- All jobs in the private sector to be reserved for Kannadigas barring, if necessary, senior/skilled positions.

- **In News:** Karnataka government has decided to amend the Karnataka Industrial Employment (Standing Orders), Rules, 1961 to give primacy to Kannadigas in jobs under Group C and D category in the private sector.

15. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Finance Commission

- **Statement 1 is correct:** *The Finance Commission is constituted by the President under Article 280 of the Constitution*, mainly to give its recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States and amongst the States themselves.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The first finance commission was established in 1951. The Constitutional requirement for setting up a Finance Commission in India **was an original idea, not borrowed from anywhere**. That is why it is called the original contribution.
- Two distinctive features of the Commission's work involve redressing the vertical imbalances between the taxation powers and expenditure responsibilities of the centre and the States respectively and equalization of all public services across the States.
- It is the duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the President as to:

- the distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be, or may be, divided between them and the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds;
- **Statement 3 is correct: the principles which should govern the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India;**
- the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats and Municipalities in the State on the basis of the recommendations made by the Finance Commission of the State;
- any other matter referred to the Commission by the President in the interests of sound finance.
- The Commission determines its procedure and have such powers in the performance of their functions as Parliament may by law confer on them.
- The Finance Commission is appointed by the President under Article 280 of the Constitution. As per the provisions contained in the Finance Commission [Miscellaneous Provisions] Act, 1951 and The Finance Commission (Salaries & Allowances) Rules, 1951, the Chairman of the Commission is selected from among persons who have had experience in public affairs, and the four other members are selected from among persons who:
 - are, or have been, or are qualified to be appointed as Judges of a High Court; or
 - have special knowledge of the finances and accounts of Government; or
 - have had wide experience in financial matters and in administration; or
 - have special knowledge of economics
- **In News:** People representatives of Panchayat Raj institutions and urban local bodies in Hyderabad are planning to make a case with the visiting 15th Central Finance Commission to enhance the quantum of funds to the local bodies. More so to release the share of funds that the zilla and mandal parishads used to get directly till the 14th

Finance Commission discontinued the practice and diverted them to the gram panchayats.

16. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Permanent Residence Certificate

- **Both the statements are correct: The State Government of Arunachal Pradesh issues the domicile certificate otherwise called as Permanent Residence Certificate (PRC) to the residents of the state who stayed therein over a period.** Those citizens who are not currently residing in the state but are sure of permanently staying therein can also apply for it.
- Besides the permanent residence certificate, the State also offers **Temporary Residence Certificate (TRC) for those who reside in the State on a temporary basis.**
- **Purpose of the Certificate:**
 - Permanent Residence Certificate is a legal document that serves as an evidence of residence and thus must be submitted wherever a residence proof is required.
 - Permanent Residence Certificate should be produced in many situations such as admission in educational organisations, job reservation under specific quotas especially for government jobs, etc. to get local preferences.
 - To apply for ration card permanent residence certificate is a vital and mandate document.
 - To avail the provisions of various schemes of the state or to claim scholarships of the State, permanent residence certificate is essential.
- **In News:** Violence erupted in Arunachal Pradesh over the issue of Permanent Residence Certificate to six non-Arunachal Pradesh Scheduled Tribes (APSTs) living in the Namsai and Changlang districts and to the Gorkhas living in Vijaynagar.

17. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016 seeks to **allow**

illegal migrants from certain minority communities in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan eligible for Indian citizenship. In other words, it amends the Citizenship Act of 1955.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Bill provides that the **registration of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders may be cancelled if they violate any law.**
- The Citizenship Amendment Bill seeks to allow illegal migrants belonging to the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian religious communities coming from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan to not be imprisoned or deported.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** *The bill also proposed to relax the requirements of citizenship by naturalization.* The current requirement is that the applicant must have resided in India during last 12 months and for 11 of previous 14 years. The bill relaxes this 11 years requirement to six years for persons belonging to the same six religions and three countries.
- The Bill, however, does not extend to illegal Muslim migrants. It also does not talk about other minority communities in the three neighbouring countries, such as Jews, Bahais etc.
- **In News:** Nagaland Assembly passes resolution against citizenship bill

18. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Model Code of Conduct

- These are the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India for conduct of political parties and candidates during elections mainly with respect to speeches, polling day, polling booths, election manifestos, processions and general conduct.
- Its aim is to ensure free and fair elections.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Model Code of Conduct comes into force immediately on announcement of the election schedule by the commission.
- Election Commission (EC) has announced that Model Code of Conduct comes into force immediately in states where legislative assemblies have been dissolved prematurely.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Code remains in force till the end of the electoral process.
- **In News:** Election Commission (EC) has announced that Model Code of Conduct comes into force immediately in states where legislative assemblies have been dissolved prematurely.

19. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

Ethics Committee

- Each of the two Houses of Parliament has an ethics committee.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Besides overseeing the moral and ethical conduct of members, ethics committee also prepares **a Code of Conduct for members, which are amended from time to time.**
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** *The ethics committee in Lok Sabha has 15 MPs.* In Rajya Sabha this number stands at 10.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Any person may make a complaint to the Committee regarding alleged unethical behaviour or breach of Code of Conduct by a member or alleged incorrect information of a member's interests. **The Committee may also take up matters suo motu.**
- **In News:** Senior BJP leader L K Advani has been renominated as Chairman of Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.

20. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Difference between pardoning powers of President and Governor

- **Both the statements are correct:** The scope of the pardoning power of the President under Article 72 is wider than the pardoning power of the Governor under Article 161. The power differs in the following two ways:
 - The power of the President to grant pardon extends in cases where the punishment or sentence is by a Court Martial but Article 161 does not provide any such power to the Governor.
 - The President can grant pardon in all cases where the sentence given

is sentence of death but pardoning power of Governor does not extend to death sentence cases.

- Article 161 deals with Power of Governor to grant pardons, etc, and to suspend, remit or commute sentences in certain cases.
- It states, the Governor of a State shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends.
- **In News:** After failing to get the seven convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case released by exercising its statutory power to remit life sentences, the government in Tamil Nadu has taken recourse to a possible constitutional remedy. It has decided to invoke the Governor's clemency power under Article 161 of the Constitution.

21. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Inter State Council

- Article 263 of the constitution provides for the establishment of an Inter-State Council (ISC).
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The *Commission under the Chairmanship of Justice R. S. Sarkaria in its report in 1988 recommended the setting up of Inter State Council.*
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Its *function is complementary to Supreme Court's jurisdiction under Art 131 to decide a legal controversy between the governments.*
- It is a recommendatory body on issues relating to inter-state, Centre-State, and Centre and Union Territory relations.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It is *not a permanent constitutional body* but it can be established 'at any time' if it appears to the President that the public interests would be served by the establishment of such a council.
- **Composition of ISC**

- Prime Minister as the Chairman
- Chief Ministers of all the States
- Chief Ministers of Union Territories having Legislative Assemblies
- Administrators of the Union Territories not having Legislative Assemblies
- Governors of the States under the President's rule
- Six Central Cabinet Ministers, including Home Minister, to be nominated by the PM.

22. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Article 35A

- Article 35A of the Constitution empowers J&K legislature to define permanent residents (PR) of state.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It was *incorporated into the Constitution in 1954 by a Presidential order* issued under Article 370 (1) (d) of the Constitution.
- It empowers J&K legislature to define state's "permanent residents" and their special rights and privileges without attracting a challenge on grounds of violating the Right to Equality of people from other States or any other right under the Constitution.
- It protects certain provisions of the J&K Constitution which denies property rights to native women who marry from outside the State. The denial of these rights extend to her children also.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Article bars non-J&K state subjects to settle and buy property in J&K.

23. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Office of Profit:

- **Statement 1 and 2 are incorrect:** Articles 102(1) a and 191 (1) a mention disqualifications on the basis of Office of Profit but it is *neither defined in the constitution nor under Representation of People's Act.*
- In *Pradyut Bordoloi vs Swapan Roy* (2001), the Supreme Court outlined the following questions for the test for office of Profit:

- Whether the government makes the appointment;
 - Whether the government has the right to remove or dismiss the holder;
 - Whether the government pays the remuneration;
 - What are the functions of the holder and does he perform them for the government; and
 - Does the government exercise any control over the performance of those functions
- Further in *Jaya Bacchan v. Union of India* case SC defined it as "an office which is capable of yielding a profit or pecuniary gain." thus it is not the actual 'receipt' of profit but the 'potential' for profit that is the deciding factor in an 'office of profit' case.
 - Joint Committee on offices of profit has defined Office of Profit as:
 - Whether the holder draws any remuneration, like sitting fee, honorarium, salary, etc. other than Compensatory allowance.
 - Whether the body in which an office is held, exercises executive, legislative or judicial powers or confers powers of disbursement of funds, allotments of lands, issue of licences, etc., or gives powers of appointment, grant of scholarship, etc.
 - Whether the body in which an office is held wields influence or power by way of patronage.

24. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Delimitation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Delimitation means **the act or process of fixing limits of boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country** or a province having a legislative body.
- Delimitation in the J&K is done under the state constitution.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under 31st Amendment Act, delimitation exercise **doesn't apply to states and Union Territories having population less than 6 million.**
- The power to determine the aspects

and manner of delimitation lies with the Parliament. This power has been exercised 4 times through enactment of the Delimitation Commission Acts 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.

- The 42nd Amendment Act 1976, froze the allocation of the seats in the Lok Sabha to the states and the division of each state into territorial constituencies till year 2000 at the 1971 (census) level.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **Delimitation Commission in India is statutory body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.**
- The Commission consists of the Chief Election Commissioner of India and two judges of Supreme Court or any of the High Courts in India.

25. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSC)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** **All Bills are not referred to committees**, as GST bill was passed without referring to DRSC.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Recommendations of the committee are **not binding**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** **They can reach out to outside experts, but no internal expertise is present.**
- It does not consider matters of day to day administration of the ministry.
- They are also known as India's Mini Parliaments.
- 17 DRSCs were first formed in 1993.
- Currently there are 24 DRSCs and each of them have 21 members from Lok Sabha and 10 members from Rajya Sabha.
- In contrast to ad-hoc committees, Standing Committees are permanent in nature.
- They have three important functions
 - Examine Bills referred to them
 - Select Specific topics related to the ministries and examine implementation by the Government

- Examine the budgetary outlays of the department.
- Bills are referred to them by the Speaker or Chairman of the House.

26. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Whip

- **Statement 1 is correct: Every Political Party has its own whip**, who is appointed by the party to serve as an assistant floor leader.
- He has the responsibility of ensuring the attendance of his party members in large numbers and securing their support in favour of or against a particular issue.
- **Statement 2 is correct: He regulates and monitors their behaviour in the Parliament.**
- He communicates the decision of the party leader to the members and the opinion of the party members to the party leader.
- The members are supposed to follow the directives given by the Whip. Failing to do so can invite disciplinary actions like disqualification from party membership or expulsion under the Anti-Defection Law.
- The office of Whip, in India, is mentioned neither in the Constitution nor in the rules of the house, nor in the Parliamentary statutes.
- It is based on the conventions of the Parliamentary government. In India, the concept of the whip was inherited from colonial British rule.
- It may be possible that all the members of parliament, irrespective of their party affiliation, may hold different views (even different from the one held by their respective party leadership). In such a case, s/he might deviate from the party view/stand in times of voting.

27. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP):

- It forms a part of annual Plan of a State/UT and the funds provided under the TSP have to be in proportion to the ST population of each State/UT.

- **Statement 1 and 2 are correct: The TSP funds are allocated from the consolidated fund of India** under article 275(I) is a **central sector scheme under which 100 per cent financial assistance is being provided to the states through the nodal Ministry of Tribal Affairs**
- It aims to bridge the gap between the Schedule Tribes (STs) and the general population with respect to all socio-economic development indicators in a time-bound manner along with their protection against exploitation.
- The benefits are in addition to what percolates from the overall Plan of a State/UT. It is not applicable to states where tribals represent more than 60% of the population.
- **Objectives of the TSP**
- Human resource development by enhancing their access to education and health services,
- Enhanced quality of life by providing basic amenities in tribal areas/localities including housing;
- Substantial reduction in poverty and unemployment, creation of productive assets and income generating opportunities
- Enhanced capacity to avail opportunities, gain rights and entitlements and improved facilities at par with other areas, and
- Protection against exploitation and oppression. Related Information
- **In News:** Recently, the Public Accounts Committee submitted its report on 'Tribal Sub-Plan'. Scheduled Tribes

28. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Preventive Detention

- Preventive detention, is detaining without trial to prevent possible commitment of crime on suspicion that some wrong actions may be done by the person concerned.
- The four grounds for Preventive detention are:
 - **Statement 1 is correct:** Security of state
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** Foreign affairs or security of India

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Maintenance of public order
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Maintenance of supplies and essential services and defence
- A detainee under preventive detention can have no right of personal liberty guaranteed by Article 19 or Article 21.
- The Article 22 (3) also provides that the protection against arrest and detention under Article 22 (1) and 22 (2) shall not be available, if a person is arrested or detained under a law providing for preventive detention.
- **In News:** Recently Supreme Court held that Preventive detention of a person by a State merely because the normal legal process is ineffective and time-consuming is illegal.

29. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The MPLAD scheme was **introduced in 1993**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is **implemented by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme in which each MP has the choice to suggest to the District administration (DA) for works to the tune of Rs.5 Crores per annum, non-lapsable in nature, to be taken up in the constituency.
- Further, out of the total amount, 15% and 7.5% funds must be entitled to areas with SC and ST population respectively.
- In case of insufficient tribal population in the area, the MP may recommend this amount for the creation of community assets in tribal areas outside of their constituency, within their State of election.
- All recommended eligible works should be sanctioned within 75 days from the date of receipt of the recommendation, after completing all formalities.
- DA will furnish Utilization Certificate every year to the State Government and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

In News:

- Central Information Commission (CIC) has recently made recommendations regarding MPLADS Funds.
- The elected members of Lok Sabha can recommend work within their constituencies.
- The elected Rajya Sabha members can recommend works in one or more districts in the State from where he/she has been elected.
- The Nominated Members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may select any one or more Districts from any one State in the Country for implementation of their choice of work under the scheme.

30. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Functions of Cauvery Water Management Agency (CWMA)

- Monitor and determine the total residual storage, apportion shares, supervise operation of reservoirs at the beginning of water year (1 June) with the assistance of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Regulate release of water by Karnataka, at the inter-state contact point at Billigundulu gauge.**
- Advise suitable measures to improve water use efficiency, by promoting micro-irrigation (drip and sprinkler), change in cropping pattern, improved agronomic practices, system deficiency correction and command area development.
- Take suitable actions in case of defaults by party states.

Significance of CWMA

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Unlike the earlier interim arrangements, **it is a permanent body under the Union Ministry of Water Resources and its decisions are final and binding on all the party States.**
- Framework for other similar river water disputes: the outcome of the functioning of CWMA could contribute to the larger unfinished agenda of formulating a comprehensive policy for inter-state river water cooperation and can address other river water disputes.
- Provide a stable solution to the farmers of the region by ensuring an assured, periodic quantum of water for irrigation.

- **In News:** Recently, the Union Water Resources ministry notified the constitution of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) under Cauvery Water Management Scheme, 2018.

31. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Right To Information Act (RTI)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The RTI Act **empowers citizens with the right to access information under the control of 'public authorities' and imposing penalties on officials of public authorities for failing to disclose 'information'** defined in Section 2(f).
- The RTI Act also mandates that "every public authority shall pro-actively disclose information pertaining to it, and maintain its documents and records to facilitate the right to information under the Act
- **Public Authority under RTI act:**
- Section 2(h) of the RTI Act states that "public authority" means any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** **By or under the Constitution;**
 - By any other law made by Parliament;
 - By any other law made by state legislature;
 - By notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government
- **In news:** Law Commission of India (LCI) in its 275th report has recommended to bring BCCI under RTI act.

32. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It was **developed by the Election Commission with the help of Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** to provide an alternative method of quick dispatch of Postal Ballot paper electronically (earlier delivered by post) to the entitled Service Voters.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** It **uses QR codes for uniqueness of the Service Voters and the secrecy in transmission is ensured by the use of OTP and PIN.**
- The postal ballots are delivered in electronic data format to voters on a real time basis. The voters can download the postal ballot and votes so cast would be received by the returning officer through post.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It was **first used in Nellithope by-elections in Puducherry in 2016.**
- **In news:** The ETPBS was recently used in Chengannur (Kerala) Assembly bypoll for service voters.

33. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

National Commission For Minority Education Institutions (NCMEI)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** **NCMEI under the Ministry of Human Resource Development** was established through an ordinance promulgated in 2004 which was replaced by NCMEI Act later.
- Commission is composed of a Chairman and three other members.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **The Chairman should have been a judge of High Court and must belong to a minority community.**
- The members shall also belong to a minority community and are persons of eminence, ability and integrity.
- The Central Government has notified six minority communities namely – Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhists, Parsi and Jain. However no linguistic minority has been notified till date.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Therefore **linguistic minorities remain outside the jurisdiction of the Commission.**
- The Commission is a quasi-judicial authority which has been endowed with the powers of a civil court.
- Only Supreme Court exercising writ jurisdiction under Article 32 and High Courts under Articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution of India can entertain any suit, application or proceedings in respect of any order made by the Commission.

- The Commission has adjudicatory and recommendatory functions such as:
 - to advise the Central Government and the State Governments on any question relating to the educational rights of the minorities referred to it.
 - enquire, suomotu, or on a petition presented to it by any Minority Educational Institution, or any person on its behalf into complaints regarding deprivation or violation of rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice and any dispute relating to affiliation to a University.
 - review the safeguards provided by or under the Constitution, or any law for the time being in force, for the protection of educational rights of the minorities and recommend measures for their effective implementation.
 - specify measures to promote and preserve the minority status and character of institutions of their choice established by minorities.
 - make recommendations to the appropriate Government for the effective, implementation of programmes and schemes relating to the Minority Educational Institutions.

In News:

- Recently, Supreme Court has held that National Commission for Minority Education Institutions (NCMEI) has original jurisdiction to determine an establishment as a minority education institution.
- Supreme Court also held that the only Commission had the power to decide on granting a 'no objection' certificate to an institution that wanted to convert into a minority institution.
- The judgment also states that the Commission will be empowered to declare the status of the minority institution at all stages.
- The SC overruled the Calcutta High Court Judgement which had ruled that NCMEI had no original jurisdiction to declare minority status.

34. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Rashtriya Gram SwarajAbhiyan (RGSA)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is a **revamped version of Rajiv Gandhi PanchayatSashaktikaranAbhiyan**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is a **centrally sponsored scheme which aims at making rural local bodies self-sustainable, financially stable and more efficient.**
- The Central component of the Scheme includes national level activities such as 'National Plan of Technical Assistance', 'Mission Mode project on e-Panchayat', 'Incentivisation of Panchayats'. This will be fully funded by Central Government.
- The State component includes 'Capacity Building of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)'.
- The State Governments will formulate the Annual Action Plans for seeking assistance from the Central Government.
- This scheme will extend to all States and UTs of the Country and will also include institutions of rural local government in non-Part IX areas, where Panchayats do not exist.
- It will be implemented in a demand driven mode and activities under the scheme will be aligned for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with main thrust on Panchayats identified under Mission Antyodaya and 115 Aspirational districts as identified by NITI Aayog.
- It focuses on:
 - Promoting devolution of powers and responsibilities to Panchayats according to the spirit of the Constitution and PESA Act.
- Creating and strengthening democratic local self-government in areas where Panchayats do not exist.
- Strengthening Gram Sabhas to function effectively as the basic forum of people's participation, transparency and accountability within the Panchayat system.
- **In News:** The PM of India launched restructured Rashtriya Gram SwarajAbhiyan on the Panchayati Raj Day.

35. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) was set up to replace the anachronistic Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC).
- It was established to eliminate practices that adversely affect competition in different industries/areas and protect interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade.
- The Competition Act of 2002 called for the creation of CCI. However, it was established in 2003 and became fully functional only by 2009.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The CCI is a **quasi-judicial body** which gives opinions to statutory authorities and also deals with other cases.
- It has one chairman and six members.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is the **youngest and the only cross-sector regulator in India**.
- **In News:** Central Government has decided to reduce the members appointed by it in the CCI.

36. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

e-vidhanProject

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is a **mission mode project to digitize and make the functioning of State Legislatures in India paperless**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is a **software suite of public website, secure website, house applications and mobile apps that fully automate the functioning of legislative assembly**
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is the Nodal Ministry for the project**.
- One of the key component of the strategy devised for implementation of the project is to create Project Monitoring Units both at Central as well as State levels.
- Himachal Pradesh became the first state to use e-vidhan site and launch a mobile app.
- Why in news? A new office of Central Project Monitoring Unit for the e-Vidhan project of the Government was inaugurated recently.

37. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

North Eastern Council (NEC)

- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is the **nodal agency for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region** which consists of the eight States of the region, with their respective Chief Ministers and Governors representing them.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is a **statutory body** established in 1972 via the North Eastern Council Act, 1971 for three key objectives viz. balanced development of the North Eastern Region; effecting better inter-state coordination; and maintaining security and public order in the region.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** In the 2002 amendment of the Act the role of the NEC has been upgraded from advisory body to **that of regional planning body**.
- It operates under the administrative control of the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (DoNER). Benefits
- It is expected to boost the development projects in North-East thus accruing socio-economic benefits to the people.
- It will ensure optimization of resources and avoid duplication through convergence of efforts of various Ministries/Departments.

38. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS), 2017

- It is an annual study which evaluates the City-Systems which comprises of mainly four inter-related aspects of urban planning and design, urban capacities and resources, transparency, accountability & participation, and empowered and legitimate political representation.
- The result indicates the health of the governance system and its ability to deliver good quality of life and aims to push towards transformative reforms in city governance.

Findings of Report

- Pune (score 5.1) topped the survey while Bengaluru (3) was ranked the lowest in the list.

- Comparatively, global benchmarks of Johannesburg, London and New York have scored 7.6, 8.8 and 8.8 respectively whereas Indian cities have barely touched 5.1 (being highest). Problems Highlighted by the Report
- A meagre increase in the score of few cities in last 3 years is attributed to several flagship urban missions such as Smart City Mission, Swachh Bharat, AMRUT and Housing for All.
- There is a lack of local democracy, with only two of the 23 cities putting in place ward committees and area sabhas at least on paper.
- Most cities are neither financially well-off nor adequately staffed at the urban body level.
- Only 9 of the 23 cities had a citizen's charter. Even in the cities where such a charter exists, there is no mention of service levels, or timelines for service delivery, or mechanisms for obtaining relief when service levels are not met.
- An ombudsman, specifically for resolving citizen's issues, is also missing in all but three Indian cities— Bhubaneswar, Ranchi and Thiruvananthapuram.
- 19 of the 23 cities don't release even basic data about their functioning in usable formats.
- Most Indian cities use town and country planning acts which were drafted decades before the economy was liberalized and the lack of a modern, contemporary urban planning framework may be costing India 3% of its GDP every year.
- **In news: Option (a) is correct:** Recently *Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy* released ASIC, 2017 which evaluated governance in cities.

39. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Corruption Perception Index

- The index ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and businesspeople on a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.
- The latest Index is an analysis on the

relationship between corruption and freedom of the press, association and expression.

Findings of the Report

- The index has found that more than two-third of the countries have scored below 50 with an average score of 43.
- India ranked 81st with a score of 40. The list was topped by New Zealand and Somalia ranking lowest.
- Among the neighboring countries, Pakistan was ranked at the 117th place with a score of 32, Bangladesh at 143th (score of 28), Myanmar at 130th (score 30), Sri Lanka 91st (score 38), Bhutan 26th (score 67) and China 77th (score 41).
- Sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Europe and Central Asia are the regions with worst performance.
- The report also found that the countries with least protection for press and NGOs tend to have the worst rates of corruption.
- **In news: Option (a) is correct:** Recently the *Corruption Perception Index* was released by *Transparency International*.

40. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

Blue Aadhaar

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It will not include child's biometric information.
- The first biometric update is required at the age of 5 while the second biometric update is required at the age of 15 and it will be linked to the parents' UID.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Although it is not mandatory for children below 5 years to get an Aadhaar however it will be useful for attending educational programmes and availing government scholarships.
- **In news:** The Unique Identification Authority of India has launched a blue Aadhaar Card/Baal Aadhar for children below five years.

41. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Medical Council of India

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Medical Council of India is a **statutory body**.
- Initially, it was set up in **1934** under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1933.
- The Council was later reconstituted under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 that supplanted the before Act.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It **establishes the uniform and high standards of medical education in India**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It **also registers doctors to practice in India**, in order to protect and promote the health and safety of the public by ensuring proper standards in the practice of medicine.
- The registration of doctors and their qualifications is usually done by state medical councils.
- Recently the NITI Aayog has suggested the substitution of Medical Council of India (MCI) with the National Medical Commission (NMC).
- **Functions of NMC**
- Framing policies for regulating medical institutions and medical professionals.
- Assessing the requirements of healthcare related human resources and infrastructure.
- Ensuring compliance by the State Medical Councils.
- Framing guidelines for determination of fees for up to 40% of the seats in the private medical institutions and deemed universities.
- Recognizing medical qualifications granted by universities and medical institutions in and outside India and qualifications granted by statutory and other bodies in India

42. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

National Register of Citizen (NRC)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** NRC **contains the names of bona fide Indian Citizens (of Assam) that distinguish them from the foreigners**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is **updated periodically**.

- However, in Assam the updation could not be carried on since 1951 due to various political tensions such as Assam Movement of 1980s, the language movement and other ethnic movements.
- But after the Supreme Court judgment (2014), NRC is now being updated in a time bound manner to incorporate Assam Accord of 1985 in order to tackle the issue of illegal immigration from Bangladesh.
- The NRC will include names of person or their descendants whose name appear in NRC 1951 or any of the Electoral Rolls up to the midnight of 24th March 1971.
- **In news:** State of Assam published the first draft of updated National Register of Citizen (NRC).

43. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** NRLM is partially **supported by World Bank**.
- SHGs and their federations are provided Revolving Fund and Community Investment Fund, which adds to their corpus funds.
- Members are provided loans for both consumption expenditure and taking up livelihoods activities from this corpus and are charged a small interest on the repayments.
- NRLM supports the financial inclusion of the SHG members from rural poor households through bank linkage and also works with the Banking sector to ensure credit flow to the SHGs.
- SHGs borrow from banks at 7 per cent against the average 10.90 per cent to 13 per cent rates charged by banks. The difference is the interest subvention provided through NRLM. Earlier, in 150 selected districts, an additional interest subvention of 3 per cent was provided to all women SHGs on prompt repayment of loans. Now this has been extended to 100 more districts. (Total 250 districts).
- To continue strengthening of livelihoods, a new livelihoods vertical, Start up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) has been launched by my Government. The

programme aims at helping the poor to set up enterprises and provided support till the enterprises stabilize. In all these endeavors the role of micro financing in livelihood needs to be given continued attention.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** *Mahila Kisan Sashikaran Pariyojna (MKSP) is one of the components of NRLM.* It seeks to strengthen the existing agriculture based livelihoods of the poor and participation of women in agriculture and improve productivity.

44. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

Meghalaya's Social Audit Law

- A social audit facilitator will be appointed to conduct the audit directly with the people who will present findings to the Gram Sabha, which will further add inputs and the result will finally go to the auditors.
- A Social Audit Council (SAC) has been established as a panel to review government programmes during the course of their implementation.
- The Act provides a list of programmes, schemes and projects to be audited.
- **In News:** Meghalaya became the first state in India to operationalise a social audit law- 'The Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act, 2017'.

45. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Finance Commission (FC)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 280 of the Constitution provides for a FC as a *quasi-judicial body*.
- It is constituted by the President every 5th year or at such earlier time as he considers necessary.
- The FC makes recommendations to the President on following matters
 - The distribution of the net proceeds of taxes between the centre and the states, and the allocation between the states of the respective shares of such proceeds.
 - The principle that should govern the grants-in-aid to the states by the centre (out of the Consolidated Fund of India).

- The measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of a state to supplement the resources of local governments on the basis of recommendations made by the state finance commission.

- Any other matter referred to it by the President.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** *Recommendations made by the FC are only advisory in nature.*

- The Constitution empowers the FC to go beyond the core issues of how to divide taxes vertically between centre and the states on the one hand and horizontally between states on the other.
- It also allows FC to make broader recommendations in the interests of sound finance. About the 15th FC
- The Commission is to finalise its tax-devolution formula after factoring in the impact on the Union's fiscal situation, keeping in mind "the continuing imperative of the national development programme including New India – 2022" and government's commitment to compensate states' loss due to GST.
- **In News:** The Union cabinet recently approved the setting up of the 15th Finance Commission (FC) with N.K. Singh as its Chairman.
- It has been asked to submit its report by 30 October 2019.

46. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Tribunals in India

- **Statement 3 is correct:** On *recommendation of Swaran Singh Committee*, the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 provided for the insertion of Articles 323-A and 323-B in the Constitution. Article 323A deals with administrative tribunals. Article 323B deals with tribunals for other matters.
- The Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985- An Act to provide for the adjudication by Administrative Tribunals of disputes with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services.

What are Tribunals?

- **Statement 1 is correct:** 'Tribunal' is an *administrative body established for the purpose of discharging quasi-judicial duties.*
- **Statement 2 is correct:** An *Administrative Tribunal is neither a Court nor an executive body rather a midway between the two.*
- Tribunals function as an effective mechanism to ameliorate the burden of the judiciary.
- The Tribunal has to observe the principles of natural justice or act in accordance with the statutory provisions under which the Tribunal is established.
- **In News:** Law Commission of India (LCI), in its 272nd report, has laid out a detailed procedure for improving the working of the tribunal system in the country.

47. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

E-Samiksha

- **Statement 1 is correct:** E-Samiksha is an *online monitoring and compliance mechanism* developed by Cabinet secretariat with technical help from National Informatics Centre.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is used for *tracking the progress on projects & policy initiatives and follow up actions of various ministries by cabinet secretary and Prime Minister on a real-time basis.*
- An E-Patrchar facility has been launched which sends meeting notices and agendas, circulars, letters, etc. through e-mail and SMS, thus promoting the maxim of 'Minimum Government and Maximum governance'.
- E-Samiksha portal is designed to enhance efficiency, bring transparency, increase accountability, and improve the communication between Government to Government, Business to Government and vice versa.
- **In news:** Central government departments have been asked to work out specific targets to be achieved by 2022 which will be monitored by PM under e-Samiksha platform.

48. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

UN Convention against Torture (CAT)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is an *international human rights instrument aimed to prevent torture and cruel, inhuman degrading treatment or punishment around the world.*
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This *convention is in force since 1987.*

Key Provisions:

- Prohibition on deportation/extradition of person to another State where there is danger of person being subjected to torture.
- Universal Jurisdiction must be established to try cases of torture where an alleged torturer cannot be extradited.
- Criminal liability for torture: States need to ensure that all acts of torture are offence under their criminal law.
- Education and information for prevention of torture to law enforcement, civil and military, public officials etc.
- Procedures for prompt investigation for allegations or victims of torture must be established. Courts must ban the use of evidence produced by use of torture.
- Protection, Compensation and rehabilitation to victims and witnesses and providing a system of effective remedies.
- **In news:** Law Commission of India has recommended the Centre to ratify the United Nations Convention Against Torture and frame a standalone antitorture law.

49. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

Hybrid Electoral System:

- **Option (a) is correct:** A *hybrid/mixed system refers to an electoral system in which two systems are merged into one combining the positive features from more than one electoral system.*
- In a mixed system, there are two electoral systems using different formulae running alongside each other. The votes are cast by the same voters and contribute to the election of representatives under both systems.

- One of those systems is a plurality/majority system (or occasionally an 'other' system), usually a single-member district system, and the other a List PR system.
- There are two forms of mixed system- - When the results of the two types of election are linked, with seat allocations at the PR level being dependent on what happens in the plurality/majority (or other) district seats and compensating for any disproportionality that arises there, the system is called a Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system.
- Where the two sets of elections are detached and distinct and are not dependent on each other for seat allocations, the system is called a Parallel system.
- While an MMP system generally results in proportional outcomes, a Parallel system is likely to give results the proportionality of which falls somewhere between that of a plurality/majority and that of a PR system.
- **In News:** Various political parties have told a Parliamentary panel that the existing first-past-the-post-system needs to be replaced with a hybrid format.

50. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It was established on the recommendations of Shivaraman Committee.
- It is an apex institution which has power to deal with all matters concerning policy, planning as well as operations in giving credit for agriculture and other economic activities in the rural areas.
- It promotes rural industries, small scale and cottage industries including tiny sectors by providing loans to commercial and co-operative banks.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The bank provides funds to State governments for undertaking developmental and promotional activities in rural areas.
- It also supports the Self-help Group (SHG) and works for the restructuring of credit institutions, and training and development of staff.
- **In news:** Recently, Lok Sabha has passed the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2017. The Bill seeks to amend the NABARD Act, 1981.

CURRENT AFFAIRS (SCHEMES + PROGRAMMES + IYB)

Time Allowed: 1 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 100

Roll No.:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS TEST BOOKLET DOES NOT HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TORN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. Please note that it is the candidate's responsibility to encode and fill in the Roll Number carefully and without any omission or discrepancy at the appropriate places in the OMR Answer Sheet. Any omission/ discrepancy will render the Answer Sheet liable for rejection.
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. DO NOT write anything else on the Test Booklet.
4. While writing name and Roll No. on the top of the OMR Sheet in appropriate boxes use **"ONLY BLACK BALL POINT PEN"**.
5. This Test Booklet contains **50 items (questions)**. Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response, mark the response which you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.
6. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate **OMR Answer Sheet** provided.
7. All items carry equal marks. **(2 marks each)**
8. After you have completed filling in all your responses on the Answer Sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to the Invigilator only the Answer Sheet. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. Sheets for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.
10. Penalty for wrong answers:
THERE WILL BE **PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED** BY A CANDIDATE IN THE OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTION PAPERS.
 - (a) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, **one-third of the marks** assigned to that question will be **deducted as penalty**.
 - (b) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a wrong answer even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question.
 - (c) If a question is left blank, i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be no penalty for that question.

DO NOT OPEN THIS TEST BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SO

1. Consider the following statements about National Agricultural Market (NAM):

1. All the states across India have been linked to National Agriculture Market.
2. It offers the opportunity to access a larger national market for secondary trading.
3. The Scheme is being funded through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

2. With reference to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
2. Its objective is to provide rural India with professional support in the field of Organic Farming.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

3. Which of the following statements is/are correct about National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)?

1. It is a network of projects by NASA.
2. It takes into account the critical assessment of different crops/zones in the country for vulnerability of rainfall.
3. It undertakes installation of state-of-art equipment like flux towers for measurement of greenhouse gases in large field areas.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

4. With reference to Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA), consider the following statements:

1. Its objective is to attract and empower the Youth in Rural Areas to take up various Agriculture sector enterprises for sustainable income.
2. It is implemented via Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

5. Operation Greens was announced recently in Union Budget 2018-19. Which of the following statements is/are correct with reference to it?

1. It aims to aid farmers and help control and limit erratic fluctuations in the prices of horticulture products.
2. The idea behind it is to double the income of farmers by the end of 2022.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

6. Consider the following statements about National AYUSH Mission (NAM):

1. It was launched recently in Union Budget 2018-2019.
2. It aims to address gaps in health services.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

7. With reference to Plastic Park Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme comes under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

2. Central Institute for Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET) will be set-up in Delhi under this scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are **incorrect**?

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

8. Consider the following statements about the SHAKTI Scheme:

1. Its objective is to auction long-term coal linkages to power companies.
2. This policy will award fuel supply agreements to coal plants already holding letters of assurance.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

9. Consider the following statements about Deen Dayal Sparsh Yojana:

1. It is a Pan India scholarship program for college students to increase the reach of Philately.
2. To avail this scholarship, a person must be student of government college within India and concerned college should have Philately Club and candidate should be member of Club.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10. Which of the following statements about Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) is/are correct?

1. Government will identify fake / duplicate ration cards under IM-PDS and enable PDS beneficiaries to purchase food grains from any shop of their choice across the nation.

2. Its objective is to integrate PDS System Portals of States/UTs with portals of Central Government.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

11. National Supercomputing Mission:

1. is implemented by the Department of Science and Technology and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY).
2. includes development of highly professional High Performance Computing (HPC) aware human resource for meeting challenges of development of various applications.

Which of the above statements is/are **incorrect**?

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

12. Consider the following statements about Stree Swabhiman initiative:

1. It is an initiative of Ministry of Women & Child Development.
2. Its aim is to create sustainable model for providing adolescent girls and women an access to affordable sanitary products.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

13. Which of the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) is/are correct?

1. It is the renamed version of SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) Yojana.

2. PMKSY is an umbrella scheme which incorporates all ongoing schemes of the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

14. Consider the following statements about Mission Parivar Vikas:

- 1. It is an initiative for improved family planning services in India.
- 2. It is launched in all the high focus districts in seven states with highest total fertility rates.

Which of the above statements is/are **incorrect**?

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

15. The Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP) is a disease surveillance scheme under the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs in India. Which of the following institutions has assisted in this program?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) Asian Development Bank
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

16. Project Sunrise is related to:

- (a) Installation of Solar Pumps in Rural Areas
- (b) Prevention of AIDS
- (c) Implementation of International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- (d) Biodiversity Conservation

17. With reference to the initiative Bharat Ke Veer, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an initiative to allow the public to contribute financial assistance to the families of Indian paramilitary and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) killed in the line of duty.
- 2. It is maintained by the Indian government's National Informatics Centre (NIC) and supported financially by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

18. With reference to Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a joint program between the Central government and UNESCO for improving the quality of education in engineering colleges.
- 2. The second phase of the project is currently in operation.

Which of the above statements is/are **incorrect**?

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

19. Which of the statement about JANAPADA SAMPADA is correct?

- (a) It is unit of Archaeological Survey of India
- (b) It is a subordinate office under National Archives of India
- (c) It is one of the features of National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities.
- (d) It is a division of IGNCA (Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts) engaged in lifestyle studies.

20. Which of the following is/are correct about Atal Innovation Mission?

- 1. It is a sub scheme under National Skill development Mission

2. It would enable successful growth of sustainable start ups in every sector of the country.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

21. Consider the following statements about 'Agriculture Credit':

- 1. Government announces annual target for agriculture credit in the budget every year.
- 2. The agriculture credit flow target for 2017-18 has been decreased as compared to the previous year.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

22. Consider the following statements about High level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable development

- 1. Forum meets annually under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- 2. Establishment of the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was mandated in 2012 by the outcome document of the Rio+20
- 3. India has submitted Voluntary National Review (VNR) report on progress in achievement of SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) under High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

Which of the above statement is/are **incorrect**?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None

23. Which of the following statements are correct about National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme:

- 1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 2014.
- 2. Its objective is to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out.
- 3. Scholarships are disbursed directly by Direct Benefit Transfer mode.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

24. Which of the following statements are correct about Tithi Bhojan?

- 1. It is a concept designed to ensure greater public participation under the Mid Day Meal Programme being followed in Madhya Pradesh.
- 2. It brings in greater community participation, by celebrating important family events.
- 3. It is voluntarily served by the community/family among school children in several forms like sweets and namkeen along with regular MDM.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

25. Which of the following statements are correct about National Health Portal (NHP):

- 1. It serves as a single point access for information on health and diseases.
- 2. National Health Portal (NHP) is functioning as citizen portal for healthcare providing health related information to citizens and stakeholders in 22 official languages.
- 3. A voice portal, providing information through a toll-free number is under this portal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

26. Which of the following statements are correct about Ayushman Bharat ?

- 1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme which was launched in 2018.
- 2. The Scheme has the benefit cover of Rs. 2 lakh per family per year.
- 3. It will subsume the on-going centrally sponsored schemes Rashtriya Swasthya BimaYojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

27. Which of the following statements are correct about Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana?

- 1. Its objective is to give better rural connectivity.
- 2. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- 3. It connects eligible unconnected habitations as per core-network with a population of 2500 persons and above.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

28. Which of the following statements are correct about Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)?

- 1. It is a critical component of the National Skill Development Policy.

- 2. Its aim is to convert India's demographic surplus into a demographic dividend by developing rural India into a globally preferred source of skilled labour.
- 3. DDU-GKY follows a 3 tier implementation architecture in PPP mode.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

29. Enhancement of maternity leave under Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 from existing 12 weeks to 26 weeks has been done by which of the following ministries:

- (a) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- (b) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- (c) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- (d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

30. Which of the following statements are correct about Anganwadi Services Scheme ?

- 1. Its objective is to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years.
- 2. It was launched recently in Budget 2018-2019.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

31. With reference to Agmark online system, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Agmark online system is being implemented across India to ensure the digitalisation of warehouses.

2. The application processes related to Agmark certification are being done online by the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

32. Consider the following statements:

1. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras is an initiative of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship towards creation of standardized infrastructure for delivery of skill training.
2. The objective behind Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras is to empower the youth by providing market relevant skill training and develop entrepreneurship.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

33. With reference to 'Methanol Cooking Fuel Program', consider the following statements:

1. It is canister based and India's first "Methanol Cooking Fuel Program".
2. The cooking medium can directly substitute LPG, Kerosene, Wood, Charcoal and any other fuel for cooking.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

34. With reference to 'the National Biofuel Policy of India 2018', consider the following statements:

1. With a thrust on Advanced Biofuels, the Policy indicates a viability gap funding scheme for 4G ethanol Bio refineries.
2. The Policy encourages setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, used Cooking oil and short gestation crops.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

35. With reference to 'India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. India is one of the first countries in the world to develop a comprehensive Cooling Action plan.
2. The thrust of ICAP is to look for synergies in actions for securing both environmental and socio-economic benefits.
3. ICAP seeks to reduce cooling demand across sectors to 2/3rd by 2030.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

36. With reference to 'Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)', which of the following statements are correct?

1. The aim of the Scheme is to assist the state governments to provide reasonable degree of protection against floods in critical areas.
2. The scheme caters to hydro-meteorological observations and flood forecasting on common rivers with the neighbouring countries.
3. The works under the scheme will protect valuable land from erosion, flooding and help in maintaining peace along the border.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

37. With reference to 'Quality Assurance Scheme', which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. For availing the scheme it requires minimal documentation and nominal fees.
2. The scheme will help to bring quality at the grass root level of India's education system.
3. The scheme will help in spreading digital education at faster rate in India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

38. 'Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) Yojana' has been launched for:

- (a) providing housing loan to poor people at cheaper interest rates
- (b) assuring a monthly pension for the unorganized sector workers during their old age.
- (c) assuring a lump sum amount for the enrolled organized sector workers during their old age.
- (d) providing financial help to the marginalized communities

39. Which one of the following is the best description of 'BOLD-QIT', that was in the news recently?

- (a) A smart India Hackathon programme to develop bold and responsive artificial intelligence enabled technologies.
- (b) A scheme that primarily ensures equitable share to a girl child in resources and savings of a family in which she is generally discriminated as against a male child.

- (c) A Financial Inclusion programme to ensure access to financial services, namely Banking Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, in an affordable manner.

- (d) It is the project to install technical systems under the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System.

40. With reference to 'Young Scientist Programme', consider the following statements:

1. It has been launched by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
2. Those who have finished 10th standard and currently studying in 11th standard will be eligible for the programme.
3. Students belong to the deprived section been given special weightage in the selection criteria.

Which of the statements given above are incorrect?

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

41. 'Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED)', often seen in the news, is:

- (a) A scheme that aims to improve the health of rural India by providing them with a clean cooking fuel – LPG.
- (b) A plan of action for sustainable economic growth in the Asia-Pacific Region, an outcome of the deliberations of the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum.
- (c) An agenda for women's empowerment, an outcome of a World Conference convened by the United Nations.
- (d) A Scheme with an aim to rate and handhold all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) to deliver top quality products using clean technology.

42. With reference to 'Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)', consider the following statements:

1. It is the financial turnaround and revival package for electricity distribution companies of India (DISCOMs).

2. DISCOMs are expected to issue bonds.
3. The scheme is compulsory for the states to join.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

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

43. With reference to 'Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)', consider the following statements:

1. The Ministry of Rural Development has formulated this Scheme.
2. The scheme will provide for installation of grid-connected solar power plants each of Capacity up to 2 MW in the rural areas.
3. It will help in solarisation of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps to make farmers independent of grid supply.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

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

44. With reference to 'The Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018', consider the following statements:

1. The Bill contains provisions which ban deposit takers from promoting, operating, issuing advertisements or accepting deposits in any Unregulated Deposit Scheme.
2. The Bill entrusts the primary responsibility of implementing the provisions of the legislation to both central and State Governments.

Which of the statements given above is / are incorrect?

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

45. With reference to 'National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2019', consider the following statements:

1. The objective of the bill is to confer the status of Institutions of National Importance to National Institute of Food Technology.
2. The legislation would provide for functional autonomy to the institutes to design and develop courses and undertake research activities.

Which of the statements given above is / are incorrect?

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

46. Consider the following statements:

1. e-pathshala has been developed by NCERT.
2. SWAYAM is an integrated platform for online courses, using Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
3. The National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER) is an initiative to bring together all digital and digitisable resources across all stages of school education.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

47. The Committee of Experts constituted by the Ministry of Defence to recommend measures to enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure of the armed forces was

- (a) Rangarajan Committee
- (b) Ajit Kumar Committee
- (c) DB Shekatkar committee
- (d) Abhijit Sen Committee

48. With reference to 'Operation Digital Board (ODB)', consider the following statements:

1. This step will make both learning as well as the teaching process interactive.
2. Under it, all exams of 9th, 10th and 11th standards in India will be conducted via digital boards in the next five years.
3. Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) will be the implementing agency for ODB.

Which of the statements given above is / are **incorrect**?

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

49. With reference to 'Indus Waters Treaty 1960', consider the following statements:

1. All the waters of three rivers, namely Ravi, Chenab and Beas are called eastern Rivers while water of Indus, Jhelum, and Sutlej are called western rivers.
2. Waters of eastern rivers are allocated to India for exclusive use while those of western rivers are allocated to Pakistan for exclusive use.

Which of the statements given above is / are **incorrect**?

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

50. With reference to 'The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN)', consider the following statements:

1. Under the Scheme, Rs. 6,000 will be given per month to small and marginal farmer families having combined land holding/ ownership of upto 2 hectares.
2. The amount will be given to farmers in cash via village Panchayat.
3. The benefit from scheme will protect farmers from falling in the clutches of moneylenders for meeting expenses.

Which of the statements given above is / are **incorrect**?

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

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<i>Answer Key</i>							
Q. 1	(b)	Q. 14	(d)	Q. 27	(b)	Q. 40	(b)
Q. 2	(d)	Q. 15	(a)	Q. 28	(d)	Q. 41	(d)
Q. 3	(b)	Q. 16	(b)	Q. 29	(c)	Q. 42	(b)
Q. 4	(c)	Q. 17	(a)	Q. 30	(a)	Q. 43	(d)
Q. 5	(b)	Q. 18	(c)	Q. 31	(b)	Q. 44	(b)
Q. 6	(b)	Q. 19	(d)	Q. 32	(c)	Q. 45	(d)
Q. 7	(c)	Q. 20	(b)	Q. 33	(c)	Q. 46	(b)
Q. 8	(c)	Q. 21	(a)	Q. 34	(b)	Q. 47	(c)
Q. 9	(d)	Q. 22	(d)	Q. 35	(a)	Q. 48	(c)
Q. 10	(c)	Q. 23	(c)	Q. 36	(d)	Q. 49	(c)
Q. 11	(d)	Q. 24	(a)	Q. 37	(c)	Q. 50	(b)
Q. 12	(b)	Q. 25	(c)	Q. 38	(b)		
Q. 13	(c)	Q. 26	(c)	Q. 39	(d)		

1. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

National Agricultural Market (NAM)

- NAM is a pan-India electronic trading portal which seeks to network the existing APMCs and other market yards to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.
- Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) has been selected as the lead agency to implement it.
- Central government will provide the software free of cost to the states and in addition, a grant of up to Rs. 30 lakhs per mandi or market or private mandis will be given for related equipment and infrastructure requirements.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect: 479 mandis across 14 states have been linked to National Agriculture Market.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** For the local trader in the mandi / market, NAM **offers the opportunity to access a larger national market for secondary trading.**
- Bulk buyers, processors, exporters etc. benefit from being able to participate directly in trading at the local mandi / market level, thereby reducing their intermediation costs.
- The gradual integration of all the major mandis into NAM will ensure common procedures for issue of licences, levy of fee and movement of produce.
- New Features added to the scheme such as E-NAM Mobile App, BHIM Payment facility, MIS dashboard for better analysis and insights, grievance redressal mechanism for Mandi Secretaries and integration with Farmer Database to ease the registration and identification process will further strengthen e-NAM.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Fund Allocation – **The Scheme is being funded through Agri Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF).**

2. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Yojana

- **Statement 1 is correct: This scheme, being implemented by Indian Council**

of Agricultural Research (ICAR), was launched in 2016 to include trained farmers of the field of Organic Farming/ Natural Farming/Cow Based Economy for training and capacity building of other farmers of nearby areas.

- Under this scheme 100 training centers were proposed to be opened for agricultural education.
- Training Centres will be selected on the basis of farmers who have already attended training course conducted under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan earlier or are having working/handling of natural farming in their own land plus must know all basics, fundamental, theory and practices of natural farming
- Its objective is to build skilled Human Resource at village level relevant to national needs towards organic farming and sustainable agriculture.
- **Statement 2 is correct: To Provide rural India with professional support in the field of Organic Farming/ Natural Farming/ Rural Economy/ Sustainable Agriculture.**

3. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is a network of projects by **the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It **takes into account the critical assessment of different crops/zones in the country for vulnerability of rainfall.**
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It **undertakes installation of state-of art equipment like flux towers for measurement of greenhouse gases in large field areas.**
- It undertakes comprehensive field evaluation of new and emerging approaches of paddy cultivation.
- The research on adaptation and mitigation covers crops, livestock, fisheries and natural resource management.
- The project consists of four components viz. Strategic Research, Technology Demonstration, Capacity Building and Sponsored/Competitive Grants.

Objective

- To enhance the resilience of Indian agriculture covering crops, livestock and fisheries to climatic variability and climate change through development and application of improved production and risk management technologies
- To demonstrate site specific technology packages on farmers' fields for adapting to current climate risks
- To enhance the capacity building of scientists and other stakeholders in climate resilient agricultural research and its application

4. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA)

- It is implemented by ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- The objectives of ARYA project are:
 - **Statement 1 is correct:** To *attract and empower the Youth in Rural Areas to take up various Agriculture, allied and service sector enterprises for sustainable income* and gainful employment in selected districts,
 - To enable the Farm Youth to establish network groups to take up resource and capital intensive activities like processing, value addition and marketing, and
 - To demonstrate functional linkage with different institutions and stakeholders for convergence of opportunities available under various schemes/program for sustainable development of youth
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is implemented via Krishi Vigyan Kendras (One in each district)
- Training given in Apiary, Mushroom, Seed Processing, Soil testing, Poultry, Dairy, Goatry, Carp-hatchery, Vermi-compost etc

5. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

Operation Greens

- It was announced in Union Budget 2018-19 on line of Operation Flood to promote FPOs, agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.
- It aims to promote farmer producers organisations, processing facilities, agri-logistics and professional management.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It also *aims to aid farmers and help control and limit erratic fluctuations in the prices of Tomatoes, Onions and Potatoes (TOP)*.
- It is essentially price fixation scheme that aims to ensure farmers are given the right price for their produce.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The idea behind it is to *double the income of farmers by the end of 2022*.

Its major objectives are:

- Price stabilisation for producers and consumers by proper production planning in TOP clusters.
- Reduction in post-harvest losses by creation of farm gate infrastructure, development of suitable agro-logistics, and creation of appropriate storage capacity linking consumption centres.
- Enhance value realisation of TOP farmers by targeted interventions to strengthen TOP production clusters and their FPOs,
- Increase in food processing capacities and value addition in TOP value chain.
- Set up of market intelligence network to collect and collate real time data on demand and supply and price of TOP crops.

6. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

National AYUSH Mission (NAM)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The NAM was *launched in September 2014*, by Ministry of AYUSH with the objective of providing cost-effective universal access to AYUSH Services.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It *aims to address gaps in health services* through supporting efforts of State/UTs for providing AYUSH health services and education in country, particularly in vulnerable and far-flung areas.

- The NAM intends to build on India's unmatched heritage represented by its ancient systems of medicine like Ayurveda, Yunani, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy (AYUSH), which are treasure house of knowledge for preventive and primitive health care.

Expected outcomes of NAM

- Better access to AYUSH healthcare services through increased number of healthcare facilities offering them and better availability of medicines and trained manpower.
- Improvement in AYUSH education through well-equipped enhanced number of AYUSH Educational institutions.
- Improved availability of quality AYUSH drugs by increased number of quality pharmacies and Drug Testing Laboratories coupled with stringent enforcement mechanism.
- Increased awareness and acceptance of Yoga and Naturopathy as primitive and preventive health-care systems. Meet increasing domestic demand for herbal raw-materials and also to promote export.

7. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Plastic Park Scheme

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The scheme comes under **Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**.
- The plastic park will manufacture range of polymer products including woven sacks, moulded furniture, water tanks, bottles, pipes mosquito nets, etc.
- It will have great potential for attracting investment for setting up ecosystem for plastic industry and generate employment opportunities for the local populace.
- The project is likely to provide direct employment generation to about 6000 people and indirect employment to over 30000 people.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** **Jharkhand Government will facilitate land and building infrastructure for this project and also to set up Central Institute for Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET) alongside the park.**

Significance

- The plastic industry is growing at rapid pace and polymer consumption in India will double from current 10 million metric tonnes to 20 million metric tonnes by 2022.
- The Plastic Park, CIPET and Plastic Recycling unit at Deoghar will build an ecosystem that will encourage setting up of Plastic Industry, thereby making it 'Plastic Hub' in the future.

In News:

- The Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers has approved proposal of setting up of Plastic Park in Deoghar District, Jharkhand.
- The project will be set up at cost of Rs.120 crores in an area of 150 acres.
- Moreover, it will also set up Central Institute for Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET) and Plastic Recycling unit at Deoghar.

8. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Its objective is to **auction long-term coal linkages to power companies**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** This **policy will award fuel supply agreements to coal plants already holding letters of assurance (LoAs)**. It is issued to new consumers on being approved by the appropriate authority, based on recommendation of a committee constituted Specific terms & conditions of the LOA to be complied with within a stipulated time period for being eligible to enter into FSA for commencing coal supply.
- Thermal plants holding LoAs will be eligible to sign fuel supply pacts under the new policy after ensuring that all the conditions are met.
- Coal linkages would be awarded to state-owned power distribution companies (discoms). These, in turn, would assign linkages to
 - State or central power generation companies via allocation, and
 - Private units through auction.

- The independent power producers (IPPs) participating in the auction will bid for discounts on the existing tariff and this would be adjusted from the gross coal bills.
- Power plants will have to give discount on their tariffs to get linkages. This could lead to under-recovery by the units, but it is still better than no fuel supply.

In News:

- Union Cabinet recently approved a Coal linkage policy named SHAKTI or the Scheme to Harness and Allocate Koyla (Coal) Transparently in India.

9. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Deen Dayal Sparsh Yojana

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is a *pan India scholarship program for school children to increase the reach of Philately*.
- The SPARSH stands for Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby.
- Under the scheme, annual scholarships will be awarded to children of Standard VI to IX having good academic record and also pursuing Philately as hobby through competitive selection process in all postal circles. Government will award 920 scholarships to students pursuing Philately as hobby.
- **Scholarship and Selections:** Every Postal Circle will select a maximum of 40 scholarships representing 10 students each from Standard VI to IX. The amount of Scholarship will be Rs. 6000/- per annum @ Rs. 500/- per month. The selections will be made based on evaluation of Project work on philately & performance in Philately Quiz conducted by Circles.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: Philately Club:** To avail this scholarship, *child must be student of recognized school within India and concerned school should have Philately Club and candidate should be member of Club*. In case school Philately Club hasn't been established a student having his own Philately Deposit Account will also be considered.
- **Philately mentor:** Every school participating in competition, would be

assigned Philately mentor to be chosen from amongst the renowned Philatelists. The Philately mentor will help in formation of School level Philately Club, providing guidance to young and aspiring Philatelists on how to pursue the hobby and also helping the aspiring Philatelists on their Philately Projects etc.

Philately

- **Philately is hobby of collection and study of Postage stamps.** It also entails collection, appreciation and research activities on stamps and other related philatelic products. The hobby includes seeking, locating, acquiring, organizing, cataloguing, displaying, storing, and maintaining the stamps or related products on thematic areas. It is also called king of hobbies because stamp collection as hobby has lot of educational benefits as it teaches lot about socio-economic political reality of period in which stamp is issued or theme on which it is issued.

10. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS)

- Central government is going to implement Integrated Management for Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) from FY 2018-19 and 2019-20. This central sector scheme will enable people to take ration at subsidized rates from any place across the country. There will be no restriction on village, district or state to take ration under Food Protection Law.
- All the beneficiaries can purchase wheat and rice at subsidized rates from any Public Distribution System shop. Accordingly, this scheme will bring transparency and efficiency in distribution of food grains.
- **Statement 1 is correct: Govt. will identify fake / duplicate ration cards under IM-PDS and enable PDS beneficiaries to purchase food grains from any shop of their choice across the nation.**
- The key objectives of IM-PDS are as follows:
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** To *integrate PDS System / Portals of States / UTs with portals of Central Govt. / System*.

- Introduction of National Portability to remove restriction on purchase of food grains from the selected cities / districts.
- De-duplication of Ration Cards and beneficiaries.
- Now the govt. will be able to identify fake ration cards and remove them from the list of selected beneficiaries. The primary objective is to ensure that the benefits of various govt. schemes reaches to last mile person.

11. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

National Supercomputing Mission

- National Supercomputing Mission has been launched by the government to connect national academic and R&D institutions with a grid of over 70 high-performance computing facilities at an estimated cost of Rs 4,500 crore.
- These supercomputers will also be networked on the National Supercomputing grid over the National Knowledge Network (NKN).
- The NKN is another programme of the government which connects academic institutions and R&D labs over a high speed network. Academic and R&D institutions as well as key user departments/ministries would participate by using these facilities and develop applications of national relevance.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Mission also **includes development of highly professional High Performance Computing (HPC) aware human resource for meeting challenges of development of these applications.**
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The mission would be **implemented by the Department of Science and Technology and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY)** through Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.
- The Mission implementation would bring supercomputing within the reach of the large Scientific & Technology community in the country;

- It will provide significant qualitative and quantitative improvement in R&D and higher education in the disciplines of Science & Technology; and
- Enable the country with a capacity of solving multi-disciplinary grand challenge problems.
- Currently, in the top Supercomputing machines in the world, a major share is taken from advanced countries such as the US, Japan, China and the European Union (EU). The mission envisages India to be in the select league of such nations.

12. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

Stree Swabhiman

- **Statement 1 is incorrect: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) has launched Stree Swabhiman Initiative.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Its aim is to create **sustainable model for providing adolescent girls and women an access to affordable sanitary products** by leveraging Common Service Centres (CSCs).
- Under this initiative, Common Service Centres (CSC) will provide access to affordable, reliable and modern (eco-friendly) sanitary napkins (menstrual pads) to adolescent girls and women in rural areas.
- Its **purpose is to improve awareness on menstrual health and hygiene of women, thus help to protect dignity and rights of women.**
- Under this initiative, semi-automatic and manual sanitary napkin manufacturing units will be set up at CSC for producing affordable and eco-friendly sanitary napkins. These micro manufacturing units will be operated by women entrepreneurs and generate employment for 8-10 women.

13. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)

has **approved renaming of SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY).**

- The SAMPADA scheme was approved by the CCEA in May 2017 for the period of 2016-20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle. The objective of the scheme is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease agricultural-waste.
- **Statement 2 is correct: PMKSY is an umbrella scheme which incorporates all ongoing schemes of the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).**
- It includes MoFPI's schemes such as Mega Food Parks, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, etc.
- It also includes new schemes like Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Creation/Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities.
- PMKSY will have budgetary allocation of Rs. 6000 and is expected to leverage investment of Rs. 31,400 crore, handling of 334 lakh MT agro-produce valuing Rs. 1 lakh 4 thousand 125 crore. It will benefit 2 million farmers and generate over 5 lakh 30 thousand direct or indirect employment in the country by the year 2019-20.
- The implementation of PMKSY will result in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.
- It will provide a big boost to the growth of food processing sector in the country which is important segment of the Indian economy in terms of its contribution to GDP, employment and investment.
- It will help in providing better prices to farmers and is a big step towards doubling of farmers' income.
- It will create huge employment opportunities especially in the rural areas and also help in reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing availability of safe and convenient processed foods at affordable price to consumers and enhancing the export of the processed foods.

14. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Mission Parivar Vikas

- **Statement 1 and 2 are correct: The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is going to launch Mission Parivar Vikas for improved family planning services in 145 High Focus districts in seven states.**
- The objective of mission is to accelerate access to high quality family planning choices based on information, reliable services and supplies within a rights-based framework.

Key features of Mission Parivar Vikas

- These districts are located in the seven high focus states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam.
- They are having the highest total fertility rates and constitute 44% of the country's population.
- They also have a substantial impact on maternal and child health indicators. As about 25 to 30% of maternal deaths and 50% of infant deaths occur in these districts.
- The key strategic focus of this initiative will be on improving access to contraceptives through delivering assured services, dovetailing with new promotional schemes.
- It will also ensure building capacity (service providers), commodity security, creating an enabling environment along with close monitoring and implementation.

15. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

Integrated Diseases Surveillance Program (IDSP)

- **Option (a) is correct:** The Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP) is a disease surveillance scheme under the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs in India, **assisted by the World Bank.**
- The scheme aims to strengthen disease surveillance for infectious diseases to detect and respond to outbreaks quickly.

- The scheme seeks to set up a Central Disease Surveillance Unit and a State Surveillance Unit in each State where data is collected and analyzed.

16. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

Project Sunrise

- **Option (b) is correct:** Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda has launched **Project Sunrise on for prevention of AIDS specially among people injecting drugs in the 8 North-Eastern states.**
- The AIDS prevention special project aims to diagnose 90 per cent of such drug addicts with HIV and put them under treatment by 2020.
- Project Sunrise aims at bringing the people living with HIV/AIDS into the national mainstream and create more awareness about the disease in these N-E states..
- It will be implemented in the North East in addition to the existing projects of the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO).
- The project has been sponsored by US based Centre for Disease Control and would be implemented by Family Health International 360.
- It will cover one lakh people living with HIV/AIDS by giving them treatment and care facilities free of cost.
- Other initiatives to be covered it include enhancing capacity of state-level institutions in high burden areas, community mobilization, intervention among females injecting drugs.
- North Eastern States like Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram account for highest adult (15-49 years) HIV prevalence in the country. National average for prevalence of HIV/AIDS among drug addicts is 7.14%, whereas in Manipur it is 12.9% and in Mizoram it is 12%.

17. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

Bharat Ke Veer

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bharat Ke Veer (India's Bravehearts) is an initiative by film

actor Akshay Kumar to the Indian Minister of Home Affairs Rajnath Singh, to **allow the public to contribute financial assistance to the families of Indian paramilitary and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) killed in the line of duty.**

- It is a website and mobile application that enables the public to contribute to the families of Indian CAPF killed in the line of duty.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is maintained by the **Indian government's National Informatics Centre (NIC) in New Delhi, and supported financially by the State Bank of India.**

18. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs recently approved the third phase of the Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme—a **joint effort between the central government and the World Bank for improving the quality of education in engineering colleges.** The total project outlay for this would be Rs 3,600 crore.
- TEQIP was conceived and designed as a long term Project to be implemented in 10 to 12 years in 3 Phases in order to support excellence and transformation in Technical Education in the country.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Each Phase of the Project was to be implemented on the basis of success achieved and lessons learned in the earlier Phase. The Phase – I of the Project started in 2003 which lasted till 2009. **The second phase was from 2010 which lasted till October 2016.**
- Both projects have had a positive impact on the infrastructure and educational standards in the technical institutions where they were taken up. Institutions in the central, eastern and north-eastern region and hill States are at present in need of similar and specific interventions. The initiation and implementation of the project TEQIP-III will help to bridge this gap.

TEQIP Phase 3

- The third phase would be implemented as a 'Central Sector Scheme'.

- **Funding-** The total project outlay of Rs. 3600 crore. The project would be initiated with a cost of Rs. 2660 crore, with the possibility of additional financing of Rs. 940 crore at later stage. Out of the Rs.2660 crore, the Central share will be Rs.1330 crore and external assistance from the World Bank through International Development Association (IDA) Credit of Rs. 1330 crore. The project will be implemented with the facility of Direct Funds Transfer to the accounts of beneficiary institutes.
- **Duration-**The project will be initiated in 2016 and would be co-terminus with Fourteenth Finance Commission (2019-20).
- **Major outcomes of the project-**
 - Better academic standards, through accreditation, filling up faculty positions, training faculty in better teaching methods, improved research outputs in institution in Focus States/ UTs.
 - Better administration of the institutions with improved financial/academic autonomy.
 - Better systems for assessment of Student Learning, higher transition rates.
 - Transparent and expeditious release of funds to institutes by way of Direct Funds Transfer (DFT) System.

19. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- **Option (d) is correct:** IGNCA has 6 functional units: Kalanidhi, the multi-form library; Kalakosa, devoted mainly to study and publication of fundamental texts in Indian languages; **Janapada Sampada, the division engaged in lifestyle studies**, Kaladarsana, the executive unit which transforms researches and studies emanating from IGNCA into visible forms through exhibition; Cultural Informatics Lab, which applies technology tools for cultural preservation and propagation; and Sutradhara, the administrative section that acts as spine supporting and coordinating all activities.

20. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

Atal Innovation Mission

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Atal Innovation Mission is a flagship initiative of the Prime Minister, set up by NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of country.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** At the university, NGO, SME and corporate industry levels, AIM is setting up world class Atal Incubators (AICs) that would trigger and enable successful growth of sustainable start-ups in every sector/ State of the country.

21. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Government announces annual target for agriculture credit in the budget every year.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The target for the year 2016-17 was fixed at ₹9,00,000 crore and against this target the achievement was ₹10,65,756 crore. The agriculture credit flow target for 2017- 18 has been fixed at ₹10,00,000 crore.

22. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

High level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable development.

- **Statement 1, 2 and 3 are correct:** The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is a subsidiary body of both the **United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Economic and Social Council** responsible for the entire organization's policy on sustainable development.
- Establishment of the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was mandated in 2012 by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The Future We Want".
- HLPF is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development

and it has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. UNGA provides further guidance on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

- Government has come out with the Voluntary National Review (VNR) report on progress in achievement of SDGs to be submitted at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). India's report is prepared by the NITI Aayog

23. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Centrally Sponsored 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)' was launched in 2008.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The objective to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue study at secondary and higher secondary stage up to class XII.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Scholarships are disbursed directly by electronic transfer into the bank accounts of students on quarterly basis following DBT mode.

24. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

Tithi Bhojan

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** "Tithi Bhojan" is a concept designed to ensure greater public participation under the Mid Day Meal Programme being followed in Gujarat.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In order to bring in greater community participation, local communities are encouraged to celebrate important family events viz., birth of a child, success in exam, inauguration of new house, etc. by contributing to the mid day meal served in the local schools.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** It is voluntarily served by the community/family among school children in several forms like sweets and namkeen along with regular MDM, full meals, supplementary nutritive items like sprouted beans, contribution in kind such as cooking ware, utensils, dinner sets or glasses for drinking water.

25. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

National Health Portal

- **Statement 1 is correct:** NHP serves as a single point access for information on health and diseases including health messages; on regulations, standards, policies, programmes, commissions etc.; directory services - hospitals, blood banks, ambulances.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** National Health Portal (NHP) is functioning as citizen portal for healthcare providing health related information to citizens and stakeholders in different languages (currently six languages).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** A voice portal, providing information through a toll-free number 1800-180-1104 and mobile app has also been launched.

26. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Ayushman Bharat

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) a new centrally sponsored scheme was launched in 2018.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Scheme has the benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year. The target beneficiaries are to be more than 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) database.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** AB-NHPM will subsume the on-going centrally sponsored schemes Rashtriya Swasthya BimaYojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).

27. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** To give better rural connectivity, GOI as a part of poverty reduction strategy launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in December, 2000.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is a centrally sponsored scheme to assist the states, though rural roads are in the state list as per the Constitution.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It connects eligible unconnected habitations as per core-network with a population of 250 persons and above.

28. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** DDU-GKY is a critical component of the National Skill Development Policy, and has an ambitious agenda, to benchmark wage placement-linked skill programmes to global standards and requirements.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Its aim is to convert India's demographic surplus into a demographic dividend by developing rural India into a globally preferred source of skilled labour.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** DDU-GKY follows a 3 tier implementation architecture in PPP mode, with the national unit responsible for policy, central investments and technical support; SRLMs/State Skills Missions are responsible for state investments, implementation and monitoring controls; and Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs), both public and private training partners with a legacy in skill training, responsible for mobilization, training and placements.

29. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been working to extend the maternity leave period for working women to seven months to enable them to provide exclusive breast feeding to children for six months after child birth

and complementary foods thereafter to help reduce incidence of malnutrition.

- Ministry of Labour and Employment carried out suitable amendments in the Act, which are as follows: i. enhancement of maternity leave under Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 from existing 12 weeks to 26 weeks; ii. extension of maternity benefit to adopting mothers and commissioning mothers; iii. establishment of crèche facility within the office/factory premises.

30. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

- The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is now known as Anganwadi Services Scheme.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Its objective is to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years; lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child; reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropouts; achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and enhance the capability of the mothers to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the children through proper nutrition and health education.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It was launched in 1975.

31. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Agmark online system is being implemented across the country **to conduct quality control functions(not to ensure the digitalisation of warehouses)**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It will assist in realising the **Digital India dream** and following its footsteps, the application processes related to Agmark certification are being done online by the **Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI)**.
- The existing procedures for **Agmark certification** were in physical form and time consuming. The use of modern technologies by the **National Informatics Centre** has made these processes easy, reliable and cost effective by providing online electronic mode.

32. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras

- **Both the statements are correct:** Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra is **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship's** initiative towards creation of **standardized infrastructure for delivery of skill training** which are equipped to run **industry-driven courses of high quality** with focus on **employability and create an aspirational value** for skill development training.
- This centre will deliver **skills development courses in five job roles** like organic grower, plumber, sewing machine operator, home health aide and electrician domestic solutions. It aims to train **1000 candidates annually**.

33. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

About Methanol Cooking Fuel Program

- The project is a natural extension of **India's vision of reducing import of crude and an effort to provide clean, import substitute, cost effective and pollution free cooking medium.**
- **Statement 1 is correct:** **Northeast and Assam Petro-chemicals**, a state-owned company launched **Asia's first cannisters based and India's first "Methanol Cooking Fuel Program"**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The cooking medium can directly substitute **LPG, Kerosene, Wood, Charcoal and any other fuel for cooking.** The gaseous form, Methanol - DME, can be blended in 20% ratio with LPG. LPG-Di-methyl Ether (DME) blending program is expected to kickstart in the country by next year
- The safe handling cannister based cooking stoves are from **Swedish Technology** and through a Technology transfer a large-scale cooking stove manufacturing plant will come up in India in the next 18 months producing 10 lakh Cookstoves and 1 Crore Cannisters per year. **This technology is very unique, it handles methanol extremely safely, does not need regulator or any piping system.**

34. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

- 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.
- The Policy expands the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing **use of Sugarcane Juice, Sugar containing materials like Sugar Beet, Sweet Sorghum, Starch containing materials like Corn, Cassava, Damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice, Rotten Potatoes, unfit for human consumption for ethanol production.**
- Farmers are at a risk of not getting appropriate price for their produce during the surplus production phase. Taking this into account, the **Policy allows use of surplus food grains for production of ethanol for blending with petrol with the approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee.**
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** With a thrust on Advanced Biofuels, the Policy indicates a **viability gap funding** scheme for 2G ethanol Bio refineries
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Policy encourages **setting up of supply chain mechanisms** for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, Used Cooking Oil, short gestation crops.

35. Correct option: (a)

Explanation:

India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) in New Delhi.
- **Statement 1 is correct: India is one of the first countries in the world to develop a comprehensive Cooling Action plan** which has a long term vision to address the cooling requirement across sectors and lists out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand.
- Cooling requirement is cross sectoral and an essential part for economic growth

and is required across different sectors of the economy such as residential and commercial buildings, cold-chain, refrigeration, transport and industries.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** *The thrust of the India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) is to look for synergies in actions for securing both environmental and socio-economic benefits.*
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The India Cooling Action seeks to:
 - **reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25% by 2037-38,**
 - reduce refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by 2037-38,
 - Reduce cooling energy requirements by 25% to 40% by 2037-38,
 - Recognize "cooling and related areas" as a thrust area of research under national S&T Programme,
 - Training and certification of 100,000 servicing sector technicians by 2022-23, synergizing with Skill India Mission.

36. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)

- The Scheme "FMBAP" has been framed by merging the components of two continuing XII Plan schemes titled "Flood Management Programme (FMP)" and "River Management Activities and Works related to Border Areas (RMBA)".
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The aim of the Scheme is to assist the State Governments to provide reasonable degree of protection against floods in critical areas by adopting optimum combination of structural and non-structural measures and enhancing capabilities of State / Central Government officials in related fields.
- The Scheme aims at completion of the on-going projects already approved under FMP.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Further, the scheme also caters to Hydro-meteorological observations and Flood Forecasting on common rivers **with the neighbouring countries.**

- **Statement 3 is correct:** *The works under the scheme will protect valuable land from erosion and flooding and help in maintaining peace along the border.*
- The Scheme also includes survey and investigations, preparation of DPR etc. of water resources projects on the common rivers with neighbouring countries like Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project, Sapta Kosi-Sun Kosi Projects in Nepal which would benefit both countries.

37. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Quality Assurance Scheme

- The laboratories performing only basic routine tests like blood glucose, blood counts, rapid tests for common infections, liver & kidney function tests and routine tests of urine will be eligible to apply under this scheme.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** *The scheme requires minimal documentation and a nominal fee has been prescribed for availing the scheme.* Components of competence assessment have been added for assuring quality and validity of test results.
- **Statement 2 and 3 are incorrect:** *The scheme will help to bring quality at the grass root level of India's health system where laboratories follow the imperatives of quality in all their processes.*
- This will inculcate the habit of quality and facilitate the laboratories to achieve benchmark accreditation of ISO 15189 over a period of time.
- Through this scheme, patients availing services of small labs in primary health centers, community health centers, doctor's clinic, standalone small labs, labs in small nursing homes will also have access to quality lab results.

38. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Yojana

- **Option (b) is correct:** *The scheme will assure a monthly pension of Rs.3000 for the enrolled unorganized sector workers during their old age.*

- It is for the first time since independence that such a scheme is envisaged for the crores of workers engaged in the informal sector.
- The PM-SYM along with the health coverage provided under 'Ayushman Bharat' and life & disability coverage provided under 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana' and 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana', will ensure comprehensive social security coverage for the workers in the unorganized sector at their old age.

39. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

BOLD-QIT

- **Option (d) is correct: BOLD-QIT is the project to install technical systems under the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS), which enables BSF to equip Indo-Bangla borders with different kind of sensors in unfenced riverine area of Brahmaputra and its tributaries.**
- Now, the entire span of River Brahmaputra has been covered with data network generated by Microwave communication, OFC Cables, DMR Communication, day and night surveillance Cameras and intrusion detection system.
- These modern gadgets provide feeds to BSF Control Rooms on the Border and enable BSF Quick Reaction Teams to thwart any possibility of Illegal Cross Border Crossing/ Crimes.
- The implementation of this project will not only help BSF to curb all type of cross border crimes but also provide respite to the troops from round the clock human surveillance.

40. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Young Scientist Programme

- **Statement 1 is correct: Indian Space Research Organisation** launched a special programme for School Children called "Young Scientist Programme" "Yuva Vigyani Karyakram".
- The Program is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space

Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones with the intent of arousing their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities.

- ISRO has chalked out this programme to "Catch them young".
- The residential training programme will be of around two weeks duration during summer holidays and it is proposed to select 3 students each from each State/ Union Territory to participate in this programme every year covering CBSE, ICSE and State syllabus.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: Those who have finished 8th standard and currently studying in 9th standard will be eligible for the programme.**
- The selection is based on the academic performance and extracurricular activities, which is clearly mentioned in the selection criteria already circulated to Chief Secretaries of States/ Administrators of UTs.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect: Students belong to the rural area have been given special weightage in the selection criteria.**

41. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

Zero Defect, Zero Effect

- **Option (d) is correct: ZED Scheme aims to rate and handhold all MSMEs to deliver top quality products using clean technology.**
- It will have sector-specific parameters for each industry.
- MSME sector is crucial for the economic progress of India and this scheme will help to match global quality control standards.
- The slogan of Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED) was first mentioned by PM Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech in 2014.
- It was given for producing high quality manufacturing products with a minimal negative impact on environment.
- ZED Scheme is meant to raise quality levels in unregulated MSME sector which is engine of growth for Indian economy.

- MSME sector drives almost 38% of nation's GDP and around employs 110 million employees.
- The scheme will be cornerstone of the Central Government's flagship Make in India programme, which is aimed at turning India into a global manufacturing hub, generating jobs, boosting growth and increase income.

42. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** *It is the financial turnaround and revival package for electricity distribution companies of India (DISCOMs)* initiated by the Government of India with the intent to find a permanent solution to the financial mess that the power distribution is in.
- It allows state governments, which own the DISCOMs, to take over 75 percent of their debt as of September 30, 2015, and pay back lenders by selling bonds.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** *DISCOMs are expected to issue bonds for the remaining 25 percent of their debt.*
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** *The scheme is optional for the states to join.*

43. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** *The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has formulated a Scheme 'Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)'.*
- The proposal on KUSUM Scheme provides for:
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** *installation of grid-connected solar power plants each of Capacity up to 2 MW in the rural areas;*
 - installation of standalone off-grid solar water pumps to fulfil irrigation needs of farmers not connected to grid; and
 - **Statement 3 is correct:** *solarisation of existing grid-connected*

agriculture pumps to make farmers independent of grid supply and also enable them to sell surplus solar power generated to DISCOM and get extra income.

44. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

The Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018

- **Statement 1 is correct:** *The Bill contains a substantive banning clause which bans Deposit Takers from promoting, operating, issuing advertisements or accepting deposits in any Unregulated Deposit Scheme.* The principle is that the Bill would ban unregulated deposit taking activities altogether, by making them an offence ex-ante rather than the existing legislative-cum-regulatory framework which only comes into effect ex-post with considerable time lags;
- The Bill creates three different types of offences, namely, running of Unregulated Deposit Schemes, fraudulent default in Regulated Deposit Schemes, and wrongful inducement in relation to Unregulated Deposit Schemes.
- The Bill provides for severe punishment and heavy pecuniary fines to act as deterrent.
- The Bill has adequate provisions for disgorgement or repayment of deposits in cases where such schemes nonetheless manage to raise deposits illegally.
- The Bill provides for attachment of properties / assets by the Competent Authority, and subsequent realization of assets for repayment to depositors;
- Clear-cut time lines have been provided for attachment of property and restitution to depositors;
- The Bill enables creation of an online central database, for collection and sharing of information on deposit-taking activities in the country;
- The Bill defines "Deposit Taker" and "Deposit" comprehensively;
- "Deposit Takers" include all possible entities (including individuals) receiving or soliciting deposits, except specific entities such as those incorporated by legislation;

- "Deposit" is defined in such a manner that deposit-takers are restricted from camouflaging public deposits as receipts, and at the same time, not to curb or hinder acceptance of money by an establishment in the ordinary course of its business; and
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: Being a comprehensive Union Law, the Bill adopts best practices from State laws, while entrusting the primary responsibility of implementing the provisions of the legislation to the State Governments.**

45. Correct option: (d)

Explanation:

National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2019

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the introduction of National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2019.
- **Statement 1 is correct: The objective of the bill is to confer the status of Institutions of National Importance to National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) at Kundli, Haryana, and the Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT) at Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.**
- **Statement 2 is correct: The legislation would provide for functional autonomy to the institutes to design and develop courses, undertake research activities and leverage enhanced status in their academic pursuits, so that they become world class institutes.**
- The institutes would implement the reservation policy of the Government and would also undertake special outreach activities for the benefits of concerned stakeholders.
- It would enable the institutes to provide world class teaching and research experience by adopting innovative practices.

46. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct: e-pathshala has been developed by NCERT (National Council for Educational Research and Training)** for showcasing and disseminating all educational e-resources including textbooks, audio, video, periodicals and a variety of other print and non-print materials. So far, 3444 audios and videos, 698 e-books (e-pubs) and 504 flip books have been made available on the portal and mobile app.
- **Statement 2 is correct: The 'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM) is an integrated platform for online courses, using Information and Communication Technology (ICT)** and covering school (9th to 12th) to Post Graduate Level. It offers online courses for students, teachers and teacher educators.
- **Statement 3 is correct: The National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER) is an initiative to bring together all digital and digitisable resources across all stages of school education and teacher education.** So far, 13635 files including 401 collections, 2722 documents, 565 interactive, 1664 audios, 2581 images and 6105 videos have been made available over the portal. States/ UTs are motivated to contribute resources on NROER and create OERs for their own State/ UT.

47. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

- The Committee of Experts (CoE) constituted by the Ministry of Defence under the chairmanship of **Lt. Gen (Retd) DB Shekatkar** to recommend measures to enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure of the armed forces, submitted its report in December 2016.
- The Report was taken up by the Ministry of Defence to frame key action points and roadmap for implementation. Measures as recommended by the Committee and taken up for implementation include:
 - Optimization of Signals Establishments to include Radio Monitoring Companies, Corps Air Support Signal Regiments, Air Formation Signal Regiments, Composite Signal Regiments and merger of Corps Operating and Engineering Signal Regiments.

- Restructuring of repair echelons in the Army to include Base Workshops, Advance Base Workshops and Static / Station Workshops in the field Army.
- Redeployment of Ordnance echelons to include Vehicle Depots, Ordnance Depots and Central Ordnance Depots apart from streamlining inventory control mechanisms.
- Better utilization of Supply and Transportation echelons and Animal Transport units.
- Closure of Military Farms and Army Postal Establishments in peace locations.
- Enhancement in standards for recruitment of clerical staff and drivers in the Army.
- Improving the efficiency of the National Cadet Corps.

48. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Operation Digital Board (ODB)

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** *Under Operation Digital Board seven lakh classrooms of 9th, 10th and 11th standards and two lakh classrooms of colleges and Universities will be equipped with digital boards in the next three years.*
- **Statement 1 is correct:** *ODB is a revolutionary step which will make both learning as well as the teaching process interactive and popularize flipped learning as a pedagogical approach.* The features of the programme are:
 - Operation Digital Board has been launched on the lines of Operation Blackboard to provide better digital education in schools.
 - The initiative is aimed at improving the quality of education and offer new opportunities and new ways of teaching and learning.
 - Together with converting classrooms into digital classrooms and providing e-resources to students, the Operation Digital Board will aid in the provisioning of personalised adaptive learning as well as Intelligent Tutoring by exploiting

emerging technologies like Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence & Data Analytics.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** *University Grant commission (UGC) will be the implementing agency for ODB in Higher Education institutions.* The central government will implement the scheme in the schools in association with state government.

49. Correct option: (c)

Explanation:

Indus Waters Treaty 1960

- The Indus system comprises of main Indus River, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. The basin is mainly shared by India and Pakistan with a small share for China and Afghanistan.
- **Statement 1 and 2 are incorrect:** Under the Indus Waters Treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, all the waters of three rivers, namely Ravi, Sutlej and Beas (Eastern Rivers) averaging around 33 million acre feet (MAF) were allocated to India for exclusive use. *The waters of Western rivers - Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab averaging to around 135 MAF were allocated to Pakistan except for specified domestic, non-consumptive and agricultural use permitted to India as provided in the Treaty.*
- India has also been given the right to generate hydroelectricity through run of the river (RoR) projects on the Western Rivers which, subject to specific criteria for design and operation is unrestricted.

50. Correct option: (b)

Explanation:

The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** *Under the Scheme, Rs 6,000 will be given per year to small and marginal farmer families having combined land holding/ ownership of upto 2 hectares.*
- *The amount will be given in three installments of Rs.2000 each.*
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** *The amount will be transferred directly to the*

bank account of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer. DBT will ensure transparency in the entire process and will save time for the farmers.

- The Scheme was introduced to augment the income of the Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs). It is estimated to benefit more than 12 crore small and marginal farmers.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The PM-KISAN scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of the SMFs in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income at the end of the each crop cycle. ***This would also protect them from falling in the clutches of moneylenders for meeting such expenses and ensure their continuance in the farming activities.***

- PM KISAN is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India. The Scheme becomes effective from 1.12.2018 for transfer of benefit to eligible beneficiaries.
- State Government and UT Administration will identify the farmer families which are eligible for support as per scheme guidelines.
- PM KISAN is a revolutionary scheme which aims to transform the lives of small and marginal farmers in India, by providing them assured monetary support in three instalments every year. The scheme implemented through DBT, will transfer the amount directly to the bank account of the beneficiary, thereby eliminating middlemen and corruption. As against the onetime loan waivers, PM KISAN is truly an empowering project designed for ensuring dignified life for small scale farmers.
