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Test Booklet Series

TEST BOOKLET

C

GENERAL STUDIES (P) 2020 – Test–2973

Time Allowed: Two Hours

Maximum Marks: 200

INSTRUCTIONS

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS BOOKLET DOES **NOT** HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TURN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. ENCODE CLEARLY THE TEST BOOKLET SERIES **A, B, C** OR **D** AS THE CASE MAY BE IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACE IN THE ANSWER SHEET.
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. This Test Booklet contains **100** items (Questions). Each item is printed in **English**. 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 with you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.
5. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See direction in the answers sheet.
6. All items carry equal marks. Attempt all items. Your total marks will depend only on the number of **correct responses** marked by you in the answer sheet. For **every incorrect** response **1/3rd of the allotted marks** will be deducted.
7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer sheet the response to various items in the Test booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the answer sheets as per instruction sent to you with your Admission Certificate.
8. After you have completed filling in all responses on the answer sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to Invigilator only the answer sheet. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. Sheet for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.

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

1. In the context of governance, which of the following is a defining feature of a 'night-watchman' state?
- (a) Strict regulation of all the economic activities of the citizens by the state.
 - (b) Public provision of all social services such as education and health.
 - (c) The powers of state are limited to imposition of rule of law only.
 - (d) Regulations by state that restrict personal choice "for the individual's own good".

2. Consider the following statements with respect to the ceiling on election expenditure:

1. The Election Commission imposes limits on campaign expenditure incurred by both candidates and political parties.
2. The expenditure ceiling for a candidate of the Lok Sabha elections is the same as the ceiling for a candidate of the Assembly elections.
3. Candidates must mandatorily file a true account of election expenses with the Election Commission.

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

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

3. Consider the following statements with respect to Mandal Commission:

1. It was the first Backward Classes Commission appointed by the President.
2. It recommended that 27 percent of central government jobs should be reserved for Other Backward Classes.
3. The Supreme Court upheld the implementation of Mandal Commission recommendations in Indra Sawhney case judgment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. With reference to the Code on Wages, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. It ensures statutory protection for minimum wages to workers of both organized as well as unorganized sector.
2. It mandates the respective state governments to declare a minimum 'floor wage' for workers in their state.
3. It provides that minimum wages be fixed based on the skills of the workers and the difficulty of work.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

5. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Police initiatives</i>	<i>State/UT</i>
----------------------------------	------------------------

- | | |
|----------------------|----------|
| 1. Friends of Police | : Delhi |
| 2. Cyberdome | : Kerala |
| 3. Saanjh | : Punjab |

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

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

6. Consider the following statements with reference to India's National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2006:

1. It stipulates a minimum of 10% reservation for the disabled in institutes of higher education and government jobs.
2. It recognizes the NGO sector as an important institutional mechanism to provide affordable services to complement the endeavors of the Government.
3. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is the nodal Ministry to coordinate all matters relating to the implementation of the Policy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. Which of the statements is/are correct regarding the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017?

1. It compulsory for employers to make women aware of maternity benefits at the time of their appointment.
2. It introduces the option of 'work from home'.
3. The Act extends to adoptive mothers as well as mothers who use surrogates to bear a child.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

8. Consider the following statements regarding the e-Governance initiative eSamikSha:

1. It is an online monitoring mechanism to fast track the pending projects of the Government.
2. It is one of the components of the eOffice initiative of the government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. In the context of the anti-corruption regime in India, which of the following statements best describes the term 'Single Directive'?

- (a) It refers to the process where the different petitions concerned with a corruption case are consolidated and heard at once by the Judiciary.
- (b) It refers to the convention of handling of multiple corruption cases against a civil servant by a single anti-corruption agency.
- (c) It refers to the prior approval of the government for conducting an inquiry against government servants under laws against corruption or abuse of their official position.
- (d) It refers to the directive issued by an anti-corruption agency against Civil Servants to explain the sources of their disproportionate assets.

10. Which of the following measures are available in India for promoting public participation in law-making?

1. A policy on Pre-Legislative Consultation
2. Formulation of a formal Code of Practice on Consultation by the Cabinet Secretary
3. Provision for public consultation by the Parliamentary committees

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

11. With regard to Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), consider the following statements:

1. The 2019 MPI indicated India was one of the worst performers in reducing the incidence of multidimensional poverty.
2. The report is prepared and published by the World Bank.

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

12. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the Swatantra Party?

1. The party was led by the old Congressmen K.M.Munshi and N.G.Ranga.
2. It favored the expansion of the free private sector.
3. It was critical of the policy of non-alignment in foreign affairs.

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

13. Consider the following statements regarding the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013:
1. A complaint under this act must pertain to an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
 2. The Lokpal has jurisdiction to inquire into allegations of corruption against any society or trust receiving foreign contribution.
 3. The Lokpal does not need the prior sanction of the government for prosecution of a public servant.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 only
 - (d) 3 only
14. "It was a spontaneous mobilisation of women demanding a ban on the sale of alcohol in their neighbourhoods. It started in Andhra Pradesh in the 1990s. It touched upon larger social, economic and political issues of the region that affected women's life. "
- Which of the following movements is being described in the passage given above?
- (a) Nav Nirman movement
 - (b) Anti Arrack movement
 - (c) Gulabi Gang movement
 - (d) SEWA movement
15. Which of the following statements is **not** correct regarding the Information Commissioners of the Central Information Commission?
- (a) He/She may resign by writing to the Chief Information Commissioner.
 - (b) He/She can not be a Member of the Parliament or hold any other office of profit.
 - (c) He/She is appointed by the President on the recommendation of the committee headed by the Prime Minister.
 - (d) The total number of Information Commissioners can not exceed *ten*.

16. Consider the following statements regarding Corruption Perceptions Index:
1. It is a measure of how willingly a nation's business sector appears to engage in corrupt business practices.
 2. It is published annually by Transparency International.
- 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
17. Which of the following statements is **not** correct regarding Dalit Panthers movement?
- (a) It was inspired by the social movement that sought to combat racial discrimination against Afro-Americans in US.
 - (b) It aimed at elevating the rank of the dalits without destroying the caste system.
 - (c) It sought to include other oppressed sections like the landless poor peasants in its movement.
 - (d) Many accounts of dalit atrocities were published in Marathi literature as part of the movement.
18. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan Yojana, consider the following statements:
1. It provides for minimum income support to all small traders of up to ₹6,000 per year.
 2. A Laghu Vyapari is not eligible to join the Scheme if he is covered under the National Pension Scheme contributed by the Central Government.
 3. It is an initiative under the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

19. In the context of the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016, consider the following statements:

1. The policy aims to promote the use of biofuels for commercial air flights.
2. The major focus of the policy is to enhance international connectivity.
3. It allows only airlines with a fleet of a minimum of 20 aircraft to fly on foreign routes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

20. Consider the following pairs regarding scientific and military operations conducted since the Independence:

<i>Operation</i>	<i>Conducted for</i>
1. Operation Polo	: Annexation of Hyderabad
2. Smiling Buddha	: Nuclear Bomb test in Pokhran in 1974
3. Operation Blue star	: Amalgamation of Sikkim

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

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

21. With reference to the recently constituted Advisory Board for Banking Frauds, consider the following statements:

1. It has been set up by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in consultation with RBI.
2. It would examine and recommend action in all categories of online banking frauds.

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

22. Which of the following statements is **not** correct regarding the process of registration and recognition of political parties?

- (a) Election Commission does not have the power to deregister a political party.
- (b) Every national party is allotted a symbol exclusively reserved for its use throughout the country.
- (c) Recognition by the Election Commission provides political parties time for political broadcasts on the state owned television channels.
- (d) Registration of Political parties is governed by the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

23. Consider the following pairs of Supreme Court cases and their judgments:

<i>Case</i>	<i>Judgment</i>
1. Lily Thomas Case, 2013	: Immediate disqualification of a convicted MP or MLA
2. People's Union For Civil Liberties (PUCL) Case, 2013	: Introduction of NOTA button
3. Lok Prahari Case, 2018	: Disclosure of information relating to sources of income of candidates

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

24. In the context of Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA), consider the following statements:

1. AERA regulates tariffs and other charges for aeronautical services provided at major civilian airports and at all private airports.
2. AERA is responsible for registering the civil aircraft and gives license to pilots in India.
3. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. With reference to the role of media during elections, consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission regulates the content of media from the formal beginning of the election process till the declaration of results.
2. The media is prohibited from displaying any election matter during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for conclusion of poll.

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

26. With reference to the Director of CBI, consider the following statements:

1. The mechanism for his/her selection is defined under the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act, 2003.
2. He/she has been provided security of two-year tenure.

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

27. Consider the following statements about minority rights:

1. The central government recognizes and notifies religious minorities at the national as well as at the state level.
2. National Commission for Minorities Educational Institutions gives the minority status to educational institutions run by both religious as well as linguistic minorities.

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

28. Which of the following is/are correct with reference to the Competition Commission of India?

1. It is a statutory body established under the Competition Act, 2002.
2. It is administered by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
3. It regulates the hoarding of essential commodities.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

29. Which of the following is/are the objectives of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority?

1. Increase liquidity in rural areas.
2. Encourage scientific warehousing of goods.
3. Lower the cost of financing to farmers.

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

30. The E-Government Development Index is released by which of the following?
- (a) International Telecommunication Union
 - (b) World Bank
 - (c) World Economic Forum
 - (d) United Nations Public Administration Programme

31. With reference to the 'Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting', consider the following statements:

1. It is a project led by the G-20 group of nations and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.
2. It is a single comprehensive framework which will subsume the already existing tax-avoiding treaties in the signatory countries.
3. India has ratified this convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

32. Consider the following pairs of environmental movements and places of origin of the movements:

<i>Environmental movement</i>	<i>Place of origin</i>
1. Baliapal movement	: Madhya Pradesh
2. Appiko movement	: Karnataka
3. Chipko movement	: Uttarakhand

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

33. The NGO-DARPAN, a platform that provides space for interface between NGOs and key Government Ministries is managed by:

- (a) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- (b) Prime Minister's Office
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

34. Which of the following have been ratified by India in order to reduce corruption?

1. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC)
2. United Nations Convention against Corruption
3. Anti-Bribery Convention of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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

35. With reference to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Act, 2015, consider the following statements:

1. All minerals concessions will be granted only through auction.
2. The Act establishes a National Mineral Exploration Trust to take care of people and areas affected by mining.
3. The prior approval of the Central Government is required for grants of all mineral licenses.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

36. With reference to Consumer Protection Act 2019, consider the following statements:

1. As per the act, consumers are required to file a case only at the place where the product is purchased.
2. The Act establishes the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers.
3. It provides for mediation, as an Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism for the early and simplified settlement between parties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

37. Which of the following statements is/are **not** correct?

1. Union government is responsible for the development and promotion of major and minor ports in India.
2. Inland Water Authority of India decides and regulates the fee charged by the major ports.

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

38. In the context of the National Rainfed Area Authority, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It provides the knowledge inputs regarding systematic up-gradation and management of the country's dry land and rainfed agriculture.
2. It releases Rainfed Agricultural Atlas.
3. It is the nodal agency for implementing the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for the development of rainfed and degraded areas of the country.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

39. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Emergency was imposed for the first time during the Prime Ministership of Lal Bahadur Shastri.
2. The National Emergency in 1975 was declared based on the threat of armed rebellion.

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

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40. Which of the following is/are the salient features of National Electronics Policy 2019?

1. Creation of Sovereign Patent Fund (SPF) by the Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA).
2. Promote the use of secure chips to reduce cybersecurity risk.
3. Create an eco-system for globally competitive Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

41. The government has taken a series of e-Governance initiatives for better public service delivery and transparency. In this context, arrange the following events in the chronological order:

1. Creation of a separate Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
2. Launch of National e-Governance Plan
3. Launch of Digital India Programme

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

42. Which of the following authorities is vested with the authority to superintend and conduct elections to the board of Cooperative Societies?

- (a) A body provided by state legislature
- (b) State Election Commission
- (c) Multi State Cooperative Societies under Ministry of Agriculture
- (d) None of the above

43. Consider the following statements regarding Prime Ministers Awards for Excellence in Public Administration:

1. It was instituted on the recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission.
2. All officers of Central & State Governments individually or as organizations are eligible for this award.
3. The awards are given only for implementing identified priority programmes of the Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

44. With reference to lateral entry in civil services, consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to fulfill the twin objectives of bringing in fresh talent as well as augment the availability of manpower.
2. NITI Aayog has been entrusted with the responsibility to undertake the selection and appointment process.

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

45. Humane Society International often seen in news is

- (a) an agency formed by the United Nations check the levels of anthropogenic emissions.
- (b) a non-governmental organization which specializes in promoting the human-animal bond.
- (c) an organization to develop applications of artificial intelligence.
- (d) a group of individuals involved in evolving persistent social interaction among humans.

46. In context of governance, what is an Alternative Service Delivery Mechanism?
- (a) Dedicated mechanism to extend welfare services exclusively to the weaker sections of the society.
 - (b) A mechanism to provide opportunities for employees to work remotely through the digital medium.
 - (c) A process of improving service delivery by sharing governance functions with individuals and community groups.
 - (d) Reserving certain public services for exclusive delivery by the non government agencies.

47. With respect to the Bar Council of India, consider the following statements:
1. It is a body formed by an executive resolution.
 2. It is chaired by the Attorney General of India.
 3. It recognises the universities whose degree in law shall be a qualification for enrolment as an advocate.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

48. Consider the following statements with respect to None Of The Above (NOTA) option used in the election process:
1. NOTA was used for the first time in the General elections of 2014.
 2. It is not used in the elections to the Rajya Sabha and the State Legislative Councils.
 3. The NOTA votes do not impact the result of the election process.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

49. With reference to the recently passed Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019, which of the following will be prescribed by the Central Government?

1. Person to be appointed as Chief Information Commissioner.
2. The term of office of the State Chief Information Commissioner.
3. The salaries and allowances payable to Information Commissioners

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

50. Ashadi Beej (Bij), sometimes seen in news, is related to
- (a) new year festival in Kutch region in Gujarat.
 - (b) a form of martial dance in eastern India.
 - (c) an organic farming method employed in Assam
 - (d) a genetically modified variety of wheat crop used in Haryana for pest resistance.

51. Which of the following Indian cities has/have been designated as UNESCO World Heritage Cities?

1. Jaipur
2. Agra
3. Ahmedabad

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

52. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the Finance Industry Development Council?
- (a) It is an overarching body to regulate credit rating agencies in India.
 - (b) It is a body monitoring corporate insolvency resolution processes and performance of insolvency professionals.
 - (c) It is a self regulatory organization of the Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs).
 - (d) It is a body set up to improve credit creation for MSMEs.
53. The term 'Osaka Track' recently seen in news is
- (a) an initiative designed to establish international understanding and cooperation on refugees.
 - (b) an alliance to eradicate cross-border terrorism and organized crime by increasing police cooperation.
 - (c) an initiative to track global temperature not increasing beyond 2 degree Celsius than pre-industrial levels.
 - (d) a framework for promoting cross-border data flow with enhanced protections.
54. In the context of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), consider the following statements:
1. FSSAI has taken initiative to encourage the reuse of cooking oil for making food products.
 2. The '+F' logo has been recently notified to identify food that is organically produced.
 3. It is under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 2 only
 - (b) 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 2 only
 - (d) 1 and 3 only

55. In which of the following cases can a party be recognised as a state party?
1. If it wins three per cent of seats in the legislative assembly at a general election to the legislative assembly of the state concerned.
 2. If it secures six per cent of the valid votes polled in the state at a general election to the legislative assembly of the state and, in addition, it wins 1 seat in the assembly of that state.
 3. If it secures eight per cent of the total valid votes polled in the state at a General Election to the Lok Sabha from that state.
- 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
56. Consider the following statements with reference to the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019:
1. It increases the term of the Chairperson and Members of the National Human Rights Commission and makes them ineligible for re-appointment.
 2. It makes a former Judge of the Supreme Court eligible to be appointed as Chairperson of the Commission.
 3. It provides to include Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes as a deemed Member of the Commission.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

57. Consider the following statements with reference to the grant of Navratna, Maharatna and Miniratna status to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs):

1. All CPSEs which have made profits in the last three years continuously and have positive net worth are eligible to be considered for the grant of Miniratna status.
2. Only CPSEs having Navratna status are eligible to be considered for grant of Maharatna status.
3. Presently, there are nine Navratna CPSEs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

58. Consider the following events:

1. French-ruled Pondicherry (now Puducherry) becomes part of India as a Union Territory.
2. Bombay state is split along linguistic lines, forming Maharashtra and Gujarat.
3. Goa becomes a Union Territory.

Arrange the events given above in chronological order.

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

59. With reference to MOSAiC Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to study Antarctic waters to understand global climatic change.
2. India's Maitri station is a key partner institution of this mission.

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

60. The Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) project of the World Bank reports aggregate and individual governance indicators for over 200 countries and territories over the period 1996–2018. Which one of the following are the dimensions of the Worldwide Governance Indicators?

1. Political Stability and Absence of Violence
2. Frequency of elections
3. Rule of Law
4. Regulatory Quality

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

61. Consider the following statements regarding the National Informatics Centre:

1. It is executive authority under the Ministry of Communications.
2. It provides e-Governance support to central and state governments and district administrations.
3. It is responsible for the implementation of the MyGov initiative.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

62. With reference to the newly discovered material, "Black Gold", consider the following statements:

1. It is a newly discovered form of crystalline carbon which is structured like a diamond.
2. It can be used to harvest solar energy and to desalinate seawater.
3. It has a unique property to absorb light and carbon dioxide.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

63. Which of the following privileges is/are available **only** to recognized parties?
1. The candidates of the recognized parties do not need a proposer for filing the nomination.
 2. They can select a symbol from a list of 'free symbols' specified by the Election Commission.
 3. They are allowed to have "star campaigners" during the time of elections whose travel expenses are not included in the election expenditure of the candidates.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1, 2 and 3
 - (d) None
64. With reference to the Automated Facial Recognition System proposed to be used in India, consider the following statements:
1. It is a biometric software application primarily using iris scan data to identify people.
 2. It is being implemented by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
65. 'STRIDE' an initiative of Government of India, aims to
- (a) increase the share of renewable energy in total energy generation in the country.
 - (b) identify young talent and strengthen research culture in Indian universities and colleges.
 - (c) provide financial and technical assistance to young start-up entrepreneurs.
 - (d) promoting the Self Help Groups in rural areas.

66. Which of the following provides Government to Business (G2B) e-Governance Services?
1. Goods and Services Tax Network
 2. Shram Suvidha Portal
 3. GeM Portal
 4. NREGASoft
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
67. With respect to the Right to Information Act, 2005, consider the following statements:
1. The Act provided that all public authorities must take steps to disclose information suo moto.
 2. NRIs are not eligible to file applications under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.
 3. Any citizen residing in India can obtain information under the act without paying any fees.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 1 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
68. Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Rural Development. Which of the following is **not** an objective of CAPART?
- (a) To act as a catalyst for the development of technology appropriate for rural areas.
 - (b) To support the district administration in sustainable development of rural NGOs and voluntary organisations.
 - (c) To encourage, promote and assist voluntary action for the implementation of projects intending enhancement of rural prosperity.
 - (d) To plan projects aimed at creation of employment opportunities and promotion of self-reliance in rural areas through voluntary action.

69. Which of the following can be considered as the essential characteristics of Good Governance?

1. Transparency
2. Consensus Orientation
3. Effectiveness and efficiency
4. Participation

Select the correct answer using the code below.

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

70. Which of the following is/are the directives given by the Supreme Court in the Prakash Singh judgment (2006)?

1. Setting up of National Security Commission to shortlist the candidates for appointment as Chiefs of the central armed police forces.
2. Minimum tenure of two years for the Director-General of Police only.
3. Establishment of Police Complaints Authority (PCA) at the state level to examine service-related complaints from police officers.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

71. Which of the following are components of a Citizen's Charter?

1. Details of business transacted by the organization.
2. Statement of services including their standards and where to get these services
3. Details of grievance redress mechanism and how to access it
4. Expectations of the organization from the 'Citizens' or 'Clients'

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

72. Consider the following statements with reference to the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB):

1. It is a high powered body under the Department of Personnel and Training.
2. It advises the Government on appointments to the top management posts in Central Public Sector Enterprises.
3. It is headed by the secretary of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

73. What is *Dracaena cambodiana* often seen in the news?

- (a) It is an invasive species that has affected natural vegetation of the Eastern Himalayas.
- (b) It is a type of algae which can be used in the production of biodiesel.
- (c) It is a dragon tree species discovered in Assam which gives out blood-red resin.
- (d) It is a species of civet endemic to South East Asia.

74. With reference to All India Services, consider the following statements:

1. State Services Officers are inducted into the All India Services through Union Public Service Commission.
2. Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) is the cadre controlling authority of All India Services.

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

75. With reference to Digital Signature Certificates, consider the following statements:
1. It is issued only by the National Payments Corporation of India.
 2. Once it is issued by the authorities it remains valid for only 6 months.
 3. It is legally admissible in a court of law.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 2 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
76. Consider the following statements with reference to the Consumer Protection Act, 2019:
1. A consumer under the Act includes a person who obtains a good for resale or a good or service for commercial purposes.
 2. It penalises the manufacturer for misleading advertisements but does not penalise the endorser.
 3. It provides for product liability mandating a product manufacturer to compensate a consumer for any harm or injury caused by a defective product.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
77. Consider the following statements with respect to Electronic Voting Machines (EVM)?
1. EVMs were first used in a by-election in Kerala in the year 1982.
 2. An EVM used by the Election Commission of India (ECI) can record a maximum of 10,000 votes.
 3. An EVM can cater to a maximum of fifty candidates including NOTA.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1 and 2 only
78. Which of the following statements is **not** correct regarding the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)?
- (a) The governor of a State, with the previous approval of the President, is authorized to relieve the CAG from the responsibility for compiling the accounts of the State.
 - (b) CAG compiles the accounts of all States except the State of Goa.
 - (c) The CAG shall cause the audit of accounts of the District and Regional Councils under Schedule VI of the Constitution of India.
 - (d) CAG can levy penalties on the government department for not sharing the desired information within a specified time.
79. Consider the following statements with respect to the election of members of Panchayats:
1. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (1992) makes the reservation of seats for SCs, STs and backward classes mandatory.
 2. All questions of disqualifications in elections to panchayats are referred to the State Election Commission.
- 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
80. The terms 'Jiwamrita', 'Bijamrita' and 'Waaphasa' were recently seen in news, in the context of:
- (a) ayurvedic medicines for tackling cardiovascular diseases.
 - (b) techniques used by farmers under zero budget natural farming.
 - (c) environment friendly techniques for solid waste management.
 - (d) traditional practices for conservation of crop pollinating bees.

81. Consider the following statements regarding Self Help Group (SHG) in India:

1. Self-Help Groups are formal associations which have to be compulsorily registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
2. The Deendayal Antodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) uses this concept for poverty alleviation.

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

82. Consider the following statements:

1. A person can enrol as a voter in only one constituency.
2. A non-resident Indian (NRI) settled in a foreign land is entitled to have his name registered in an electoral roll in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

83. Which of the following committees are related to Police reforms in India?

1. Frazer Commission, 1902
2. Gore committee, 1971
3. Malimath Committee, 2001
4. Soli Sorabjee Committee, 2005

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

84. With reference to the recently enacted Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. It has put in place a mechanism to secure depositors/investors from Ponzi schemes.
2. It designates the Competition Commission of India as a competent authority to look into the fraudulent cases.

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

85. With reference to National Conference of Chairpersons of State Public Service Commissions (PSCs), consider the following statements:

1. These conferences strive to bring uniformity in the functioning of both the Union and the State PSCs.
2. UPSC Chairman is the ex-officio Chairman of the National Conference of Chairpersons of State PSCs.

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

86. Consider the following statements with reference to the public sector enterprises in India:

1. Statutory Corporation (or public corporation) refers to a corporate body that is registered under the Companies Act and is fully governed by the provisions of the Act.
2. A Government Company refers to any company in which 51 percent or more of the paid-up capital is held by the government.
3. A Departmental Undertaking is an organisation created by the Parliament or State Legislature by a special Act that defines its powers, functions, and pattern of management.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

87. JATAN software, often seen in news, is related to:

- (a) a digital collection management system for Indian museums.
- (b) managing demand and supply of labour force.
- (c) skill development using information technology.
- (d) providing information about welfare schemes for tribal.

88. Consider the following statements with reference to the National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH):

1. It is a premier institute under the aegis of the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. It has a special focus on working towards dust related respiratory morbidities such as silicosis.
3. The National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH) has recently been merged with the NIOH.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

89. In the context of the recent Chandrayaan-2 mission, consider the following statements:

1. The mission was aimed at studying the exosphere, the surface as well as the sub-surface of the moon in a single mission.
2. It targeted the Lunar South pole for exploration as it is expected to have a higher possibility of presence of water than the North Pole.
3. It was carried into its designated orbit by the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-III (GSLV Mk-III).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

90. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Defence equipments</i>	<i>Nature</i>
---------------------------	---------------

- | | |
|------------|---------------------|
| 1. LCU 56 | : amphibious ship |
| 2. AK 203 | : assault rifles |
| 3. SS11B1 | : anti-tank missile |
| 4. BARAK 8 | : nuclear submarine |

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

91. With reference to state funding of elections, consider the following statements:

1. It means that the government gives funds to political parties or candidates for contesting elections.
2. Indrajit Gupta Committee on State Funding of Elections proposed that state funds should be given only to recognised national and state parties.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

- 92.** With reference to legal aid in India, consider the following statements:
1. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is a statutory body for providing free legal services to the weaker sections of the society in India.
 2. Legal aid as a human right is envisaged in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
 3. Right to free legal aid service is a fundamental right.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
- 93.** The 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership' is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of
- (a) World Trade Organization
(b) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
(c) Association of Southeast Asian Nations
(d) International Monetary Fund
- 94.** With reference to social audit in India, consider the following statements:
1. In social audit, citizens themselves assess the impact of government schemes by comparing official records with the actual ground situation.
 2. The audit execution relies on documented evidence and no oral evidence is acceptable.
 3. Under MGNREGA, 2005, the District Magistrate is required to conduct regular social audits of all the projects under the scheme taken up within the Gram Panchayat.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

- 95.** Consider the following statements regarding *Sevottam*:
1. It is a generic framework for bringing continual improvement in public service delivery to achieve excellence.
 2. Citizen Charter is one of the components of this framework.
 3. NITI Aayog has created an Indian Standard for certifying organizations that fulfill the requirements of *Sevottam*.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
- 96.** With reference to the Delimitation Commission, consider the following statements:
1. It comprises the Chief Election Commissioner and two judges or ex-judges from the Supreme Court or High Court.
 2. It is constituted after every census.
 3. The orders of commission can not be modified by Parliament.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

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

1. It is consulted by the Union and every State Government on all major policy matters affecting Scheduled Tribes.
2. It is empowered to intervene in the vigilance and disciplinary cases of the government employees belonging to Scheduled Tribes.

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

98. In the context of Child labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, consider the following statements:

1. It provides for a complete prohibition on employment or work of children below 14 years in any enterprise.
2. Employment of adolescents (14-18 years) in hazardous occupations and processes is illegal under the Act.
3. State governments may add or omit any hazardous occupation from the list included in the Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

99. With reference to the Swiss Challenge method of bidding, consider the following statements:

1. Under the model, a private entity submits its proposals after the government initiates the bidding process for the project.
2. It involves submission of competing counter proposals by other private entities to match or better the terms of the first proposal.
3. This model offers a certain disadvantage to the private entity that makes the first proposal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

100. With reference to the National Policy on Biofuels-2018, consider the following statements:

1. It allows the use of surplus food grains for the production of ethanol for blending with petrol.
2. A Biofuel Steering Committee is headed by the Prime Minister to oversee the implementation of the National Policy on Biofuels-2018.

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



ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

GENERAL STUDIES (P) TEST – 2973 (2020)

Q 1.C

- **Minimal state or "night-watchman" state**
 - The idea of Minimal state or "night-watchman" state was given by Robert Nozick.
 - It is defined as a government which protects individuals, via police and military forces, from force, fraud, and theft, and administers courts of law, but does nothing else. The state has powers only to impose the rule of law and nothing else. **Hence option (c) is correct**
- Some of the features of the minimal state are:
 - Existence of inviolable rights. i.e individuals are inviolable ends-in-themselves and self-owners, that they have certain rights, in particular, rights to their lives, liberty, and the fruits of their labor.
 - Such a state cannot regulate food choice of citizens including drinking or smoking, control what they publish or read, administer mandatory social insurance schemes or public education, regulate economic life in general via minimum wage and rent control laws.
Side constraints may be imposed on individual behavior to respect the rights of others.
 - It allows people to form "mutual protection associations" in order to defend themselves and to exercise their right to rectification.
 - Under such an arrangement, all members of the association are "on-call" to defend and enforce the rights of other members.

Q 2.B

- Limits on campaign expenditure are meant to provide a level-playing field for everyone contesting elections. It ensures that a candidate can not win only because she is rich. **The Election Commission (EC) imposes limits on campaign expenditure incurred by a candidate, not political parties. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Expenditure by a Lok Sabha candidate is capped between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 70 lakh**, depending on the state she is fighting from. In Assembly elections, the ceiling is between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 28 lakh. This includes money spent by a political party or a supporter of the candidate's campaign. However, expenses incurred either by a party or the leader of a party for propagating the party's programme are not covered. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Under Section 77 (1) , Representation of the People Act,1951 provides that candidates must mandatorily file a true account of election expenses with the EC.** An incorrect account or expenditure beyond the **ceiling can attract disqualification** for up to three years under **Section 10A** of The Representation of the People Act, 1951. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 3.B

- In exercise of the powers conferred by **Article 340 of the Constitution**, the President Zail Singh appointed a Backward Classes Commission to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes. It was the **second Backward Class Commission popularly known as Mandal Commission**. First Backward Class Commission was setup in 1953 under the chairmanship of Kaka Kalelkar. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**

- o The Mandal Commission or the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission (SEBC) was established in India on 1 January 1979 by the Janata Party government under Prime Minister Morarji Desai and gave its recommendations in 1980. Mandal Commission had concluded that 52 per cent of the country's population comprised OBCs. The Commission did a survey and found that these backward castes had a very low presence in both educational institutions and in employment in public services. It therefore recommended **reserving 27 per cent of seats in educational institutions and government jobs for these groups**. The Mandal Commission also made many other recommendations, like, land reform, to improve the conditions of the OBCs. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- This decision sparked agitations and violent protests in many cities of north India. The decision was also challenged in the Supreme Court and **came to be known as the 'Indra Sawhney case'**, after the name of one of the petitioners. In November 1992, the Supreme Court gave a ruling upholding the decision to implement Mandal Commission recommendations by the government. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence option b is the correct answer.**

Q 4.C

- The Code on Wages, 2019 seeks to regulate wage and bonus payments in all employments where any industry, trade, business, or manufacture is carried out. The Code replaces the following four laws: (i) the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, (ii) the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, (iii) the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, and (iv) the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.
- **Coverage:** The Code will apply to all employees. The central government will make wage-related decisions for employments such as railways, mines, and oil fields, among others. State governments will make decisions for all other employments. Wages include salary, allowance, or any other component expressed in monetary terms. This does not include bonus payable to employees or any travelling allowance, among others. **It will ensure statutory protection for minimum wages and timely payment of wages to approximately 50 crore workers of organized as well as unorganized sector. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **Floor wage: According to the Code, the central government will fix a floor wage, taking into account the living standards of workers. Hence statement 2 is not correct.** Further, it may set different floor wages for different geographical areas. Before fixing the floor wage, the central government may obtain the advice of the Central Advisory Board and may consult with state governments.
- The minimum wages decided by the central or state governments must be higher than the floor wage. In case the existing minimum wages fixed by the central or state governments are higher than the floor wage, they cannot reduce the minimum wages.
- **Fixing the minimum wage:** The Code prohibits employers from paying wages less than the minimum wages. Minimum wages will be notified by the central or state governments. This will be based on time, or the number of pieces produced. The minimum wages will be revised and reviewed by the central or state governments at an interval of not more than five years. **While fixing minimum wages, the central or state governments may take into account factors such as: (i) skill of workers, and (ii) difficulty of work. Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Q 5.B

- **Friends of Police-Tamil Nadu**
 - o The Friends of Police is a holistic and pro-active concept that lends a psychological approach to policing. It is a true example of police public partnership where citizens have been empowered and with the help of the police. Friends of Police Provide opportunities for ordinary Citizens to effectively contribute to the Prevention and Detection of Crime. Any member of the Public, Male or Female who is not involved Civil or Criminal Case can become a member of FOP.
- **Cyberdome - Kerala**
 - o Cyberdome is a Centre of Excellence for Kerala Police, to meet the long term security challenges in the digital arena of the modern world, by bridging the gap between the latest changes and innovations in the cyberspace and the skill set development of Kerala Police, in combating the emerging cyber threats. It is envisaged as a collaboration Centre for both the public and private fraternity to converge and share information, as well as resources, that will escalate the safety of our cyberspace.

- **Saanjh - Punjab Police**
 - Community Policing in Punjab has been adopted as a philosophy and not as a programme and draws inspiration from the insight that the Police are the public and the public is the police. Punjab Police has launched the Saanjh approach (Community Policing) which is aimed at the transfer of powers over strategies from people in Headquarters to people in operational positions such as SHO's who are able to determine the character of policing in a particular area with the involvement of the local community. Saanjh, a collaborative effort of Police and Community takes the philosophy down to the grassroots through sub-divisional Saanjh Kendras and Police station Saanjh Kendra.
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 6.B

- The focus of the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2006 is on the following:
 - Prevention of Disabilities
 - Rehabilitation Measures including physical, educational and economic rehabilitation.
- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 provides for additional benefits such as reservation in higher education (not less than 5%), government jobs (not less than 4 %), reservation in allocation of land, poverty alleviation schemes (5% allotment) etc. for persons with benchmark disabilities and those with high support needs. (The policy does not stipulate such reservation)
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The National Policy recognizes the NGO sector as a very important institutional mechanism to provide affordable services to complement the endeavors of the Government. Steps will be taken to encourage and accord preference to NGOs working in the underserved and inaccessible areas. Reputed NGOs shall also be encouraged to take up projects in such areas.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment will be the nodal Ministry to coordinate all matters relating to the implementation of the Policy.

Q 7.B

- **Key provision of Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Act, 2017**
- The Maternity Benefit Act is applicable to all those women employed in factories, mines, plantations and including every shops or commercial establishments employing 10 or more employees. Mines, plantations, shop and establishments could be either in organised or in the unorganised sector.
- The Act is applicable to all women who are employed in any capacity directly or through any agency i.e. either on a contract or as a consultant.
- The Act has increased the duration of paid maternity leaves to 26 weeks from the present 12 weeks. The extended period is applicable to women in case of the first and second child . For women who are expecting after having 2 children, the duration of paid maternity leave shall be 12 weeks i.e. 6 weeks pre-delivery and 6 weeks post-delivery.
- The Act now extends to adoptive mothers and commissioning mothers (mothers who use surrogates to bear a child) as well. Every woman who has adopted a child will get 12 weeks of maternity leave from the date of adoption. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- It also introduces the option of 'work from home' for mothers. After the expiry of the 26 weeks' leave period, the woman can use this option to do her work from home. This option can be modified according to the nature of the work and terms and conditions levied by the employer. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The Act makes it compulsory for employers to make women aware about maternity benefits at the time of their appointment. Such information must be given in writing and electronically. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

Q 8.A

- **Statement 1 is correct:** eSamikSha, an online Monitoring and Compliance Mechanism has been developed to fast track the compliance of pending action-points/proposals/issues/projects/schemes/targets, etc. of various implementing agencies such as Ministries/Departments/Organizations of Government of India, State Governments, Autonomous Bodies, PSUs, etc. It is implemented by Cabinet Secretariat

- The system has been designed in such a way that it will enhance efficiency, bring transparency, reduce the need of protracted correspondence and improve the communication between Government to Government (G2G), Government to Business (G2B) and vice versa. It automates the tracking of action-points/proposals/ issues/projects/schemes/targets, etc. starting from online submission to its compliance. The system also facilitates with customized digital Dashboard.
- The mechanism of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation System (PMES) was launched in 2009-10 to ensure better compliance and monitoring government initiatives and projects. Under PMES, every ministry made a Result Framework Document (RFD) every year against which its performance was measured at the end of the year. However, this was discontinued in 2014-15. Since then, there has been direct monitoring of the progress of schemes and projects of all ministries through the eSamiksha project.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The eOffice initiative of the government aims to support governance by ushering in more effective and transparent inter and intra-government processes. The vision of e-Office is to achieve a simplified, responsive, effective and transparent working of all government offices. **The various components of eOffice include -:**
 - **SPARROW** - Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window
 - **eFile**
 - **PIMS** - Personnel Information Management System
 - **eTour**
 - **eLeave**
 - **KMS** - Knowledge Management System

Q 9.C

- In the traditional sense, the '**Single Directive**' is a set of (executive) instructions issued by the Central government which makes it mandatory for the CBI to take the prior approval of the government to even conduct a preliminary inquiry into allegations of corruption against officers in all civil services of the rank/grade of Joint Secretary and above. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.
- It first appeared in 1969 but became highly contentious when a fresh set was issued in 1988 following the Bofors scandal - mandating "prior consultation" and "government concurrence" for the CBI to initiate probe into corruption cases.
- It took nearly a decade for the Supreme Court to strike it down as unconstitutional in its famous Hawala judgement (Vineet Narayan vs Union of India) of 1997. A few years later, the single directive reappeared in the statutory form when the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act of 2003 was legislated.
- It was immediately challenged (2004) but the apex court took a decade to strike it down. In 2014, the apex court used the very same arguments that the Hawala judgement had. Among other things, this judgement observed that the single directive "neither eliminates public mischief nor achieves some positive public good. On the other hand, it advances public mischief and protects the crime-doer. The provision thwarts an independent, unhampered, unbiased, efficient and fearless inquiry/investigation to track down the corrupt public servants".
- Four years later, in 2018, the single directive was resurrected through an amendment in the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. A new section (17A) was inserted in the law saying that no inquiry or investigation can be conducted "without the previous approval in the case of a person who is or was employed, at the time when the offence was alleged to have been committed".
- This amendment made a fundamental change in the concept of the single directive. Instead of protecting just the high-ranking officials (joint secretary and above), it extended the protection to officials of all ranks. A fresh petition has been filed (in 2018) challenging this amendment too.
- However the Supreme Court upheld the validity of the rule laid down in its earlier judgements with regard to inquiry/investigation of allegations of corruption against judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court. Even registering an FIR against a serving judge of the constitutional courts would require the prior approval of the concerned Chief Justice.

Q 10.A

- In a representative democracy, elected representatives make laws on behalf of citizens. Citizens' ability to participate in the legislative process is fundamental to democracy. Public participation with the legislative process results in better laws and fewer amendments. Democratic governments provide for public engagement in lawmaking through consultations. The public may engage in different stages of the legislative process i.e. during the pre-legislative stage, the legislative stage and the post-legislative stage.
 - **During Pre legislative stage**
 - India has a Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy which was formulated taking into consideration the recommendations of the National Advisory Council and the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution in February 2014.
 - The policy lists out various mandates requiring departments to -:
 - ❖ Proactively publish proposed legislations on the internet and/or other public domains;
 - ❖ Additional details such as a brief justification for the legislation, its' essential elements, broad financial implications,
 - ❖ An estimated assessment of the impact of such a legislation on the environment, fundamental rights, lives and livelihoods of the concerned/affected people
 - ❖ These details are required to be kept in the public domain for a minimum period of thirty days, accompanied by an explanatory note on the key legal provisions in a simpler language.

Hence, option 1 is correct.
 - **During Legislative stage**
 - Public participation during legislative scrutiny may be conducted through Parliamentary Committees. Prior to 1993, Bills were occasionally referred to ad-hoc Joint or Select Parliamentary Committees.
 - ❖ Since then Department Related Standing Committees (DRSC) have been established to scrutinise Bills. There are 24 DRSCs that cover all ministries of the central government. Once a Bill is introduced in Parliament, it may be referred to a DRSC. Committees publish notices seeking suggestions within a specified timeframe. In most cases, a period of 15 days is provided to send comments. However, the level of public engagement with standing committees varies with different Bills. **Hence, option 3 is correct.**
 - **During Post-Legislative stage**
 - Scrutiny of current laws is not mandatory in India. However, mechanisms exist for undertaking review of laws. Various Commissions, such as the Law Commission, conduct review of legislation.
 - The Commission identifies laws that require amendments or repeal. In preparing its review of laws the Commission circulates its draft analysis amongst the public and invites comments. It also organizes seminars and workshops in different parts of the country to elicit opinion on proposed strategies.
- Cabinet Office's Code of Practice on Consultation
 - **The Cabinet Office's Code of Practice on Consultation is code is a practice adopted in Britain. It is not available in India.** It sets out the approach the Government ought to adopt when it decides to run a formal, written, public consultation exercise. These guidelines help to ensure that a common standard exists across government for consulting the public. The Code does not have legal force and cannot prevail over statutory or mandatory requirements.
 - **Hence, option 2 is not correct.**

Q 11.D

- **The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was developed in 2010 by the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Programme** and uses different factors to determine poverty beyond income-based lists. It replaced the previous Human Poverty Index. The global MPI is released annually by OPHI and the results published on its website. Hence statement 3 is not correct. The index uses the same three dimensions as the Human Development Index: health, education, and standard of living.

- These are measured using ten indicators:
- 1. Health :Child Mortality; Nutrition
- 2. Education: Years of schooling; School attendance
- 3. Living standards: Cooking fuel; Toilet; Water; Electricity; .Floor; Assets
- Each dimension and each indicator within a dimension is equally weighted.
- **UN Development Programme released the 2019 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- According to the report, India lifted 271 million people out of poverty between 2006 and 2016, recording the fastest reductions in the multidimensional poverty index values during the period with strong improvements in areas such as assets, cooking fuel, sanitation and nutrition. The report said that in the 101 countries studied — 31 low income, 68 middle income and 2 high income - 1.3 billion people are “multidimensionally poor”, which means that poverty is defined not simply by income, but by a number of indicators, including poor health, poor quality of education or work, standard of living and the threat of violence. The report noted that of the 10 selected countries for which changes over time were analysed, India and Cambodia reduced their MPI values the fastest — and they did not leave the poorest groups behind. India’s MPI value reduced from 0.283 in 2005-06 to 0.123 in 2015-16.
- **Ethiopia, India and Peru significantly reduced deprivations in all 10 indicators, namely nutrition, sanitation, child mortality, drinking water, years of schooling, electricity, school attendance, housing, cooking fuel and assets. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
-

Q 12.D

- **Swatantra Party was formed in August 1959** after the Nagpur resolution of the Congress which called for land ceilings, take-over of food grain trade by the state and adoption of cooperative farming. The party was led by old Congressmen like **C.Rajagopalachari, K.M.Munshi, N.G.Ranga and Minoo Masani. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The Swatantra Party wanted the **government to be less and less involved in controlling the economy.** It believed that prosperity could come only through individual freedom. It was **critical** of the development strategy of state intervention in the economy, **centralised planning, nationalization, and the public sector. It favoured the expansion of the private sector. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It was **critical of the policy of non-alignment and maintaining friendly relations with the Soviet Union and advocated closer ties with the United States. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The industrialists and business class who were against nationalization and the licensing policies supported the party. Its **narrow social base and the lack of a dedicated cadre of party members did not allow it to build a strong organisational network.**
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 13.B

- The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 envisages the appointment of a Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in the States to look into cases of corruption against certain categories of public servants.
- It has jurisdiction to inquire into allegations of corruption against anyone who is or has been Prime Minister, or a Minister in the Union government, or a Member of Parliament, as well as officials of the Union government under Groups A, B, C and D. Also covered are chairpersons, members, officers and directors of any board, corporation, society, trust or autonomous body either established by an Act of Parliament or wholly or partly funded by the Centre.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** It also covers **any society or trust or body that receives foreign contribution above ₹10 lakh.**
- **Statement 1 is correct:** A complaint under the Lokpal Act should be in the prescribed form and must pertain to an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act against a public servant. There is no restriction on who can make such a complaint. When a complaint is received, the Lokpal may order a preliminary inquiry by its Inquiry Wing, or refer it for investigation by any agency, including the CBI, if there is a prima facie case.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** A Bench of at least three members considers the investigation report and may grant sanction to the Prosecution Wing to proceed against the public servant based on the agency's chargesheet. It may also ask the competent authority to take departmental action or direct the closure of the report. Previously, the authority vested with the power to appoint or dismiss a public servant was the one to grant sanction under Section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act. Now this power will be exercised by the Lokpal, a judicial body.

Q 14.B

- In the **early 1990s**, women in **rural Andhra Pradesh** took it upon themselves to fight against liquor dependency among their men and the subsequent verbal, physical and emotional abuse that followed. They had just one simple demand: **"no drinking or selling liquor"**. Led by a woman called Sandhya, the movement began as a dharna at the collectorate followed by the demand to stop sale of liquor in the village. The slogan of the anti-arack movement was simple - prohibition on the sale of arrack. But this simple demand **touched upon larger social, economic and political issues of the region that affected women's life**. The women led struggle ultimately led to a statewide ban on liquor in 1995. **Hence option b is the correct answer.**
- The **Gulabi Gang is a vigilante group**. The group first appeared in Banda district, **Uttar Pradesh**, as a **response to widespread domestic abuse and other violence against women**. This group did not just limit their activities to a fight against gendered social evils, but rather battled against several other wrongdoings such as hoarding, bribery, caste discrimination and several others. **Wearing pink sarees and carrying bamboo sticks**, they frequently resorted to violence in order to make their voices heard.
- **The Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)** is a women's trade union that was started by women workers in Gujarat under the guidance of **Smt. Ela Bhatt in 1972**. Originally borne out of the Textile Labor Association (TLA), India's oldest and largest union of textile workers, SEWA is now a **globally recognized trade union of women workers** in the informal economy.
- Concerned with the preservation of **ecological balance**, the **Chipko movement in the state of Uttarakhand (then Uttar Pradesh) started in the early 1970s**. The protests were against the government's policy of handing out contracts to industrial giants to utilise forest produce for making profits. In the absence of men, it was the women of the village who took it upon themselves to step out of their homes and face the industrialists head on. This incident sparked off similar movements in other parts of **the sub-Himalayan region**.

Q 15.A

- The Central Information Commission shall consist of -:
 - the Chief Information Commissioner; and
 - such number of Central Information Commissioners, not exceeding **ten**, as may be deemed necessary. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**
- **Option (c) is correct:** The Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of
 - the Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the committee;
 - the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha; and
 - a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
- The Chief Information Commissioner or an Information Commissioner shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature of any State or Union territory, as the case may be, or hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- The Chief Information Commissioner or an Information Commissioner may, at any time, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign from his office. **Hence, option (a) is not correct.**
- The Parliament has recently passed the Right to Information Amendment Act, 2019. In this amendment, it amends the Right to Information Act, 2005 so as to provide that -:

- the term of office, the salaries, allowances and other terms and conditions of service of,
- the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners and the State Chief Information Commissioner and the State Information Commissioners,
- shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

Q 16.B

- The Corruption Perceptions Index published annually by the Transparency International ranks countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and businesspeople. It uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct and statement 2 is correct.**
- India's score and rank in the last five years :-

Year	Score	Rank
2018	41	78
2017	40	81
2016	40	79
2015	38	76
2014	38	85
2013	36	94

- **Bribe Payers Index**
 - First launched in 1999, the Bribe Payers Index published by Transparency International evaluates the supply side of corruption – the likelihood of firms from the world's industrialised countries to bribe abroad. It ranks the world's wealthiest countries by the propensity of their firms to bribe abroad and looks at which industrial sectors are the worst offenders. The index is based on the views of thousands of senior business executives from developed and developing countries.
- **The Government Defence Anti-Corruption Index (GI)** assesses the existence, effectiveness and enforcement of institutional and informal controls to manage the risk of corruption in defence and security institutions. **It is also released by Transparency International.**

Q 17.B

- By the early nineteen seventies, the first generation Dalit graduates, especially those living in city slums began to assert themselves from various platforms. **Dalit Panthers, a militant organisation of the Dalit youth, was formed in Maharashtra in 1972** as a part of these assertions. The Dalit Panthers were inspired by the **Black Panther Party**, a socialist movement that sought to **combat racial discrimination against African-Americans**, during the **Civil Rights Movement in the United States**, which occurred in the mid-20th century.
- Activities of Dalit Panthers mostly centred around fighting increasing atrocities on Dalits in various parts of the State. The larger ideological agenda of the Panthers was **to destroy the caste system**. Their manifesto, issued in 1973, fit **the Ambedkarite spirit into a broader Marxist framework** and heralded the rise of an autonomous Dalit perspective in post-Independence India. **Hence statement (b) is not correct.**
- It sought to build an organisation of all oppressed sections like the **landless poor peasants and urban industrial workers along with Dalits.**
- Dalit writers protested **against the brutalities of the caste system** in their numerous autobiographies and other literary works published during this period. These works portraying the life experiences of the most downtrodden social sections of Indian society sent shock waves in **Marathi literary world**, made **literature more broad-based and representative of different social sections** and initiated contestations in the cultural realm.

Q 18.B

- The National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self Employed Persons Yojana (Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Yojana) is a **pension scheme for shopkeeper's/ retail traders and self-employed persons for providing monthly minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/- for the entry age group of 18-40 years**. It is a voluntary and contribution-based central sector scheme.
- The scheme is in effect from the 22nd day of July 2019. The scheme would benefit more than 3 crore small shopkeepers and traders.
- Eligibility:
 - The scheme is open to Laghu Vyaparis, who are self-employed and working as shop owners, retail traders, rice mill owners, oil mill owners, workshop owners, commission agents, brokers of real estate, owners of small hotels, restaurants and other Laghu Vyaparis.
 - The operations of such small traders are generally characterized by family-owned establishments, small scale of operations, labour intensive, inadequate financial aid, seasonal in nature and extensive unpaid family labour.
 - Age group of 18-40 years
 - Laghu Vyapari whose annual turnover does not exceed Rs 1.5 crore, based on self-declaration. GSTIN is required only for those with turnover above Rs. 40 lakhs.
 - Who has a savings bank account in his/her name and Aadhar number.
- The following are not eligible to join the Scheme
 - **If covered under National Pension Scheme contributed by the Central Government** or Employees' State Insurance Corporation Scheme under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 (34 of 1948) or Employees' Provident Fund Scheme under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (19 of 1952) or
 - Is an income-tax assessee.
- **It is an initiative under the Ministry of Labour & Employment.**
- **Hence, only statements 2 and 3 are correct.**

Q 19.D

- To encourage the civil aviation sector, the Ministry of Civil Aviation released the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016 that focuses on making flying affordable to the masses and strengthening the regional air connectivity.
- The policy aims to establish an integrated eco-system that will lead to significant growth of the civil aviation sector, which in turn would promote tourism, increase employment and lead to balanced regional growth. Provide safe, secure, affordable and sustainable air travel for passengers and air transportation of cargo with access to various parts of India and the world.
- To promote the use of biofuels for commercial air flights and to reduce overall GHG emissions from the aviation sector is the aim of the proposed National Green Aviation Policy. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Key features of the policy are:
 - The policy focuses on to enhance regional connectivity through fiscal support and infrastructure development. For this, a Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) is launched. The RCS routes will be equivalent to an hour-long flight or cover the distance of 500 kilometers to 600 kilometers. The airfare on these routes will have a cap of Rs.2500 per passenger. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
 - The NCAP 2016 allows airlines to commence international operations **if they allocate 20 aircraft or 20% of its total capacity for domestic operations**. Earlier, to start international operations each airline required a minimum of five years of domestic flying experience and a fleet of at least 50 aircraft. Thus the new criterion aims to make international operations easier. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

- The MRO(Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) business of Indian carriers is around Rs 5000 crore, 90% of which is currently spent outside India. The government has taken positive steps to stimulate the MRO industry through NCAP. Provision for adequate land for MRO service providers will be made in all future airport/heliport projects where the potential for such MRO services exists.
- Encourage the development of airports by AAI, State Governments, the private sector or in PPP mode
- Route Dispersal Guidelines(RDG) was enacted to provide air connectivity to remote regions of India. Under the guidelines, the various air routes in India were divided into three categories according to the traffic on these routes. The Category I (Cat I) routes will include distance more than 700 kilometers. The remaining types of routes (Cat I and Cat II) will comprise of tier II or tier III towns.

Q 20.A

- **Operation Polo:** Operation Polo was the code name of the **Hyderabad "police action" in September 1948**, by the then newly independent India against the Hyderabad State. It was a military operation in which the Indian Armed Forces invaded the Nizam-ruled princely state, annexing it into the Indian Union. **Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Smiling Buddha:** Smiling Buddha was the assigned code name of **India's first successful nuclear bomb test on 18 May 1974**. The bomb was detonated on the army base **Pokhran Test Range (PTR), in Rajasthan**, by the Indian Army under the supervision of several key Indian generals. Pokhran-I was also the first confirmed nuclear weapons test by a nation outside the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Officially, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) characterised this test as a "peaceful nuclear explosion". **Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Related Info:** Pokhran – II was named **Operation Shakti**, while the recently concluded Anti-satellite missile test (ASAT) is called **Mission Shakti**.
- **Operation Blue Star:** Operation Blue Star was the codename of an **Indian military action carried out between 1 and 8 June 1984 to remove militant religious leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale** and his followers from the buildings of the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) complex in Amritsar, Punjab. **Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 21.A

- **Advisory Board for Banking Frauds**
 - It is a four-membered board **set up by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.
 - It is currently headed by former vigilance commissioner TM Bhasin. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
 - It would function as the first level of examination of all large fraud cases before recommendations or references are made to the investigative agencies by the respective public sector banks (PSBs).
 - The quantum of bank frauds has to be Rs 50 crore or above. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
 - The four-member board's jurisdiction would be confined to those cases involving the level of officers of General Manager and above in the PSB in respect of an allegation of fraud.

Q 22.D

- **Registration of Political parties** is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**. A party seeking registration under the said Section with the Commission has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation as per guidelines prescribed by the Election Commission of India in exercise of the powers conferred by **Article 324** of the Commission of India and Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. **Hence statement (d) is not correct.**

- The Election Commission registers political parties for the purpose of elections and grants them recognition as national or state parties on the **basis of their poll performance**. The recognition granted by the Commission to the parties determines their right to certain privileges like **allocation of the party symbols, provision of time for political broadcasts** on the state-owned television and radio stations. **While the ECI has the mandate to register a political party, the electoral laws deny it the power to deregister any party.**
- **Every national party is allotted a symbol exclusively reserved for its use throughout the country.** Similarly, every state party is allotted a symbol exclusively reserved for its use in the state or states in which it is so recognised.

Q 23.D

- The Supreme Court, over the last few decades, has paved the way for electoral reforms through its judgments. Some of the major cases in this context include -:
- The Supreme Court's recent decision on information disclosure (Lok Prahari v. Union of India) paves a way for future constitutional interventions in India's party funding regime, including the scheme of electoral bonds.
 - Association for Democratic Reforms Case, 2002
 - The Supreme Court, in this landmark decision mandated the disclosure of information relating to criminal antecedents, educational qualification, and personal assets of a candidate contesting elections.
 - **Lily Thomas Case, 2013**
 - The Supreme Court ruled Section 8(4) of RPA, which gave candidates relaxation from disqualification, to be void. As a consequence, the convicted MP or MLA will get disqualified immediately on date of conviction for the offences listed. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
 - **People's Union for Civil Liberties Case, 2013**
 - The Supreme Court introduced the None of the above (NOTA) button in the election. This gave the common man the power to show his dissent against the candidates who are standing for elections by not voting for any of them. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
 - Subramanian Swamy Case, 2013
 - The Supreme Court held that the paper trail is an indispensable requirement of free and fair elections. The confidence of the voters in the EVMs can be achieved only with the introduction of the "paper trail". EVMs with VVPAT system ensure the accuracy of the voting system.
 - **Lok Prahari Case, 2018**
 - The Supreme Court mandated the disclosure of information relating to sources of income of candidates and their "associates", and government contracts where candidates or their associates have direct or indirect interests. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Q 24.B

- **Statement 1 and 3 are correct: AERA is a statutory body established by the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.** AERA regulates tariffs and other charges for aeronautical services provided at civilian airports with annual traffic above 15 lakh passengers and also at all private or PPP airports even if they are not 'major airports'. It also monitors the performance standard of services across these airports.
- Currently, the AERA Act defines a major airport as one with annual passenger traffic over 15 lakh, or any other airports as notified by the central government. Under the Act, AERA is responsible for determining the: (i) tariff for aeronautical services every five years, (ii) development fees, and (iii) passenger service fee.
- **The Directorate General of Civil Aviation is the Indian governmental regulatory body for civil aviation under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.** This directorate investigates aviation accidents and incidents.
- **Functions Of Directorate General of Civil Aviation**

- Registration of civil aircraft;
- Formulation of standards of airworthiness for civil aircraft registered in India and grant of certificates of airworthiness for such aircraft;
- Licensing of pilots, aircraft maintenance engineers, air traffic controllers and flight engineers, and conducting examinations and checks for that purpose. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Certification of aerodromes;
- Maintaining a check on the proficiency of flight crew, and also of other operational personnel such as flight dispatchers and cabin crew.

Q 25.B

- **The Election Commission does not regulate media.** It has, however, the responsibility to enforce the provisions of law or Court directions, which might have linkages with media or certain aspects of media functioning. During elections, media is present and active at all stages which would also mean that they too conform to various laws governing the elections.
- These laws are mentioned below:
 - Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951: **It prohibits conduct of exit poll and dissemination of their results** during the period mentioned therein, i.e., the hour fixed for commencement of polls in the first phase and **half hour after the time fixed for close of poll** for the last phase in all the States and Union Territories.
 - Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951: **It prohibits displaying any election matter by mean of the cinematograph, television or other similar apparatus, during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for conclusion of poll.**
 - Section 127A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951: The printing and publication of election pamphlets, posters, etc. is governed by its provisions, which make it mandatory to bear on its face the names and addresses of the printer and the publisher.
 - Section 171H of the Indian Penal Code: It prohibits incurring of expenditure on, inter alia, advertisement without the authority of the contesting candidate.

Q 26.B

- **About CBI**
 - It is the main investigating agency of the Central Government. It plays an important role in the prevention of corruption and maintaining integrity in administration.
 - It was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Later, it was transferred to the Ministry of Personnel and now it enjoys the status of an attached office
 - It is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
- **Director, CBI**
 - He is of the rank of Inspector General of Police, Delhi Special Police Establishment.
 - Before the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 was legislated, the CBI director was appointed under the DSPE Act. Now, the Lokpal Act governs the appointment of the CBI director. **Hence statement 1 is not correct**
 - The Central Government shall appoint the Director of CBI on the recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of:
 - ❖ Prime Minister as Chairperson
 - ❖ Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha
 - ❖ Chief Justice of India or Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him.
 - He has been provided security of two-year tenure in CBI under the CVC Act, 2003. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Q 27.D

- The Constitution refers to two types of minorities, namely, religious minorities and linguistic minorities. However, the term 'minority' has not been defined anywhere in the Constitution.
- The central government recognizes and notifies the religious minorities at the national level and **not on the state level. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- At present six communities, viz., Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Zoroastrians (Parsis) are notified as religious minorities at the national level.
- The Constitution contains special provisions to safeguard the social, educational and economic interests of the minorities. Some of these are :
 - No citizen is to be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the state or aided by the state on grounds of religion, race, caste or language (Article 29(2)).
 - All minorities, whether based on religion or language, have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice (Article 30(1)).
 - In granting aid to educational institutions, the state should not discriminate against any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language (Article 30(2)).
 - The wearing and carrying of kirpans shall be deemed to be included in the profession of the Sikh religion. In other words, Sikhs have the right to wear and carry kirpans (Article 25(2)).
- National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act (2004) provides additional safeguards to the minority educational institutions. It contains provisions for the following:
 - Establishment of a National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions
 - Right to establish a minority educational institution
 - Right of a minority educational institution to seek affiliation to any university of its choice.
- National Commission for Minorities Educational Institutions (NCMEI) under the Ministry of Human Resource Development gives the minority status to the educational institutions on the basis of six religious communities notified by the Ministry of HRD under the NCMEI Act, 2004, viz., Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains only. **Linguistic Minorities do not come under the ambit of the NCMEI Act, 2004. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme for the welfare of religious minorities, launched in 2005, seeks to ensure the welfare of religious minorities through (a) increasing educational and employment opportunities, (b) improving living conditions, and (c) preventing and controlling communal riots.

Q 28.A

- 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**. The Act 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. The following are the objectives of the Commission. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
 - To prevent practices from having an adverse effect on competition.
 - To promote and sustain competition in markets.
 - To protect the interests of consumers and
 - To ensure freedom of trade
- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs is responsible for administering the Competition Act, 2002 to prevent practices having an adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers through the commission set up under the Act. It is an affiliated office under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. **Hoarding, per se, is governed under the Essential Commodities Act. Hence statements 2 is correct and 3 is not correct.**
- Due to overlap in the jurisdiction, there is sometimes conflict between CCI and sector-specific regulators.

- 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. CCI consists of a Chairperson and 6 Members appointed by the Central Government.
- Recently, India's telecom regulator, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), and CCI were locked in a showdown in the Supreme Court last year, with both laying claims to jurisdictional rights on anti-competitive issues in telecom. The TRAI filed an application of intervention before the apex court, saying it has "exclusive jurisdiction" on the sector, a claim contested by CCI. The fair trade regulator argued that it was well within its powers to investigate anti-competitive behaviour or abuse of dominance.

Q 29.D

- The Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) was constituted on 26.10.2010 under the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007. **The WDRA is a Statutory Authority under the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India. The Authority has its Headquarters in New Delhi. It deals with the development and regulation of warehouses, regulations of negotiability of warehouse receipts and promotes orderly growth of the warehousing business.**
- The mission of the WDRA is to ensure that the interests of the farmers are protected through the growth and development in the warehousing sector. The main objectives are:
 - to improve the fiduciary trust of depositors and banks;
 - **increase liquidity in rural areas;**
 - **encourage scientific warehousing of goods;**
 - **lower the cost of financing;**
 - promote shorter and efficient supply chains and;
 - enhance reward for grading and quality and ensure better price risk management.
- **The negotiable warehouse receipts (NWR) issued by the WDRA will help the farmers to seek loans from banks against the NWRs to avoid distress sales of agricultural produce during the peak marketing season and to avoid the post-harvest storage loss.** The Authority has notified 123 agricultural commodities including cereals, pulses, oilseeds. To discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce against warehouse receipts the benefit of interest subvention was made available to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Cards for a period of six months @ 7% on negotiable warehouse receipts., spices, rubber, tobacco, coffee etc for issuing negotiable warehouse receipts and also 26 horticultural commodities for cold storage.
- **Negotiable warehouse receipts** allow the transfer of ownership of that commodity stored in a warehouse without having to deliver the physical commodity. These receipts are issued in negotiable form, making them eligible as collateral for loans.
- **Hence all the statements are correct.**

Q 30.D

- **The E-Government Development Index (EGDI) is a survey conducted annually and whose reports are published every two years by the United Nations Public Administration Programme (UNPAP).** It ranks 193 UN member states on basis of their performance on mainly three dimensions or e-governance development index (EGDI):
 - **online service index (OSI),**
 - **telecommunication infrastructure index(TII), and**
 - **human capital index (HCI).**
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

- Along with an assessment of the website development patterns in a country, the E-Government Development index incorporates the access characteristics, such as the infrastructure and educational levels, to reflect how a country is using information technologies to promote access and inclusion of its people.
- The E-Government Survey, 2018 had ranked India at 96 positions for its performance in the development and execution of information technologies, up from 107 in 2016 and 118 in 2014 —a massive leap over the years.

Q 31.C

- **The Union Cabinet, has approved the ratification of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (MLI).** The Convention will modify India's treaties in order to curb revenue loss through treaty abuse and base erosion and profit shifting strategies by ensuring that profits are taxed where substantive economic activities generating the profits are carried out and where value is created. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- **The Multilateral Convention is an outcome of the OECD / G20 Project** to tackle Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (the "BEPS Project") i.e., tax planning strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax locations where there is little or no economic activity, resulting in little or no tax being paid. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The MLI offers concrete solutions for governments to close the gaps in existing international tax rules by transposing results from the OECD/G20 BEPS Project into bilateral tax treaties worldwide. **The MLI modifies the application of thousands of bilateral tax treaties concluded to eliminate double taxation.** It also implements agreed minimum standards to counter treaty abuse and to improve dispute resolution mechanisms while providing flexibility to accommodate specific tax treaty policies.
- **The Convention will not function in the same way as an Amending Protocol to a single existing treaty, which would directly amend the text of the Covered Tax Agreements. Instead, it will be applied alongside existing tax treaties, modifying their application in order to implement the BEPS measures. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 32.B

- **Chipko Movement, started in 1970's,** was a non violent movement aimed at protection and conservation of trees and forests from being destroyed. The name of the Chipko moment originated from the word 'embrace' as the villagers used to hug the trees and protect them from wood cutters from cutting them. It was **first started in the Chamoli district in Uttarakhand,** in the year 1973 and from there it spread to the other parts of the country. Chipko movement was based on the Gandhian philosophy of peaceful resistance to achieve the goals. **Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **The Appiko movement began in 1983** as a crusade to protect the trees of the Kalse forests in **Karnataka.** Founded and led by environmental activist **Panduranga Hegde,** the movement christened Appiko ("hug" in Kannada, symbolising protection for the tree) became south India's first large-scale environmental movement. Inspired by the tree-hugging Chipko forest conservation movement in the North, the Appiko movement continues its fight against tree-felling and deforestation in not only **Uttara Kannada** but also other hill districts in Karnataka and Kerala. **Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- The popularly known **Baliapal movement is a struggle against the establishment of the National Testing Range (NTR),** India's first missile testing project in the **Baliapal and Bhograi blocks of Orissa's Balasore district.** The Baliapal Movement is also regarded as an environmental movement on the ground that it concerns the appropriation of land previously used by the people. It followed a non-violent path of resistance. Intervention, noncooperation, protest and persuasion are the various methods used by the movement. **Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Hence option b is the correct answer.**

Q 33.C

- The NGO-DARPAN is a platform that provides space for interface between voluntary organisations/NGOs and key Government Ministries/Departments/Government Bodies, to start with. Later it is proposed to cover all Central Ministries / Departments / Government Bodies.
- This is a free facility offered by the NITI Aayog in association with National Informatics Centre to bring about greater partnership between government & voluntary sector and foster better transparency, efficiency and accountability.
- The NGO-DARPAN started out as an initiative of the Prime Minister's Office, to create and promote a healthy partnership between VOs/NGOs and the Government of India. **The Portal is managed at present by NITI Aayog. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**
- This portal enables VOs/NGOs to enroll centrally and thus facilitates the creation of a repository of information about VOs/NGOs, Sector/State wise. The Portal facilitates VOs/NGOs to obtain a system generated Unique ID, as and when signed. The Unique ID is mandatory to apply for grants under various schemes of Ministries/Departments/Governments Bodies.

Q 34.A

- There are a number of international conventions that are aimed at bringing transparency, ensuring tax compliance and reduce corruption. Some of the major ones include -:
 - **United Nations Convention against Corruption**
 - The United Nations Convention against Corruption is the legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. The Convention's far-reaching approach and the mandatory character of many of its provisions make it a unique tool for developing a comprehensive response to a global problem. The Convention covers five main areas: preventive measures, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation, asset recovery, and technical assistance and information exchange.
 - In May 2011, the Indian Government ratified two UN Conventions - the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and its three protocols. **Hence option 1 and option 2 are correct.**
 - **United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC)** is the first comprehensive and global legally binding instrument to fight transnational organized crime. States that have ratified UNTOC commit themselves to take a series of measures to prevent and control transnational organized crime, including
 - the criminalizing of the participation in an organized criminal group, of money laundering, related corruption, and obstruction of justice;
 - the adoption of frameworks for extradition, mutual legal assistance, and international cooperation.
 - **Anti-Bribery Convention of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development**
 - The OECD Anti-Bribery Convention establishes legally binding standards to criminalize bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions and provides for a host of related measures that make this effective. It is the first and only international anti-corruption instrument focused on the 'supply-side' of the bribery transaction. **India is not a party to this convention. Hence, option 3 is not correct.**

Q 35.A

- The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Act, 2015 amends certain provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957. The salient provisions of the Amendment Act are as follows:
 - The Amendment removes discretion in the grant of mineral concessions. All mineral concessions are granted by the respective State Governments. They will continue to do so but all grants of mineral concessions would be through auctions only, thereby bringing in greater transparency and removing discretion. This also implies that the Government will get an increased share from the mining sector. The tenure of mineral concessions has been increased from the existing 30 years to 50 years. Thereafter, **all Mining Lease would be put up for auction (and not for renewal as in the earlier system). Hence statement 1 is correct.**

- **The Amendment Act makes it mandatory to establish a District Mineral Foundation (DMF) in all districts where mining takes place to take care of people and areas affected by mining {Section 9 (B)}. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.** The National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) shall be established by the central government for regional and detailed mine exploration. Licensees and lease holders shall pay the DMF an amount not more than one-third of the royalty prescribed by the central government, and the NMET two percent of royalty.
- All offences under the Act will now be subject to a maximum punishment of 5 years imprisonment or fine of Rs. 5.00 lakhs per hectare. State Governments are also empowered to set up Special Courts for speedy trial of offences under the Act.
- Central Government empowered to prescribe deadlines for various processes and to issue binding directions to States {Section 20 A}.
- Central Government to frame separate rules for atomic minerals {Section 11 (B)}.
- **The previous approval of the Central Government will not be required for grant of mineral concession except for Atomic Minerals {Amendment to Section 5(1)}. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- Easy transferability of concessions obtained through auctions so as to attract private investment and FDI {Section 12 (A)}.
- Powers to Central Government to intervene even where State Governments do not pass orders within prescribed time lines; this will eliminate delay {Section 30}.

Q 36.C

- The Consumer Protection Act of 2019 aims to provide timely and effective administration and settlement of consumer disputes. It replaces the Consumer Protection Act of 1986. Key features of the new Act include:
 - Rights of consumers: There were a total of 6 consumer rights which have been defined in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, and those are (Right to Safety, Right to be Informed, Right to Choose, Right to be Heard, Right to Seek redressal, Right to Consumer Education). In addition to the existing consumer rights the new Act add some new consumer rights:
 - right to have information about different aspects of a good or service such as its quality, quantity, potency, purity, price, and standard.
 - **The right to file a complaint from anywhere.** According to this new right, consumers can now file a complaint with the District Consumer Commission or State Consumer Commission from anywhere, home, office or while on a weekend trip. Earlier, the consumers can file a case only at the place where the product was purchased or where the seller of the product has his registered office. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - Right to seek compensation under product liability. The Act has proposed provisions for product liability under which a manufacturer or a service provider has to compensate a consumer if their good/services cause injury or loss to the consumer due to manufacturing defect or poor service.
 - The New Act has widened the definition of 'consumer'. A consumer is defined as a person who buys any goods or avails a service for consideration. It does not include a person who obtains a good for resale or a good or service for commercial purposes. It covers transactions through all modes including offline, and online through electronic means, teleshopping, multi-level marketing or direct selling.
 - E-commerce also comes in the ambit of the law and will now be governed by all the laws that apply to direct selling.
 - **The Act mandates the establishment of a central regulator, Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), to address issues related to consumer rights, unfair trade practices, misleading advertisements and impose penalties for selling faulty and fake products. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
 - Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions (CDRCs) will be set up at the district, state, and national levels.
 - **The Act has the provision of an Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism. Reference to Mediation by Consumer Forum wherever scope for early settlement exists and parties agree for it. No appeal lies against the settlement through mediation. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Q 37.C

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** As per Indian Ports Act, 1908, the responsibility for the development and promotion of minor ports vests with the respective State Governments and development and promotion of major ports vests with the respective central government.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** Tariff Authority for Major Ports has jurisdiction only over major port trusts and private terminals therein. It is responsible for prescribing the rates for services provided and facilities extended by them and also rates for lease of port trust properties. This Authority is empowered not only to notify the rates but also to the conditionalities governing the application of the rates. Tariff for minor ports is decided by the minor port itself.
- The Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) was constituted in April 1997 to provide for an independent Authority to regulate all tariffs, both vessel related and cargo related, and rates for lease of properties in respect of Major Port Trusts and the private operators located therein. The Major Ports Trust Act, 1963 was amended by Port Laws (Amendment) Act 1997 to constitute the TAMP
- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) came into existence on 27th October 1986 for the development and regulation of inland waterways for shipping and navigation. The Authority primarily undertakes projects for development and maintenance of IWT infrastructure on national waterways through grant received from the Ministry of Shipping. The head office of the Authority is at Noida.

Q 38.B

- **Statement 1 is correct:** National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), an expert body to provide the much-needed knowledge inputs regarding systematic up-gradation and management of the country's dry land and rainfed agriculture.
- The NRAA has a two-tier structure. The first tier is the Governing Board that provides the necessary leadership and appropriate coordination in the implementation of programmes. The Governing Board is chaired by Union Agriculture Minister and co-chaired by Union Minister of Rural Development. The second tier is the Executive Committee consisting of technical experts and representatives from stakeholder Ministries. The Executive Committee would be headed by a full-time Chief Executive Officer who should be a recognized expert on the subject.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network has released the Rainfed Agricultural Atlas. The new rainfed agriculture atlas maps the agrobiodiversity and socio-economic conditions prevailing in such areas and attempts to document the policy biases that are making farming unviable for many in these areas. Revitalizing Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRAN) is a pan-Indian network of academics, civil society organizations, development bankers, and others, working to enhance public investments in support of rainfed agriculture. It works towards prosperous, productive and secure rainfed agriculture.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** Department of Land Resources of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is the nodal agency for implementing the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for the development of rainfed and degraded areas of the country. The main objective of IWMP is to restore ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water.

Q 39.D

- A state of National emergency can be proclaimed by the President of India, when he/she perceives grave threats to the nation from internal and external sources. **The first instance was between October 1962 to January 1968 during the India-China war**, when "the security of India" was declared as being "**threatened by external aggression**". The second instance was between **December 1971 to March 1977**, which was originally proclaimed during the Indo-Pakistan war. It was later extended along with the third proclamation between June 1975 to March 1977 under controversial circumstances of

political instability under Indira Gandhi's prime ministership. **The national emergency was proclaimed for the first time during the Prime ministership of Jawaharlal Nehru. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**

- The students' movement of Bihar in 1974 assumed a political character when **Jayaprakash Narayan assumed leadership**. People from all walks of life entered the movement. Jayaprakash Narayan demanded the dismissal of the Congress government in Bihar and gave **a call for total revolution in the social, economic and political spheres in order to establish**, what he considered to be true democracy.
- The opposition political parties led by Jayaprakash Narayan pressed for Indira Gandhi's resignation and organised a massive demonstration in Delhi's Ramlila grounds in June 1975. Jayaprakash announced a nationwide satyagraha for her resignation and asked the army, the police and government employees not to obey "illegal and immoral orders". The political mood of the country had turned against the Congress, more than ever before. The response of the government was to **declare a state of emergency**. On 25 June 1975, the government declared that there was **a threat of internal disturbances** and therefore, it invoked Article 352 of the Constitution. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- To remove ambiguities regarding emergency provisions in the Constitution, **the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act** provides that National Emergency can be proclaimed only on the grounds of **external aggression, war and armed rebellion** and it is necessary that the advice to the President to proclaim Emergency must be given in **writing by the Union cabinet**.

Q 40.B

- National Policy on Electronics 2019 (NPE 2019), envisions positioning India as a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing - (ESDM) by encouraging and driving capabilities in the country for developing core components, including chipsets, and creating an enabling environment for the industry to compete globally. The policy is formulated with an objective to promote domestic manufacturing and export in the entire value-chain of ESDM for economic development to achieve a turnover of USD 400 billion (approximately INR 26,00,000 crore) by 2025.
- Salient Features of NPE 2019
 - Create eco-system for globally competitive ESDM sector: Promoting domestic manufacturing and export in the entire value-chain of ESDM. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
 - Provide incentives and support for manufacturing of core electronic components.
 - Provide a special package of incentives for mega projects which are extremely high-tech and entail huge investments, such as semiconductor facilities display fabrication, etc.
 - Create a Sovereign Patent Fund (SPF) to promote the development and acquisition of IPs in the ESDM sector. Sovereign Patent Fund (SPF) is a State-led investment fund that will acquire Intellectual Property (IP) assets important to national economic objectives. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
 - Promote Industry-led R&D and innovation in all sub-sectors of electronics, including grass root level innovations and early-stage Start-ups in emerging technology areas such as 5G, IoT/ Sensors, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Virtual Reality (VR), Drones, Robotics, Additive Manufacturing, Photonics, Nano-based devices, etc.
 - Promote trusted electronics value chain initiatives to improve national cybersecurity profile. **Promote the use of secure chips to reduce cybersecurity risks not to eliminate the cybersecurity risk. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
 - Improve ease-of-doing Business for the ESDM industry.
 - Formulate suitable schemes and incentive mechanisms to encourage new units and expansion of existing units.
 - Provide incentives and support for significantly enhancing the availability of skilled manpower, including re-skilling.
 - Encourage and incentivize Transfer of Technology (ToT) for core technologies.
- **Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA), is the apex industry association of manufacturers of electrical, industrial electronics and allied equipment in India.**

Q 41.A

- e-Governance in India has transformed to promote inclusive growth that covers electronic services, products, devices and job opportunities. Some of the major initiatives in this context include -:
 - **Launch of National e-Governance Plan - 2006**
 - The Government launched the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP), comprising of 27 Mission Mode Projects and 8 components in 2006. In the year 2011, 4 projects - Health, Education, PDS and Posts were introduced to make the list of 27 MMPs to 31 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs).
 - **Launch of Digital India Programme - 2015**
 - The 'Digital India' initiative was launched in 2015. It is a flagship programme of the Government of India with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.
 - **Creation of a separate Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) - 2016**
 - In 2016, the government took out the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeITY) from the remit of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and made it a new ministry namely Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 42.A

- The **97th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011** gave a constitutional status and protection to co-operative societies. In this context, it made the following three changes in the constitution:
 - It made the right to form co-operative societies a fundamental right (**Article 19**).
 - It included a new **Directive Principle of State Policy** on the promotion of co-operative societies (Article 43-B).
 - It added a new Part IX-B in the Constitution which is entitled "The Co-operative Societies" (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT).
- **Election of members to the board of a Cooperative Society:** The election of a board **shall be conducted before the expiry of the term of the board** so as to ensure that the newly elected members assume office immediately on the expiry of the term of the office of members of the outgoing board. The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the **conduct of elections to a co-operative society** shall vest in such body, **as may be provided by the state legislature. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 43.C

- The Prime Minister's Awards for excellence in Public Administration were instituted in 2006 by the then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. They were not instituted on the recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2nd ARC). The 2nd ARC recommended similar awards for recognizing good performance at the State and district levels. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is aimed at acknowledging, recognizing and rewarding the extraordinary and innovative work done by officers of the Central and State Governments. All officers of Central & State Governments individually or as a group or as organizations are eligible for consideration. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The awards are given every year for Excellence in **implementing identified Priority Programmes** of Government of India and **extraordinary and innovative work** done by the Organizations of Central/ State Governments/ Districts in public governance. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 44.A

- Lateral entry into civil services was recommended by three years Action Agenda of NITI Aayog as well as by the Sectoral Group of Secretaries in its report submitted in February 2017.
- The government decided to undertake lateral recruitment of ten **Joint Secretaries** in ten identified Ministries/Departments and 40 positions at Deputy Secretary/Director level, on a contract basis, in order to achieve the twin objectives of:
 - bringing in fresh talent
 - augmenting the availability of manpower. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

- Process of Selection and Appointment
 - The appointment of outside experts was made through open advertisement and the selection and evaluation process was entrusted to the UPSC.
 - Advertisement inviting applications from individuals for the post of Joint Secretary in ten identified Ministries/Departments was issued by DoPT.
 - The entire selection process of the candidates was entrusted to Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
 - The UPSC, after conducting the selection process, found suitable candidates for nine identified Ministries/Departments and recommended them for appointment as Joint Secretary.
 - Appointments were done by the Central Government. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 45.B

- **Humane Society International (HSI) is the international division of The Humane Society of the United States. Founded in 1991,** HSI has expanded The HSUS's activities into Central and South America, Africa, and Asia. HSI's Asian, Australian, Canadian, and European offices carry out field activities and programs.
- **Humane Society International works around the globe to promote the human-animal bond, protect street animals, support farm animal welfare, stop wildlife abuse, eliminate painful animal testing, respond to natural disasters and confront cruelty to animals in all of its forms.**
- HSI works on a variety of animal welfare issues in more than 50 countries. Active on nearly every continent, HSI is one of the few international animal protection organizations working to protect all animals—including animals in laboratories, farm animals, companion animals and wildlife.
- HSI campaigns around the world to help the greatest possible number of animals and to save those who are suffering from the most severe abuse, investing our time, effort and resources in ways that will make a real difference.

Q 46.C

- The traditional structure of ministries and departments are facing a growing challenge to meet the goals of responsible government and good public management.
- They suffer from long hierarchical and vertically-integrated rigid and unresponsive mechanisms.
- In this context, Alternative Service Delivery (ASD) has emerged as an innovative response to the pressures of scarce resources and the public's insistence on improved service.
- It was first adopted in Canadian which has gained currency as a worldwide phenomenon.
 - ASD can be defined as:
 - a creative and dynamic **process of public sector restructuring that improves the delivery of services to clients by sharing governance functions with individuals, community groups and other government entities. Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**
 - It includes privatization, as well as reorganization and reengineering of mainstream government.
 - It involves rethinking and redefining the roles and functions.
 - It depends heavily for success on a strong policy foundation and on a client service focus.
- This government reinvention strategy offers developing countries an attractive model to replicate, albeit with inherent risks and mixed results.

Q 47.B

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Bar Council of India (BCI) is a statutory body constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961 to regulate and represent the Indian bar.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The Bar Council of India consists of members elected from each State Bar Council, and the Attorney General of India and the Solicitor General of India who are ex-officio members. The members from the State Bar Councils are elected for a period of five years. The Council elects its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman for a period of two years from amongst its members.

- **The Bar Council of India (BCI) performs the following functions:**
 - To lay down standards of professional conduct and etiquette for advocates.
 - To safeguard the rights, privileges and interests of advocates.
 - To promote and support law reform.
 - To promote legal education and to lay down standards of legal education.
 - To recognise universities whose degree in law shall be a qualification for enrolment as an advocate. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
 - To organise legal aid to the poor.
 - To recognise on a reciprocal basis, the foreign qualifications in law obtained outside India for the purpose of admission as an advocate in India.

Q 48.B

- **NOTA or 'None of the Above'** has been provided as an option to the voters of India in most elections. Through the usage of NOTA, a citizen can choose not to vote for any candidates who are contesting the elections. However, NOTA in India does not guarantee the dismissal of the winning candidate. **Although votes cast as NOTA are counted, they are invalid votes so they will not impact the result of the election process.** Therefore, whether NOTA gets more or fewer votes, it is not taken into account for calculating the total valid votes. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- NOTA was **first used in India in 2009. Chhattisgarh was the first state in India** to have given the option of NOTA to the voters in the **local government elections.** NOTA button made its debut in Assembly elections in 2013 in four States — Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh and the National Capital Territory, Delhi. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Election Commission **withdrew the 'none of the above' (NOTA) option from ballot papers of the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Council polls** following a Supreme Court directive. Supreme Court in its judgement said that NOTA was meant to be exercised by individual voters in direct polls. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

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Q 49.B

- The Right to Information Act of 2005 provides for the creation of not only the Central Information Commission but also a State Information Commission at the state level.
- The Central & State Information Commissions are a high-powered independent body which inter alia looks into the complaints made to it and decide the appeals.
- They entertain complaints and appeals pertaining to offices, financial institutions, public sector undertakings, etc., under the Central Government, State Governments and the Union Territories.
- Recently enacted the Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019 provides for the prescription of the following by the Central Government:
 - Term of office, Salaries, allowances and other terms and conditions of service of:
 - Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners
 - State Chief Information Commissioner and the State Information Commissioners. **Hence statements 2 and 3 are correct.**
- **Selection of a person to be appointed for the above posts will still be done by the President/ Governor** on the recommendation of a committee consisting of:
 - Prime Minister/Chief Minister as Chairperson
 - Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha/State Assembly
 - Union/State Cabinet Minister nominated by the PM/CM
- **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**

Q 50.A

- **Kutchi New Year** is observed on the **second day of the 'shukla paksha' or waxing phase of moon in Ashada month** -- Ashad Beej or Dwitiya. This Hindu New Year is observed in the Kutch region in Gujarat. The rath yatra is taken out every year on Ashadhi Beej, the second day of Ashadh month, as per the Hindu calendar. For people of Kutch, this day is associated with beginning of rains in Kutch, Gujarat. Kutch is largely a desert area therefore people living value rain very much.
- Ashadhi-beej is celebrated mainly at two places in India – VishvaNath temple in Varanasi, UP and Mulesh Mahadev in Umreth, Gujarat.
- Coincidentally on Ashadi Beej the famous Jagannath Rath Yatra takes place in Ahmedabad and Puri.

Q 51.B

- Recently, the Pink City, Jaipur got the UNESCO World Heritage status. For a city to be designated as world heritage under UNESCO, it has to
 - Be of 'outstanding universal value',
 - Needs to commit to protect and conserve its heritage
- In 2017, old Ahmedabad was India's first city to win the 'heritage city' tag. With Jaipur's inclusion, the number of heritage sites across India that are on the UNESCO World Heritage list, has grown to 38, including 30 cultural properties, 7 natural properties and 1 mixed site. **Hence options 1 and 3 are correct.**
- **Although there are 3 World Heritage Sites in Agra (Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri and Agra Fort), Agra itself is not a World Heritage City. Hence option 2 is not correct.**

Q 52.C

- **Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) is a Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) cum Representative Body of the Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), registered with the Reserve Bank of India.** Playing the role of a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) on a voluntary basis, FIDC has a Code of Conduct for the members and made all efforts to bridge the communication gap between the regulator and the regulated.
- **FIDC was formed in 2004, and is the recognized face of NBFCs, especially, those engaged in assets and loan financing.**
- The Managing Committee of FIDC gives representation to small/medium and large NBFCs. The Managing Committee Meetings are held at least, once in every quarter in major cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and in other cities on rotation basis. **It is headquartered in Mumbai.**
- Key activities it undertakes:
 - Invited by the Finance Minister for **pre-budget discussion since past many years.**
 - Invited by Governor / Dy Governor and other senior officials at RBI for policy and supervision related matters.
 - Invited by RBI to address senior state govt. and state police officers
 - Invited by Economic Advisory Council to the P.M. for **discussion on steps to be taken to boost credit off take in retail lending.**
 - Invited by all the relevant Expert Committees / Task Force setup by Govt of India / RBI
 - Invited by Parliamentary Standing Committees on Finance, Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code and SARFAESI Act on legislative enactments/amendments.
 - Invited to present at the leading National and International Conferences/Conventions
 - Invited to be Spokesperson and Panel Discussion on various aspects by Print & Electronic Media.
- It is coming in news frequently in the wake of NBFCs crisis.

Q 53.D

- **Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe formally declared the launch of Osaka Track at the G20 summit in Japan** this year. He had first introduced the idea in a speech at this year's World Economic Forum. The initiative seeks to standardise rules of global movement of data with enhanced protection for personal information, intellectual property and cybersecurity. **"Osaka Track" is a framework to promote cross-border data flow with enhanced protections. Hence statement (d) is the correct answer.**

- Twenty-four countries and groupings signed a statement agreeing to the Osaka Track. **India, Indonesia, Egypt and South Africa did not sign the declaration.** The declaration described the **Osaka Track** as “a process which demonstrates our commitment to promote international policy discussions, inter alia, international rule-making on trade-related aspects of electronic commerce at the WTO”.
- **India boycotted Osaka Track at the G20 summit.** India is among the many countries that have stressed on data localisation, with the Reserve Bank of India issuing a directive last year that mandated foreign firms to store their payments data within the country for “unfettered access...for supervisory purposes”.
- American firms like Google, Mastercard, Visa and Amazon have lobbied against data localisation rules around the world, including India. India’s view and the view of BRICS countries was that data should be discussed within the World Trade Organization context and not outside of it. US opposes data localisation and policies which have been used to restrict digital trade flows and violate privacy and intellectual property protection.

Q 54.B

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established under Food Safety and Standards, 2006 which consolidates various acts & orders that have hitherto handled food-related issues in various Ministries and Departments. FSSAI has been created for laying down science-based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.
- **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI.** The Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have already been appointed by the Government of India. The Chairperson is in the rank of Secretary to Government of India.
- **Repurpose Used Cooking Oil** is an initiative of FSSAI to enable **conversion of used cooking oil into biodiesel** which keeps a check on diversion of used cooking oil into the food chain, as the **used cooking oil is a health hazard.**
- In October 2016, FSSAI operationalized the Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016 for fortifying staples namely Wheat Flour and Rice (with Iron, Vitamin B12 and Folic Acid), Milk and Edible Oil (with Vitamins A and D) and Double Fortified Salt (with Iodine and Iron) to reduce the high burden of micronutrient malnutrition in India. **The ‘+F’ logo has been notified to identify fortified foods.**
- **Hence only statement 3 is correct.**

Q 55.C

- At present (2016), a party is recognised as a state party in a state if any of the following conditions is fulfilled:
 - If it secures six per cent of the valid votes polled in the state at a general election to the legislative assembly of the state concerned; and, in addition, it **wins 2 seats** in the assembly of the state concerned; or
 - **If it secures six per cent of the valid votes polled in the state at a general election to the Lok Sabha from the state concerned; and, in addition, it wins 1 seat in the Lok Sabha from the state concerned; or**
 - **If it wins three per cent of seats in the legislative assembly at a general election to the legislative assembly of the state concerned** or 3 seats in the assembly, whichever is more; or
 - If it wins 1 seat in the Lok Sabha for every 25 seats or any fraction thereof allotted to the state at a general election to the Lok Sabha from the state concerned; or
 - **If it secures eight per cent of the total valid votes polled in the state at a General Election to the Lok Sabha from the state** or to the legislative assembly of the state. This condition was added in 2011.

Q 56.B

- The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019 amends the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, which, provides for a National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), State Human Rights Commissions (SHRC), as well as Human Rights Courts.
- **Composition of NHRC:** Under the earlier Act, the chairperson of the NHRC is a person who has been a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. **The amendment provides that a person who has been Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or a former Judge of the Supreme Court will be the chairperson of the NHRC.**
- Under the earlier Act, chairpersons of various commissions such as the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, and National Commission for Women are members of the NHRC. **The amendment provides for including the chairpersons of the National Commission for Backward Classes, the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities as members of the NHRC.**
- **Term of office:** The earlier Act stated that the chairperson and members of the NHRC and SHRC will hold office for five years or till the age of seventy years, whichever is earlier. **The amendment reduces the term of office to three years or till the age of seventy years, whichever is earlier.** Further, the earlier Act allowed for the reappointment of members of the NHRC and SHRCs for a period of five years. **The amendment removes the five-year limit for reappointment.**
- **Hence only statements 2 and 3 are correct.**

Q 57.C

- The eligibility criteria laid down by the Government for grant of Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna status to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are following:
 - **Criteria for grant of Maharatna status:** The CPSEs fulfilling the following criteria are eligible to be considered for grant of Maharatna status.
 - **Having a Navratna status. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Listed on Indian stock exchange with minimum prescribed public shareholding under SEBI regulations.
 - Average annual turnover of more than Rs. 25,000 crore, during the last 3 years.
 - Average annual net worth of more than Rs. 15,000 crore, during the last 3 years.
 - Average annual net profit after tax of more than Rs. 5,000 crore, during the last 3 years.\
 - Should have a significant global presence/international operations.
 - **Criteria for grant of Navratna status:** The Miniratna Category – I and Schedule ‘A’ CPSEs, which have obtained ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’ rating under the Memorandum of Understanding system in three of the last five years, and have composite score of 60 or above in the six selected performance parameters, namely,
 - net profit to net worth,
 - manpower cost to total cost of production/services,
 - profit before depreciation, interest and taxes to capital employed,
 - profit before interest and taxes to turnover,
 - earning per share and
 - inter-sectoral performance.
 - **Criteria for grant of Miniratna status:** The CPSEs which have made profits in the last three years continuously and have positive net worth are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna status. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Presently, there are 8 Maharatna, 16 Navratna and 73 Miniratna CPSEs (as on June 2019). Hence, statement 3 is not correct.** Eight Maharatna CPSEs include:
 - Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
 - Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
 - Coal India Limited
 - GAIL (India) Limited

- Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- NTPC Limited
- Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited 8. Steel Authority of India Limited

Q 58.A

- Bombay State was a large Indian state created at the time of India's Independence. On 1 November 1956, Bombay State was reorganized under the States Reorganisation Act on linguistic lines, absorbing various territories including the Saurashtra and Kutch States, which ceased to exist. **On 1 May 1960, Bombay State was dissolved and split on linguistic lines into the two states** of Gujarat, with the Gujarati speaking population and Maharashtra, with the Marathi speaking population.
- When India became a free nation, Portugal continued to hold on to Goa, Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. With Portugal unwilling to give up its control over these enclaves, the Indian government eventually authorised its military to launch an operation to take over Goa, and Daman and Diu. **On December 19, 1961, Goa was freed from the Portuguese dominion after an extended freedom movement and army operation (Operation Vijay).**
- While the rest of India celebrated its Independence Day on August 15, 1947, Pondicherry, as it was formerly known, remained a French colony. Fifteen years after India gained Independence, this small French colony was liberated on **August 16, 1962 when Pondicherry was officially merged with the Indian Union.**
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 59.D

- The MOSAiC mission stands for Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate. The goal of the MOSAiC expedition is to take the closest look ever at the Arctic as the epicenter of global warming and to gain fundamental insights that are key to better understand global climate change. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Key highlights of proposed mission:
 - In a couple of months, the German icebreaker ship RV Polarstern will set out for the Arctic packed with supplies and scientific equipment for a year-long mission.
 - They will anchor the ship to a large piece of sea ice and allow the water to freeze around them, effectively trapping themselves in the vast sheet of white that forms over the North Pole each winter.
 - They will build temporary winter research camps on the ice, allowing them to perform tests that wouldn't be possible at other times of the year or by satellite sensing.
 - Scientists from 17 nations will take part in the year-long mission. Scientists from the United States, China, Russia and other countries will be rotating every two months as other icebreakers bring fresh supplies.
 - The mission has received funding from U.S. institutions such as the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and NASA.
- Research stations set up by India in Antarctica: Under the environmental protocol of the Antarctic Treaty (1959), India has set up three research stations up till now - Dakshin Gangotri, Maitri and Bharati. Maitri is not a partner institution in MosAic Mission. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.** Of which Dakshin Gangotri has been decommissioned and Maitri and Bharati are operational.
- **Related Information:**
 - **Antarctic Treaty, 1959:** The Antarctic Treaty originated in the Cold War-era cooperation. 12 original signatories to this treaty are: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States and USSR
 - The Treaty's framers intended to guarantee that "... **Antarctica shall continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and shall not become the scene or object of international discord.**"

- The Treaty covers everything south of 60° South latitude, now known as the **Antarctic Treaty Area (ATA)**.
- Among other things, the Treaty **prohibits nuclear explosions, radioactive waste disposal, and military deployments in the ATA**. (However, using military personnel to support scientists is specifically allowed, as well as “for any other peaceful purpose.”)
- The Treaty’s goal is also to encourage international cooperation in **scientific research**.
- **Maitri is India’s second permanent research station in Antarctica**. It was built and finished in 1989, shortly before the first station Dakshin Gangotri was buried in ice and abandoned in 1990/91. Maitri is situated on the rocky mountainous region called Schirmacher Oasis. India also built a freshwater lake around Maitri known as Lake Priyadarshini. The research station is only 5 km away from the Russian Novolazarevskaya Station and is equipped to carry out research in various disciplines, such as biology, earth sciences, glaciology, atmospheric sciences, meteorology, cold region engineering, communication, human physiology, and medicine.
- **Bharati is India’s third Antarctic research facility working on trial basis since 2012**. It is located between Thala Fjord & Quilty bay, east of Stornes Peninsula in Antarctica. Its latest technology facilitates research on refining the current understanding of the Indian subcontinent’s geological history (India and Antarctica were once part of the southern part of the supercontinent Pangaea, called Gondwanaland, and their coastlines have a shared history) Bharati made India an elite member of the club of 9 nations that have multiple stations in the region
- The **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (earlier known as National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research) is a research and development body**. Since 1998, it is charged with conducting expeditions to India’s base stations to the continent. It functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India. The same **also controls the Indian Antarctic programme**.

Q 60.C

- The Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) project of the World Bank reports aggregate and individual governance indicators for over 200 countries and territories over the period 1996–2018, for six dimensions of governance:
 - Voice and Accountability
 - **Political Stability and Absence of Violence**
 - Government Effectiveness
 - **Regulatory Quality**
 - **Rule of Law**
 - Control of Corruption
- These aggregate indicators combine the views of a large number of enterprise, citizen and expert survey respondents in industrial and developing countries. They are based on over 30 individual data sources produced by a variety of survey institutes, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and private sector firms.
- **Hence only option 2 is not correct.**

Q 61.C

- **Statement 1 is correct:** National Informatics Centre (NIC) is an executive authority under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. National Informatics Centre (NIC) was established in 1976, and has since emerged as a “prime builder” of e-Government / e-Governance applications up to the grassroots level as well as a promoter of digital opportunities for sustainable development.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It provides network backbone and e-Governance support to Central Government, State Governments, UT Administrations, Districts and other Government bodies. It offers a wide range of ICT services including Nationwide Communication Network for decentralized planning, improvement in Government services and wider transparency of national and local Governments. NIC assists in implementing Information Technology Projects, in close collaboration with Central and State Governments, in the areas of (a) Centrally sponsored schemes and Central sector schemes, (b) State sector

and State sponsored projects, and (c) District Administration sponsored projects. NIC endeavours to ensure that the latest technology in all areas of IT is available to its users.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Some of the major initiatives of the NIC include -:
 - data.gov.in - A platform for supporting Open Data initiative of Government of India
 - **Public Financial Management System - Facilitating Transparency and Accountability in the use of Public Funds**
 - Manav Sampada -An electronic Human Resource Management
 - e-Vidhaan - To automate the functioning of legislative assembly
 - Darpan - Dashboard for Analytical Review of Projects across the nation
 - **MyGov - Citizen Engagement Platform Virtual Place for Public to Interact with Government**

Q 62.C

- **Using gold nanoparticles Indian scientists have developed a new material called “black gold”, which can potentially be used for applications ranging from solar energy harvesting to desalinating seawater.** Gold does not have these properties, therefore ‘black gold’ is being called a new material. **In appearance it is black, hence the name ‘black gold’. Hence statement 1 is not correct and statement 2 is correct.**
- To develop the material, the team from the Mumbai-based Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) rearranged the size and gaps between gold nanoparticles. **It has unique properties such as the capacity to absorb light and carbon dioxide (CO₂). Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- One of the most fascinating properties of the new material is its ability to absorb the entire visible and near-infrared region of solar light. It does so because of inter-particle plasmonic coupling as well as heterogeneity in nanoparticle size. The material can be used as a nano-heater to convert seawater into potable water with good efficiency
- Black gold could also act as a catalyst and could convert CO₂ into methane at atmospheric pressure and temperature using solar energy. The efficiency of conversion of CO₂ into fuel, at present, is low but researchers believe it could be improved in the future.
- It also has the potential application in purification of seawater to potable water via steam generation using solar energy under atmospheric reaction conditions.

Q 63.D

- The Election Commission registers political parties for the purpose of elections and grants them recognition as national or state parties on the basis of their poll performance. The other parties are simply declared as registered-unrecognized parties.
- The recognition granted by the Commission to the parties determines their right to certain privileges like allocation of the party symbols, provision of time for political broadcasts on the state-owned television and radio stations and access to electoral rolls.
- The nomination of a candidate in a parliamentary or assembly constituency should be subscribed by 10 registered electors of the constituency as proposers, if the candidate is not sponsored by a recognised political party. **In the case of a candidate sponsored by a recognised political party, only one proposer is required. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Also, **these parties are allowed to have forty “star campaigners” during the time of elections and the registered–unrecognized parties are allowed to have twenty “star campaigners”.** The travel expenses of these star campaigners are not included in the election expenditure of the candidates of their parties. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- Every national party is allotted a symbol exclusively reserved for its use throughout the country. Similarly, every state party is allotted a symbol exclusively reserved for its use in the state or states in which it is so recognised. A registered-unrecognized party, on the other hand, can select a symbol from a list of free symbols. In other words, **the Commission specifies certain symbols as ‘reserved symbols’ which are meant for the candidates set up by the recognised parties and others as ‘free symbols’ which are meant for other candidates. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 64.B

- **The Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS) to be implemented that would help in automatic identification and verification of persons from digital images, photos, digital sketches, video frames and video sources by comparison of selected facial features of the image from an already existing image database.** A Facial Recognition System is a great investigation enhancer for identification of: criminals, missing children/persons, unidentified dead bodies and unknown traced children/persons. It can provide Investigating Officers of the Civil Police with the required tools, technology, and information.
- **Technology involved:**
 - **Deep learning algorithms** are used by the biometric software for comparing a live CCTV footage or digital image stored in the database for verifying the identity of an individual. **The AI (artificial intelligence) technology used to find and match patterns is known as ‘neural networks’.**
 - Till now, facial recognition has been done manually in India. **While iris scans and fingerprints are used for providing accurate matching results, AFRS will be used for carrying out automatic facial recognition and identification, especially amongst crowds. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
 - Automated Facial Recognition System involves a large database (of photos as well as videos of peoples’ faces) and biometric software. **The software maps facial features (80 nodal points on a person’s face including length/width of a person’s nose, eye sockets’ depth, cheekbones’ shape, etc.) of an individual mathematically and stores the data as a faceprint in the database.**
- **The AFRS, being implemented by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), is a component of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), a national database of crimes and criminals. Facial recognition has been proposed in the CCTNS program since its origin. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- NCRB has proposed integrating this facial recognition system with multiple existing databases as well like Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS), as well as state-specific systems, the Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT), and the Khoya Paya portal on missing children, etc.
- Some allege that it may violate the privacy of the individuals as unlike other types of biometric data collection, such as fingerprints and iris scanning, facial recognition technology can collect information on people without them being aware of it.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation’s “DigiYatra” using facial recognition for airport entry was trialled in the Hyderabad airport in July 2019. State governments have also taken their own steps towards facial recognition. Telangana police launched their own system in August 2018.
- **About Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS):** Following the Mumbai attacks in 2009, CCTNS was conceptualized by the Ministry of Home Affairs. CCTNS aims at creating a comprehensive and integrated system for enhancing the efficiency and effective policing at all levels and especially at the Police Station level through adoption of principles of e-Governance, and creation of a nationwide networked infrastructure for evolution of IT-enabled state-of-the-art tracking system around "investigation of crime and detection of criminals" in real time, which is a critical requirement in the context of the present day internal security scenario. Its broad objectives are:
 - Provide citizen centric police services via a web portal
 - Pan India search on National database of Crime & Criminal records
 - Crime and Criminal reports at State and Centre
 - Computerization of police processes

Q 65.B

- **The University Grants Commission (UGC)** has approved a new scheme - ‘Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India’s Developing Economy’ (STRIDE). Broadly, **STRIDE will provide support to research projects that are socially relevant, locally need-based, nationally important and globally significant.** STRIDE shall support research capacity building as well as basic, applied and transformational action research that can contribute to national priorities with focus on inclusive human development. STRIDE shall support creation, development and integration of new ideas, concepts and practices for public good and strengthening civil society.

- **STRIDE Objectives:**
 - **To identify young talent, strengthen research culture, build capacity, promote innovation and support trans-disciplinary research for India's developing economy and national development.**
 - To fund multi-institutional network high-impact research projects in humanities and human sciences.
- **STRIDE has three components:**
 - It will endeavour to identify the motivated young talents with research and innovation aptitude in universities and colleges.
 - It will be mainly to enhance problem-solving skills with help of social innovation and action research to improve the wellbeing of people and contribute for India's developing economy.
 - It will fund high impact research projects in the identified thrust areas in humanities and human sciences through national network of eminent scientists from leading institutions.

Q 66.D

- e-Governance is the use of technological communications devices, such as computers and the Internet to provide public services to citizens and other persons in a country or region. It can be categorized into a variety of models namely - C2G (between a citizen and their government), G2G (between governments and other government agencies), G2C (between government and citizens), G2E (between government and employees), and G2B (between government and businesses/commerces). Some of the examples of Government to Business (G2B) e-Governance Services include -:
 - **Goods and Services Tax Network**
 - It is a unique IT initiative to establish a uniform interface for the tax payer and a common and shared IT infrastructure between the Centre and States.
 - The portal envisions becoming a trusted National Information Utility (NIU) which provides reliable, efficient and robust IT Backbone for the smooth functioning of the Goods & Services Tax regime enabling economic agents to leverage the entire nation as One Market with minimal Indirect Tax compliance cost.
 - **Hence, option 1 is correct.**
 - Udyog Aadhaar - a National Portal for Registration of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
 - **Shram Suvidha Portal**
 - It facilitates businessmen to get all kinds of registrations and submit returns that are required under labour laws at a single online window. It also makes available to them the inspection reports prepared by the enforcement agency inspectors online.
 - The procedures have been simplified; returns and registration forms have been unified to provide a business environment that encourages compliance by reducing transaction costs and promoting ease of business.
 - **Hence, option 2 is correct**
 - **Government e-marketplace**
 - Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is a one stop portal to facilitate online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Government Departments from various vendors.
 - It aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement. It provides the tools of e-bidding, reverse e-auction and demand aggregation to facilitate the government users achieve the best value for their money.
 - **Hence, option 3 is correct**
 - **NREGASoft**
 - It is a e-Governance initiative for implementation of MNREGA across State, District and three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions. It empowers the common man using the information technology as a facilitator.
 - It makes available all the documents like Muster Rolls, registration application register, job card/employment register/muster roll issue register, muster roll receipt register which are hidden from public otherwise.
 - It has the following e-Governance models incorporated into it -:
 - **Udyog Aadhaar** - a National Portal for Registration of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
 - **Shram Suvidha Portal**
 - **Government e-marketplace**
 - **NREGASoft**

- ❖ G2G - All transaction between all NREGA stakeholders are captured in the system. So all G2G services are IT enabled.
 - ❖ **G2B - Data from NREGA is shared with Banks/Post offices etc.**
 - ❖ G2C - Issue of job card; Acknowledgement of dated receipt of demand; Work site allocation slip
 - ❖ C2G - A local language enabled sound and icon based Kiosk model has been developed for workers to use the system and exercise their rights on their own. For e.g Demand for job, to lodge grievance etc.
- **Hence, option 4 is correct.**

Q 67.B

- Right to Information Act, 2005 was enacted with an aim to promote transparency and accountability in the working of all public authorities, by empowering citizens to obtain information from the public authorities. The law is comprehensive and covers disclosure of information on almost all matters of governance. It is applicable to Government at all levels—Central, State and Local (both rural and urban) and also to the bodies owned, controlled or substantially financed by the government, as well as to the non-governmental organizations receiving government grants. It covers the legislature, the judiciary, the executive and all constitutional bodies. The salient features (or provisions) of the Act are as follows:
 - The Act confers on all citizens the right of access to the information and, correspondingly, makes the dissemination of such information an obligation on all public authorities.
 - **The Act [Section(4)]:** It shall be a constant endeavour of **every public authority** to take steps in accordance with the requirements of clause (b) of sub-section (1) **to provide as much information suo moto to the public at regular intervals** through various means of communications, including internet, so that the public have minimum resort to the use of this Act to obtain information. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
 - It fixes a 30-day deadline for providing information; the deadline is 48 hours if the information concerns the life or liberty of a person.
 - **Information will be free for people below the poverty line.** For others, the fee will be reasonable. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - It provides for the appointment of a public information officer in each department to provide information to the public on request.
 - Government bodies have to publish details of staff payments and budgets.
 - Certain types of information are exempted from disclosure. These relate to sovereignty and integrity of India, security, the scientific or economic interest of the country, cabinet deliberations and so on.
 - **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) can file RTI applications under the Act to seek governance-related information. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - It provides for the establishment of a Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions to implement the provisions of the Act. They will be high-powered independent bodies to act as appellate authorities and vested with the powers of a civil court.
 - The Act overrides the Official Secrets Act, 1923. The information commissions can allow access to the information if public interest outweighs the harm to protected persons.
 - Its purview does not extend to intelligence and security organizations like Intelligence Bureau, RAW, BSF, CISF, NSG and so on. However, information pertaining to allegations of corruption or violation of human rights by these organizations will not be excluded.

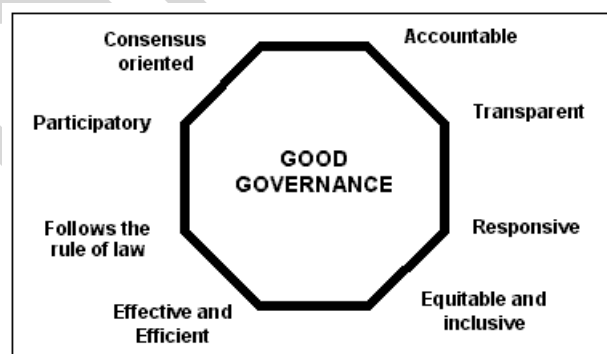
Q 68.B

- In order to encourage, promote and assist voluntary action in rural development with a focus on Injecting new technology inputs for enhancement of rural prosperity, the Government, set up the council for the Advancement of people's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART). It is a registered autonomous body under the Ministry of Rural Development.
- Objectives of CAPART:
 - To encourage, promote and assist voluntary action for the implementation of projects intending enhancement of rural prosperity. **Hence, option (c) is correct.**
 - To strengthen and promote voluntary efforts in rural development with a focus on injecting new technological inputs.

- To act as a catalyst for the development of technology appropriate for rural areas. **Hence, option (a) is correct.**
- To promote, plan, undertake, develop, maintain and support projects/schemes aimed at all round development, creation of employment opportunities, promotion of self-reliance, generation of awareness organisation and improvement in the quality of life of the people in rural areas through voluntary action. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**
- CAPART's initiatives are not channelised through State Departments/District Administration. Monitoring, evaluation and selection of NGOs is done directly by CAPART Headquarters and its regional offices. **Hence, option (b) is not correct.**

Q 69.D

- Good governance comprises the existence of effective mechanisms, processes, and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences.
- Its essential characteristics are:
 - **Participation**-All men and women should have a voice in decision-making, either directly or through legitimate intermediate institutions that represent their interests. Such broad participation is built on freedom of association and speech, as well as on the capacity to participate constructively.
 - **Rule of law**-Legal frameworks should be fair and enforced impartially, particularly the laws on human rights.
 - **Transparency**- This concept is built on the free flow of information. Processes, institutions, and information should be directly accessible to those concerned, and enough information should be provided to render them understandable and monitorable.
 - **Responsiveness**-Institutions and processes should serve all stakeholders.
 - **Consensus orientation**-Good governance should mediate differing interests in order to reach a broad consensus on the best interests of the group and, where possible, on policies and procedures.
 - **Equity**- All men and women should have equal opportunity to maintain or improve their well-being.
 - **Effectiveness and efficiency**-Processes and institutions should produce results that meet needs while making the best use of resources.
 - **Accountability**-Decision-makers in government, the private sector, and civil society organizations should be accountable to the public as well as to institutional stakeholders. This accountability differs depending on the organization and whether the decision is internal or external to an organization.
 - **Strategic vision**- Leaders and the public should have a broad and long-term perspective on good governance and human development, together with a sense of what is needed for such development. There should also be an understanding of the historical, cultural and social complexities in which that perspective is grounded.



Q 70.A

- In the Prakash Singh judgment of 2006, the apex court issued various directions to the center and states including-
- Constitute a **State Security Commission** in every state that will lay down policy for police functioning, evaluate police performance, and ensure that state governments do not exercise unwarranted influence on the police.
- Constitute a **Police Establishment Board** in every state that will decide postings, transfers and promotions for officers below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police, and make recommendations to the state government for officers of higher ranks.

- Constitute **Police Complaints Authorities** at the state and district levels to inquire into allegations of serious misconduct and abuse of power by police personnel.
- Provide a **minimum tenure of at least two years for the DGP** and other key police officers (e.g., officers in charge of a police station and district) within the state forces, and the Chiefs of the central forces to protect them against arbitrary transfers and postings.
- Ensure that the **DGP of state police is appointed from amongst three senior-most officers who have been empanelled** for the promotion by the Union Public Service Commission on the basis of length of service, good record, and experience.
- Separate the **investigating police from the law and order police** to ensure speedier investigation, better expertise and improved rapport with the people.
- Constitute a **National Security Commission** to shortlist the candidates for appointment as Chiefs of the central armed police forces.
- The Court required immediate implementation of its orders either through executive orders or new police legislation. Initially, the Court itself monitored compliance of all states and union territories. However, in 2008 it set up a three-member Monitoring Committee with a two-year mandate to examine compliance state by state and report back to it periodically.

Q 71.D

- Citizen's Charter is a document which represents a systematic effort to focus on the commitment of the Organisation towards its Citizens -:
 - Vision and Mission Statement of the Organisation
 - **Details of Business transacted by the Organisation**
 - Details of 'Citizens' or 'Clients'
 - **Statement of services including standards, quality, time frame etc. provided to each Citizen/ Client group separately and how/ where to get the services**
 - **Details of Grievance Redress Mechanism and how to access it**
 - **Expectations from the 'Citizens' or 'Clients'**
 - Additional commitments such as compensation in the event of failure of service delivery.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 72.A

- The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) is a high powered body to advise the government on management and top level appointments of central Public Sector Enterprises. It has been set up with the objective of evolving a sound managerial policy for the Central Public Sector Enterprises and, in particular, to advise Government on appointments to their top management posts. **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.**
- **Specific functions assigned to the P.E.S.B include the following:**
 - To be responsible for the selection and placement of personnel in the posts of Chairman, Managing Director or Chairman-cum-Managing Director (Level-I), and Functional Director (Level-II) in PSEs as well as in posts at any other level as may be specified by the Government;
 - To advise the Government on matters relating to appointments, confirmation or extension of tenure and termination of services of the personnel of the above mentioned levels;
 - To advise the Government on the desired structure at the Board level, and, for senior management personnel, for each PSE or group of PSEs;
 - To advise the Government on a suitable performance appraisal system for both the PSEs and the managerial personnel in such enterprises;
 - To build a data bank containing data relating to the performance of PSEs and its officers;
 - To advise the Government on formulation and enforcement of a code of conduct and ethics for managerial personnel in PSEs;
 - To advise the Government on evolving suitable training and development programs for management personnel in PSEs.

- **Constitution of the Board:** The P.E.S.B shall consist of a part-time or full-time Chairperson and three full-time Members. The Chairperson and Members shall be persons who have had a long and distinguished career in management of public or private corporations or public administration and have a proven record of achievements, preferably, in the field of personnel, finance, production or marketing. The three full-time Members of P.E.S.B shall be:
 - A distinguished serving or former Chief Executive of a Public Sector or Private Sector or Joint Sector Enterprise.
 - A distinguished person with experience in selection of Top Management personnel.
 - A distinguished serving or former Civil servant with experience in management of PSEs or in areas of finance, industry or economic affairs.
- **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 73.C

- A trio of researchers led by Assam forest officer Jatindra Sarma has discovered *Dracaena cambodiana*, a dragon tree species in the Dongka Sarpo area of West Karbi Anglong. **This is for the first time that a dragon tree species has been reported from India.**
- *Dracaena cambodiana* is an important medicinal plant as well as an ornamental tree. It is a major source of dragon's blood, a precious traditional medicine in China. Several antifungal and antibacterial compounds, antioxidants, flavonoids, etc., have been extracted from various parts of the plant. **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 74.A

- Vacancies for promotion/selection to the All India Services have been determined by the respective Cadre Controlling Authorities in consultation with the State Governments concerned,
- The vacancies to be filled under the Promotion Quota for each year are determined by the Central Government in consultation with the respective State Government and the final appointments are also made by the Central Government.
- **The Central Government is the cadre controlling authority for the three All India Services.** In terms of the provisions of the respective IAS/IPS/IFS Promotion Regulations, the Central Government means:
 - Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions for IAS
 - Ministry of Home Affairs for IPS
 - Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change for IFS. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- All India Services Branch is one of the branches of UPSC, whose main function is to assist the Commission in the induction of State Services Officers into the All India Services through Promotion or by Selection. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- AIS branch deals only with the appointment by the promotion of State Civil Service (SCS)/State Police Service (SPS)/State Forest Service (SFS) Officers to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS)/Indian Police Service (IPS)/Indian Forest Service (IFS) respectively and appointment by Selection of Non-State Civil Services (NSCS) Officers to the IAS.

Q 75.B

- Digital Signature Certificates (DSC) are the digital equivalent (that is electronic format) of physical or paper certificates. Digital certificates can be presented electronically to prove one's identity, to access information or services on the Internet or to sign certain documents digitally.
- **Statement 1 is not correct:** A licensed Certifying Authority (CA) issues the digital signature. Certifying Authority (CA) means a person who has been granted a license to issue a digital signature certificate under Section 24 of the Indian IT-Act 2000.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Digital Signatures are legally admissible in a Court of Law, as provided under the provisions of IT Act, 2000.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The Certifying Authorities are authorized to issue a Digital Signature Certificate with a validity of one or two years.

Q 76.B

- The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 replaces the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
- **Definition of consumer:** A consumer is defined as a person who buys any goods or avails a service for a consideration. **It does not include a person who obtains a good for resale or a good or service for commercial purposes.** It covers transactions through all modes including offline, and online through electronic means, teleshopping, multi-level marketing or direct selling.
- Rights of consumers: Six consumer rights have been defined in the Act, including the right to:
 - be protected against marketing of goods and services which are hazardous to life and property;
 - be informed of the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard and price of goods or services;
 - be assured of access to a variety of goods or services at competitive prices; and
 - seek redressal against unfair or restrictive trade practices.
- Central Consumer Protection Authority: The central government will set up a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers. It will regulate matters related to violation of consumer rights, unfair trade practices, and misleading advertisements. The CCPA will have an investigation wing, headed by a Director-General, which may conduct inquiry or investigation into such violations.
- **Penalties for misleading advertisement:** The CCPA may impose a **penalty on a manufacturer or an endorser** of up to Rs 10 lakh and imprisonment for up to two years for a false or misleading advertisement. In case of a subsequent offence, the fine may extend to Rs 50 lakh and imprisonment of up to five years. **CCPA can also prohibit the endorser of a misleading advertisement from endorsing that particular product or service for a period of up to one year.** For every subsequent offence, the period of prohibition may extend to three years. However, there are certain exceptions when an endorser will not be held liable for such a penalty.
- **Product liability:** Product liability means **the liability of a product manufacturer, service provider or seller to compensate a consumer for any harm or injury caused by a defective good or deficient service.** To claim compensation, a consumer has to prove any one of the conditions for defect or deficiency, as given in the Act.
- **Hence, only statement 3 is correct.**

Q 77.A

- EVMs or Electronic Voting Machines provide the voter with a button for each choice which is connected by a cable to an electronic ballot box. An EVM consists of two units - **control unit and balloting unit** - and these two are connected by a five-meter cable. When a voter presses a button against the candidate he/she wishes to vote for, the machine locks itself. EVM can be opened only with a new ballot number. This way, EVMs ensure that one person gets to vote only once.
- EVMs were first used in 70-Parur (currently Paravur) **Assembly Constituency of Kerala in the year 1982.** An EVM being used by ECI can record a **maximum of 2,000 votes.** **Hence statement 1 is correct and statement 2 not is correct.**
- The EVMs have been devised and designed by the Technical Experts Committee (TEC) of the Election Commission in collaboration with two Public Sector undertakings viz., **Bharat Electronics Ltd., Bangalore (Ministry of Defence) and Electronic Corporation of India Ltd., Hyderabad (Department of Atomic Energy).** The EVMs are manufactured by the above two undertakings.
- In case of M2 EVMs (2006-10), EVMs could cater to a maximum of 64 candidates including NOTA. There is provision for 16 candidates in a Balloting Unit. If the total number of candidates exceeds 16, more balloting units can be attached (one per 16 candidates) up to a maximum of 64 candidates by connecting 4 Balloting Units. However in case of M3 EVMs (Post 2013), **EVMs can cater to a maximum of 384 candidates including NOTA by connecting 24 Balloting Units. . EVMs do not require electricity.** **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 78.D

- Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) is provided under Article 148.
- He is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department¹. He is the guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels—the Centre and the state.
- Comptroller and Auditor General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971 defines various provision related to the office of CAG.
- Sections 10 to 12 of the Act deal with the responsibility of the Comptroller and Auditor General in relation to compilation of the accounts of the Union and the States and the Union Territories with Legislatures.
 - The second proviso to section 10 authorizes the Governor of a State to relieve the Comptroller and Auditor General, with the previous approval of the President and after consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General, by order, from the responsibility of compiling the accounts of the State. **Hence option (a) is correct.**
 - CAG is relieved from the responsibility of compiling accounts of Union Territories except for Union Territory of Chandigarh, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep.
 - In so far as the States are concerned, Comptroller and Auditor General continue to:
 - **compile the accounts of all States except the State of Goa. Hence option (b) is correct.**
 - keep such accounts in relation to compilation of accounts of the States as may be necessary
 - prepare the Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts thereof.
- Schedule VI deals with the administration of Tribal Areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
 - District Fund is constituted for each autonomous district and a Regional Fund for each autonomous region.
 - **The Comptroller and Auditor-General shall cause the audit of accounts of the District and Regional Councils. Hence option (c) is correct.**
- Regarding powers to levy penalty for non-disclosure of information
 - At times, government departments don't share information with CAG despite repeated reminders.
 - Successive CAGs have written to the Centre seeking powers similar to what a common citizen enjoys under RTI where denial of information invites punitive measures.
 - CAG wants powers under RTI Act where a penalty can be levied if the information is denied within a specified time. **Hence option (d) is not correct.**

Q 79.D

- 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 provides that 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.
- The 73rd Constitutional Amendment includes the reservation of seats (both members and chairpersons) for SCs and STs as a mandatory provision, but the reservation for the backward classes is a voluntary provision. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as or for being a member of panchayat if he is so disqualified,
 - under any law for the time being in force for the purpose of elections to the legislature of the state concerned, or
 - under any law made by the state legislature. However, no person shall be disqualified on the ground that he is less than 25 years of age if he has attained the age of 21 years.
 - Further, all questions of disqualifications shall be referred to such authority as the state legislature determines. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 80.B

- In the Union Budget speech of the Finance Minister, she talked of Subhash Palekar, a 70-year-old farmer practising **Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)** in Belura village of Amravati district in Maharashtra's drought-prone Vidarbha region.
- According to the "zero budget" concept, farmers won't have to spend any money on fertilisers and other agricultural inputs. While over 98% of the nutrients that crops require — carbon dioxide, nitrogen, water, solar energy — are already present in nature, the remaining 1.5-2% are taken from the soil, after microorganisms convert them from "non-available" to "available" forms, for intake by the roots.
- **'Jiwamrita', 'Bijamrita', 'Mulching' and 'Waaphasa' are the four basic tenets of ZBNF. Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
 - Jiwamrita is a fermented mixture of cow dung and urine (of desi breeds), jaggery, pulses flour, water and soil from the farm bund. This isn't a fertiliser, but just a source of some 500 crore microorganisms that can convert all the necessary "non-available" nutrients into "available" form.
 - Bijamrita is a mix of desi cow dung and urine, water, bund soil and lime that is used as a seed treatment solution prior to sowing.
 - Mulching, or covering the plants with a layer of dried straw or fallen leaves, is meant to conserve soil moisture and keep the temperature around the roots at 25-32 degrees Celsius, which allows the microorganisms to do their job.
 - Waaphasa, or providing water to maintain the required moisture-air balance, also achieves the same objective.
- Palekar also advocates the use of special 'Agniastra', 'Bramhastra' and 'Neemastra' concoctions — based on desi cow urine and dung, plus pulp from leaves of neem, white datura, papaya, guava and pomegranates — for controlling pest and disease attacks.

Q 81.B

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** Self-Help Groups are informal associations of people who choose to come together to find ways to improve their living conditions.
- The most important functions of Self-Help Groups are
 - to encourage and motivate its members to save,
 - to persuade them to make a collective plan for generation of additional income, and
 - to act as a conduit for formal banking services to reach them. Such groups work as a collective guarantee system for members who propose to borrow from organised sources.
- **SHG is an informal group and registration under any Societies Act, State cooperative Act or a partnership firm is not mandatory.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Deendayal Antodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is aimed at alleviation of rural poverty through building sustainable community institutions of the poor. Its objectives include mobilizing about 9 crore households into SHGs and linking them to sustainable livelihood opportunities by building their skills and enabling them to access formal sources of finance, entitlements, and services from both public and private sectors. It is envisaged that the intensive and continuous capacity building of rural poor women will ensure their social, economic and political empowerment and development.

Q 82.C

- PART III of Representation of People Act, 1950 describes the provisions related to Electoral Rolls.
- It contains the following provisions:
 - Every Indian citizen who has attained the age of 18 years is eligible to be registered as a voter in the roll of the part/polling area of the constituency where he is ordinarily resident.
 - A person cannot be enrolled as a voter at more than one place in view of the provisions contained in Sections 17 and 18 of Representation of People Act, 1950. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
 - For example, if one is working in Delhi and residing there, he is an ordinary resident of Delhi in terms of Sec 19 (b) of RPA, 1951. Therefore one can be enrolled in Delhi only and not in his/her native place.

- Overseas (NRI) elector
 - An overseas elector is a person who is a citizen of India and who has not acquired citizenship of any other country and is otherwise eligible to be registered as a voter and who is absenting from his place of ordinary residence in India owing to his employment, education or otherwise is eligible to be registered as a voter in the constituency in which his place of residence in India as mentioned in his passport is located.
 - According to the provisions of Section 20A of the Representation of People Act, 1950, an NRI settled in a foreign land can become an elector in the electoral roll in India. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Q 83.D

- The history of Police reforms in India is over 100 years old. From the colonial period to post-independence to the present day, many commissions have been set up to recommend changes on a wide range of issues related to policing and police reform.
 - During the British Era
 - Madras Torture Commission Report - 1855
 - Police Commission - 1863
 - Police Act - 1861
 - **Frazer Commission - 1902**
 - ❖ A Police Commission was established for the Police reforms under Sir Andrew Frazer. It recommended the appointment of Indians at the officer level in the police.
 - Independent India
 - Santhanam Committee - 1964
 - 1st Administrative Reforms Commission - 1967
 - **Gore Committee - 1971**
 - ❖ It was set up by the Government of India studied the training aspects of police and gave several recommendations. The government of India in accepting its recommendations created a Training Division under the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).
 - National Police Commission - 1977-81
 - Ribeiro Committee - 1998-99
 - Padmanabhaiah Committee - 2000
 - GoM on National Security - 2000-01
 - **Malimath Committee - 2001-03**
 - ❖ It was set up to suggest reforms in the Criminal Justice System. Among others, it also suggested major Police reforms. It suggested hiving off the investigation wing from Law and Order. It also recommended setting up of a National Security Commission and State Security Commissions. To improve the quality of investigations, it suggested a slew of measures, including the appointment of an Additional SP in each district to maintain crime data and setting up of a Police Establishment Board to deal with posting and transfers.
 - National Police Mission - 2005
 - 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission - 2005-08
 - **Soli Sorabjee Committee - 2005**
 - ❖ The government of India set up a Police Act Drafting Committee (PADC), headed by Sri Soli Sorabjee Committee, and tasked it to draft a new model bill to guide state government's adoption of new police laws. The PADC was required to take into account the changing roles, responsibilities and challenges of policing.
 - Supreme Court Guidelines (Prakash Singh Judgement) - 2006
 - KT Thomas Committee - 2008
 - JS Verma Committee - 2013
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 84.A

- President gave assent to the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2019, to put in place a mechanism to secure poor depositors/investors from Ponzi schemes. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Major Highlights of the Act:
 - Deposit: The Act defines a deposit as an amount of money received through an advance, a loan, or in any other form, with a promise to be returned with or without interest. Further, the Act defines certain

amounts which shall not be included in the definition of deposits such as amounts received in the form of loans from relatives and contributions towards capital by partners in any partnership firm.

- All deposit-taking schemes are required to be registered with the relevant regulator: Currently, nine regulators oversee and regulate various deposit-taking schemes. These include: The Reserve Bank of India, the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs etc.
- Bans Unregulated deposit scheme: A deposit-taking scheme is defined as unregulated if it is taken for a business purpose and is not registered with the regulators listed in the Act.
- **Competent Authority: The Act provides for the appointment of one or more government officers, not below the rank of Secretary to the state or central government, as the Competent Authority, who can provisionally attach the property of the deposit taker, as well as all deposits received. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- Designated Courts: The Act provides for the constitution of one or more Designated Courts in specified areas who can direct the Competent Authority to sell the property and equitably distribute the money realised among the depositors. The Court will seek to complete the process within 180 days of being approached by the Competent Authority.
- Central database: The Act provides for the central government to designate an authority to create an online central database for information on deposit takers.
- Offences and penalties: The Act define three types of offences, and penalties related to them. These offences are:
 - Running (advertising, promoting, operating or accepting money for) unregulated deposit schemes
 - Fraudulently defaulting on regulated deposit schemes, and
 - Wrongfully inducing depositors to invest in unregulated deposit schemes by willingly falsifying facts.

Q 85.C

- National Conference of Chairpersons of State Public Service Commissions (PSCs) is a forum formed with Chairman UPSC and Chairmen of 29 State PSCs to deliberate upon various issues concerning the Public Service Commissions in India.
- The first National Conference of the Public Service Commissions was held in 1949. Thereafter the Conferences were held from time to time.
- In 1999, Chairman UPSC became the ex-officio Chairman of the National Conference of Chairpersons of State Public Service Commissions. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- These Conferences have striven to bring about some uniformity in the functioning of both the Union and the State PSCs. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Through the device of National Conference, a firm relationship has been attempted to be developed over the last 60 years among the State Public Service Commissions on matters concerning methods of recruitment, personnel policies, conduct of examinations etc.
- Such gathering also provides a suitable platform for discussion on the changing socio-economic milieu and consequential changes to be brought about in the work ethos of the Commissions in consonance with expectations of the people and the constitutional obligations.

Q 86.B

- There are three different forms of organisation used for the public sector enterprises in India. These are
 - Departmental Undertaking
 - Statutory (or Public) Corporation, and
 - Government Company.
- **Departmental Undertaking** form of organisation is primarily used for the provision of essential services such as railways, postal services, broadcasting etc. Such organisations function under the overall control of a ministry of the Government and are financed and controlled in the same way as any other government department. This form is considered suitable for activities where the government desires to have control over them in view of the public interest.
- **Statutory Corporation (or public corporation)** refers to a corporate body **created by the Parliament or State Legislature by a special Act** which defines its powers, functions and pattern of management. Statutory corporation is also known as public corporation. Its capital is wholly provided by the

government. Examples of such organisations are Life Insurance Corporation of India, State Trading Corporation etc.

- **Government Company** refers to the **company in which 51 percent or more of the paid-up capital is held by the government**. It is **registered under the Companies Act** and is fully governed by the provisions of the Act. Most business units owned and managed by the government fall in this category.
- **Hence only statement 2 is correct.**

Q 87.A

- HCDC Group, C-DAC Pune has designed and developed JATAN: Virtual Museum Builder, which is a digital collection management system for Indian museums. JATAN software is successfully deployed in ten national museums across India, as standardized by Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- It's objective is to make a digital imprint of all the objects preserved in museums and help researchers, curators and other people interested in the field. The digital imprints (of preserved objects and monuments) created using the JATAN software are integrated in the national digital repository and portal for making them accessible to the public.
- Centre for Development of Smart Computing (C-DAC) Pune has also developed "Darshak", a mobile-based application aimed at improving the museum visit experience among the differently-abled.

Q 88.B

- The NIOH is the premier institute, under the aegis of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the Department of Health Research, **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Govt. of India.
- It's primary responsibility is to support the national policy makers for adopting an appropriate policy in the field of occupational health, based on felt needs of our country. This is done through multi-disciplinary research, capacity building and technological development.
- Considering quantum of burden of occupational diseases (more than 90% of our workers work in the unorganized sectors), **priority-wise it has a focus on working towards dust related respiratory morbidities** (such as **silicosis**, anthracosis, byssinosis etc.). Similarly, other diseases of concern are heavy metal poisoning, musculoskeletal disorders, pesticide poisoning etc. in various occupational groups.
- There are an estimated 3-million workers, who are working in various industries (ceramic, foundries, agate, stone polishing, stone quarries etc.) and they are getting exposed to silica dust daily while working. Recently, it has identified a serum protein known as CC-16 which is secreted from the non-ciliated epithelial cells of the lungs known as club cells. CC-16 could be used as a potential bio-marker for early detection of any dust related disease where extensive lung damage occurs due to its continuous inhalational exposure.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved to **dissolve National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH), an autonomous Institute under Ministry of Mines (MoM) and merge/amalgamate with ICMR-National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH)**, Ahmedabad, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) with all assets and liabilities; and absorb all the employees of NIMH in NIOH in the similar post/pay scale as the case may be and their pay be protected.
- **Hence, only statements 2 and 3 are correct.**

Q 89.D

- Chandrayaan-2 mission is a highly complex mission, which represents a significant technological leap compared to the previous missions of ISRO, which brought together an Orbiter, Lander and Rover with the goal of exploring south pole of the Moon.
- This is a unique mission which **aimed at studying not just one area of the Moon but all the areas combining the exosphere, the surface as well as the sub-surface of the moon in a single mission.**
- **The Lunar South pole is especially interesting because of the lunar surface area that remains in shadow is much larger than that at the North Pole. There could be a possibility of presence of water in permanently shadowed areas around it.** In addition, South Pole region has craters that are cold traps and contain a fossil record of the early Solar System.
- **The GSLV Mk-III carried the Chandrayaan 2 to its designated orbit.** This three-stage vehicle is India's most powerful launcher to date, and is capable of launching 4-ton class of satellites to the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

- If successful, India would have become only the fourth country to make a soft landing on the lunar surface, after the former Soviet Union, the US and China.
- **Hence, all the given statements are correct.**

Q 90.C

- **LCU 56** is an **amphibious ship** with its primary role being transportation and deployment of Main Battle Tanks, Armoured Vehicles, Troops and Equipment from ship to shore. LCU L56 would be administered and based in Port Blair.
- The Amethi factory, inaugurated by Prime Minister this year, will produce the **AK 203 assault rifles** that are to be the mainstay of the Indian Army in the years to come.
- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), a Government of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Defence was established in Hyderabad in the year 1970 to be a manufacturing base for guided missiles and allied defence equipment. Begun with a pool of engineers drawn from DRDO and aerospace industries, BDL began by producing a first generation **anti-tank guided missile** - the French **SS11B1**.
- The Indian Navy, in 2018, conducted the maiden firing of its newly developed **Long Range Barak 8 Surface-to-Air Missile (LR SAM)**, crossing a significant milestone in enhancing its anti-air warfare capability. **Hence only pair 4 is not correctly matched and pairs 1, 2 and 3 are correctly matched.**

Q 91.C

- In July, 2019, a private member's bill 'Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill' was proposed in the Rajya Sabha that sought for state funding of elections and seeks removal of the limit on candidate election expenditure.
- **State funding of elections means that government gives funds to political parties or candidates for contesting elections and meeting other election-related expenses instead of individual campaign contribution. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- State funding increases transparency inside the party and also in candidate finance, as certain restrictions can be put along with state funding. State funding can limit the influence of wealthy people and rich mafias, thereby purifying the election process Through state funding the demand for internal democracy in party, women representations, representations of weaker section can be encouraged.
- **Various committees/commissions on state funding of election**
 - **Indrajit Gupta Committee on State Funding of Elections (1998): It said that state funds should be given only to recognised national and state parties and that it should be given in kind only. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
 - Law Commission Report on Reform of the Electoral Laws (1999): The report concurred with state funding of election but also recommended first putting a strong regulatory framework in place including internal elections, accounting procedures etc.
 - National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2001): It did not endorse state funding of elections but concurred with the 1999 Law Commission report that the appropriate framework for regulation of political parties would need to be implemented before state funding is considered.
 - Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2008): It also recommended partial state funding of elections for the purpose of reducing "illegitimate and unnecessary funding" of elections expenses.
 - View of election commission: The Election Commission has told a parliamentary committee that it does not support state funding of elections but instead seeks "radical" reforms in the way funds are spent by political parties.

Q 92.D

- A report titled 'Quality of Legal Representation: An Empirical Analysis of Free Legal Aid Services in India' was released by National Law University, Delhi (NLUD) in July 2019.

- Free legal services entail the provision of free legal aid in civil and criminal matters for those who cannot afford the services of a lawyer for the conduct of a case or a legal proceeding.
- For this, the **Central Government constituted National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) under Legal Service act, 1987**. The Central Authority shall consist of the Chief Justice of India who shall be the Patron-in-Chief and a serving or retired Judge of the Supreme Court to be nominated by the President, in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, who shall be the Executive Chairman. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The instrument of legal aid services across the globe have been recognised as a part of fundamental human right under the international instruments, conventions, codes and agreement. **Legal aid as a human right is envisaged in Articles 7, 8 and 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **In India, right to free legal aid or free legal service is an essential fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution. It forms the basis of reasonable, fair and just liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Article 22 of the Constitution guarantees the right to a lawyer for an arrestee, but there is no national scheme for legal aid at the police station, neither do any state have such a scheme.

Q 93.C

- **About Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP):**
 - **It is a proposed pact between 10 ASEAN economies and six others (New Zealand, Australia, China, India, Japan, and South Korea) with which the grouping currently has FTAs.**
 - The objective of launching RCEP negotiations is to achieve a modern, comprehensive, high- quality, and mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement among the ASEAN Member States and ASEAN's FTA partners.
 - It is often characterised as a China-led response to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) put forward by the US.
- RCEP will provide a framework aimed at lowering trade barriers and securing improved market access for goods and services for businesses in the region, through:
 - Recognition to ASEAN Centrality in the emerging regional economic architecture and the interests of ASEAN's FTA partners in enhancing economic integration and strengthening economic cooperation among the participating countries.
 - Facilitation of trade and investment and enhanced transparency between the participating countries.
 - Facilitation of SMEs' engagements in global and regional supply chains
 - Broaden and deepen ASEAN's economic engagements with its FTA partners.

Q 94.A

- **In social audit, citizens themselves assess the impact of government schemes and programmes by comparing official records with the actual ground situation.**
- At present, such social audit is done for MGNREGA, rural housing programmes, and also for funds allocated through the 14th Finance Commission. The central government is looking to expand the ambit of social audit to cover all schemes across ministries to assess their ground impact on final beneficiaries and address grievances.
- In pursuance of Section 17(1) of the MGNREGA, 2005, **Gram Sabha is required to conduct regular social audits of all the projects under the scheme taken up within the Gram Panchayat.**
- **Apart from relying on documentary evidence, social audit requires, in addition, gathering oral evidence during audit execution, verifying it during site visits or with reference to existing records or by**

means of the preponderant view expressed at the public hearing and meticulously documenting the evidence.

- In Dec 2017, Meghalaya became the first state in India to operationalise a law that makes social audit of government programmes and schemes a part of government practice.
- **Hence, only statement 1 is correct.**

Q 95.B

- **Statement 1 is correct:** *Sevottam* is a generic framework for bringing continual improvement in public service delivery till excellence is achieved. *Sevottam* word is a fusion of two Hindi words *Seva* and *Uttam* which means 'excellence in service'
- It was created by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India in 2005, after study of the best international practices such as the Charter Mark of United Kingdom and the Malcolm model of United States of America. It is a framework for bringing continual improvements in service delivery by government organizations till excellence is achieved.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The framework has a total of 3 modules with 3 criteria and 11 elements in each. The first module is the **Citizen's Charter** that specifies the standards for service delivery, the second is the **Grievance Redress Mechanism** to get redress if service is not provided as per standards, and the third is the **Capability Building** for building the capability and capacity of the organization to deliver its services as per standards included in its Charter. With 3 criteria and 11 elements in each Module, the QMS Sevottam has a total of 9 criteria and 33 elements, that comprehensively cover all aspects of service delivery to monitor gaps as well as improvement.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** After creation of Sevottam, **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has created a standard that addresses the concerns of service delivery by government organizations in particular. Therefore, an Indian Standard 15700:2005 was created for certifying organizations that fulfill the requirements of Quality Management System *Sevottam*.

Q 96.B

- **Delimitation:** It literally means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body.
- The job of delimitation is assigned to a high power body known as Delimitation Commission or a Boundary Commission. As soon as may be after the commencement of this Act i.e. **Delimitation Commission Act, 2002, it shall be constituted by the Central Government** which shall consist of **three members** as follows:
 - one member, who shall be a person who is or has been a **Judge of the Supreme Court**, to be **appointed by the Central Government who shall be the Chairperson of the Commission; (hence statement 1 is not correct).**
 - the **Chief Election Commissioner or an Election Commissioner nominated by the Chief Election Commissioner, ex officio** provided that after the nomination of an Election Commissioner as a member under this clause, no further nomination under this clause shall be made except to fill the casual vacancy of such member under section 6 of the 2002 Delimitation Act (section 6 of the Act says that if the office of the Chairperson or of a member or of an associate member falls vacant owing to his death or resignation, it shall be filled as soon as may be practicable by the Central Government or the Speaker concerned under and in accordance with the provisions of section); and
 - the **State Election Commissioner of concerned State, ex officio.** (for the purposes of clause the State Election Commissioner of concerned State, —(i) in respect of the duties of the Commission relating to a State (other than the States of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland), means the State Election Commissioner appointed by the Governor of that State under clause (1) of article 243K; and(ii) in respect of the duties of the Commission relating to the State of Meghalaya or the State of Mizoram or the State of Nagaland, as the case may be, means a person nominated by the Governor of that State under clause (1) for such purposes].
- Boundaries are meant to be readjusted after the ten-yearly census to reflect changes in population. However, under a constitutional amendment of 1976, delimitation was suspended until after

the census of 2001, so that states' family-planning programs would not affect their political representation in the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

- In India, such Delimitation Commissions have been constituted 4 times
 - in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952
 - In 1963 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962
 - In 1973 under Delimitation Act, 1972
 - In 2002 under Delimitation Act, 2002.
- The Delimitation Commission in India is a high power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.
- These orders come into force on a date to be specified by the President of India in this behalf.
- The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Q 97.A

- National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (STs) is a constitutional body directly established by Article 338-A of the Constitution in order to safeguard the interests of the STs.
- In accordance with clause 9 of Article 338A of the Constitution, the Union and every State Government shall consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting Scheduled Tribes. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The Commission is required to inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of Scheduled Tribes
- The Commission will also not intervene in vigilance and disciplinary cases as no safeguards have been provided to the employees belonging to Scheduled Tribes in such matters and also that the Commission is not an appellate authority in such cases. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Commission can inquire into their service grievances only if there has been a violation of any provision of the Acts governing reservation in services and posts for Scheduled Tribes or the orders contained in the brochures relating to reservation matters issued by the Department of personnel & Training, Department of Public Enterprises in relation to the public sector undertakings, the Banking Division of the Department of Economic Affairs (Ministry of Finance) with reference to the financial institutions, Ministry of Railways etc.

Q 98.C

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 provides for a complete prohibition on employment or work of children below 14 years. However, taking into consideration the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the country, the Amendment Act provides that Child can help his family or family enterprise, which is other than any hazardous occupations or processes after his school hours or during vacations, thereby restricting engagement of children in family enterprises.
- Child can also work as an artist in the audio-visual entertainment industry, including advertisements, films, television serials or any such other entertainment or sports activities except the circus, subject to such conditions and safety measures, as may be prescribed.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The amended Act prohibits employment of adolescents (means a person between 14 and 18 years of age.) in hazardous occupations as specified (mines, inflammable substance and hazardous processes).
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** The central government may add or omit any hazardous occupation from the list included in the Act.

Other key features of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 are:

- The Amendment Act, 2016 provides for very stringent provisions for the enforcement as against the original Act. Any violation of the rights of children is made a cognizable offence under which a person

accused of violation could be arrested without any arrest warrant. Stringent penalties are proposed in the new law by doubling the period of imprisonment and fines for violations.

- It also sets up a Child and Adolescent Labour Rehabilitation Fund for the rehabilitation of children and adolescents rescued from prohibited employments. Remittances to this fund which include fine collected from violators and contribution from States at the rate of Rs.15000/- per child and adolescent will be used for their welfare including education.
- The government may confer powers on a District Magistrate to ensure that the provisions of the law are properly carried out.
- The Act empowers the government to make periodic inspection of places at which employment of children and adolescents are prohibited.

Q 99.C

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** Swiss Challenge is a procurement strategy used specifically when the government authority receives an **unsolicited proposal for a project** (the project is not initiated by the Government). The private entity submitting the unsolicited proposal is termed as the Original Project Proponent (OPP).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The government evaluates the proposal submitted by the OPP and, if it finds merit in the proposal, it **invites other parties to submit competing proposals. The other parties are expected to match or better the terms of the OPP's proposal.**
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** To compensate for its effort in bringing the original proposal, **the OPP is given a chance to match or better any competing proposal at par with the original.**
- The Swiss Challenge system enables the public sector to introduce some competitive pressure, thereby avoiding some of the non-competitive concerns raised by unsolicited proposals. The private sector is invited to match or better the OPP's proposal through innovation, quality and efficiency.
- Despite this, the system is not entirely competitive since it is difficult to avoid **a bias in the evaluation towards the OPP. Moreover, there could be some reluctance by competitors to make their best effort since they would expect the OPP to have an advantage. This could be because the OPP has more information than its competitors.**
- Swiss Challenge might also not meet the conditions for procurement prescribed by relevant legislations. Both the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, for instance, while recognizing the importance of likely innovation through the encouragement of unsolicited proposals, do not allow such procedures under their published procurement guidelines.
- Andhra Pradesh adopted this model for building its capital city of Amravati, while other states like Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Punjab and Gujarat have taken it up for projects in road and housing sectors on a smaller scale.
- In 2009, the Supreme Court approved the method for award of contracts.

Q 100.A

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The National Policy on Biofuels-2018 allows the production of ethanol from damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice etc. which are unfit for human consumption. The policy also allows the conversion of surplus quantities of food grains to ethanol, based on the approval of the National Biofuel Coordination Committee.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** A Biofuel Steering Committee, chaired by Cabinet Secretary, will be set up to oversee implementation of the National Policy on Biofuels-2018. Whereas, the National Biofuel Coordination Committee, headed by the Prime Minister, will be set up to provide policy guidance and coordination.

- Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana to provide Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to Second Generation bio-ethanol [produced from non-food crops, such as cellulosic biofuels and waste biomass (stalks of wheat and corn, and wood)] manufacturing projects to increase the availability of ethanol for EBP programme.
- National Policy on Biofuels – 2018 approved by the Government envisages an indicative target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of biodiesel in a diesel by 2030.
- **Salient Features of the policy are:**
 - 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 the extension of appropriate financial and fiscal incentives under each category.
 - The Policy expands the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing the 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 risk of not getting the appropriate price for their produce during the surplus production phase. Taking this into account, the Policy allows the use of surplus food grains for the production of ethanol for blending with petrol with the approval of the National Biofuel Coordination Committee.
 - With a thrust on Advanced Biofuels, the Policy indicates a viability gap funding scheme for 2G ethanol Bio refineries of Rs.5000 crore in 6 years in addition to additional tax incentives, higher purchase price as compared to 1G biofuels.
 - The Policy encourages setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, Used Cooking Oil, short gestation crops.