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## ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

### GENERAL STUDIES (P) TEST – 4140 (2024)

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Q 1.C

- One of the significant evidence of the flexibility of the Constitution is the power given by itself to the parliament to supplement the provisions of the Constitution by legislation. Though the makers of the Constitution aimed at exhaustiveness they realized that it was not possible to anticipate all exigencies and lay down detailed provisions in the Constitution to meet all situations and for all times. Hence, both statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- In various articles therefore the constitution lays down certain basic principles and empowers Parliament to supplement these principles by legislation. Thus, for example, Articles 5-8 only lays down the conditions for acquisition of citizenship at the commencement of the constitution and Article 11 vests plenary powers in parliament to legislate on this subject. In pursuance of these powers, the Citizenship Act, of 1955 was passed and a series of amendments affected to that.
- There are a number of articles in the constitution that are of a tentative or transitional nature and they are to remain in force only so long as Parliament does not legislate on the subject, e.g., exemption of property from State taxation (Article 285).

Q 2.C

- **Development of scientific education as the key to national improvement:**
  - In the late 19th century the movement, which saw the development of scientific education as the key to national improvement, reached a major milestone when the Bengali intellectual **Mahendra Lal Sircar established in 1876, the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.**
  - This movement soon universalized for example in north India, the **Banaras Debating Club founded in 1861, the Aligarh Scientific Society founded in 1864 by Sayyid Ahmed Khan and the Bihar Scientific Society started in 1868,** contributed to this discourse on the power of science, which then began to pervade the new territories of Hindi literary movements and Hindu revivalist campaigns.
- **Society for the Acquisition of General Knowledge- Derozians**
  - This new mentality had first become most conspicuous among the **students of Henry Vivian Derozio**, a 'Eurasian' teacher at the Hindu College in Calcutta, who developed among his pupils a **spirit of free thinking**. His followers were known as the **Derozians** and their movement the **Young Bengal Movement**.
  - The most important thing about them was that they posed an intellectual challenge to the religious and social orthodoxy of Hinduism.
  - It was they who formed in 1838 the '**Society for the Acquisition of General Knowledge**', where they **discussed** various aspects of Western science, and stood for a number of social reforms, such as the prohibition of caste taboos, child marriage, Kulin polygamy or the ban on widow remarriage. **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**
  - Yet, they could not usher in the desired age of reform. Their total faith in the British and in English education, their rationalism and scientism derived from the West **set them apart from the masses of Indians** and they **never succeeded in organizing any social movement in support of their proposed reforms.**

Q 3.A

- **Shugoshin**
  - **Context:** Researchers have recently identified Shugoshin, a protein that plays a crucial role in the formation of the iconic X-shape of chromosomes.

- **Role of Shugoshin**

- Recently, scientists have identified the protein Shugoshin as the key protein that “locks” the X chromosome into its famous X shape. Shugoshin is also known as SGO1 and is responsible for holding together two identical long DNA threads, which make up a chromosome. **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
- Shugoshin uses a molecular key that fits precisely into a kind of keyhole in cohesin, ring-shaped molecules that hold the two threads together. Shugoshin locks the cohesin rings and creates the iconic X shape of chromosomes.

- **Discovery of Shugoshin**

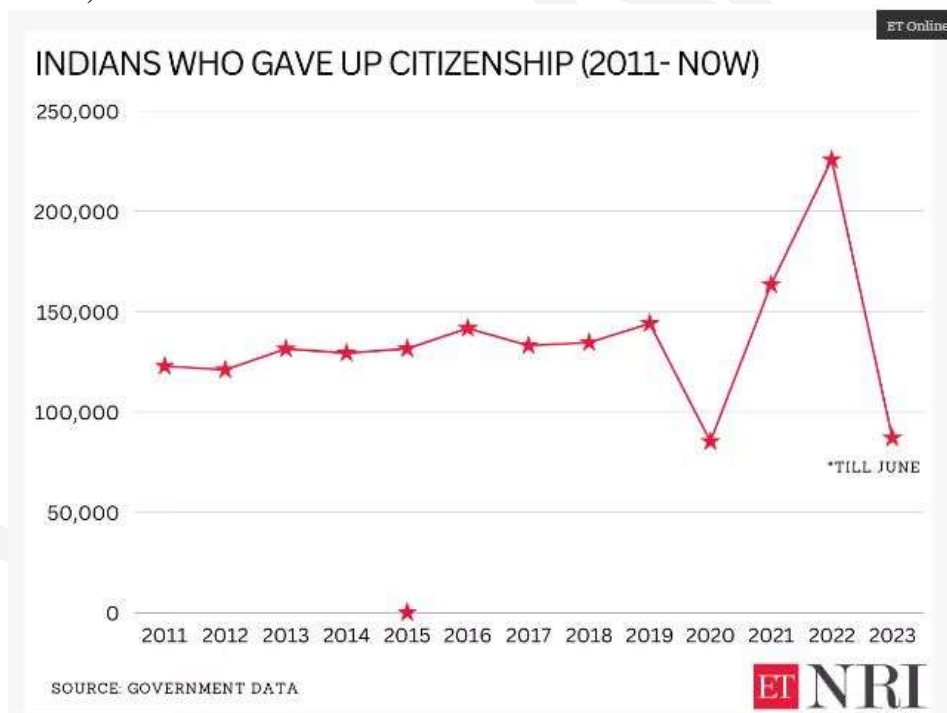
- The researchers saw a suspicious similarity between two molecules in the nucleus of cells, which led them to investigate further. They found that Shugoshin uses a molecular key to lock cohesin rings and create the X shape of chromosomes.

- **NOTE:**

- **Chromosomes:** They are thread-like structures present in the nucleus. They are important because they contain the basic genetic material DNA. These are present inside the nucleus of plants as well as animal cells. Humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes. This unique structure of the chromosome keeps DNA tightly packed with histone proteins to fit inside the cell and it also helps in giving more stability to it.

#### Q 4.B

- Over 16 lakh Indians have renounced their Indian citizenship since 2011 including 2,25,620 people last year, the highest during the period, while the lowest of 85,256 was in 2020, according to government data.
- The year-wise number of Indians who renounced their citizenship was provided by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, in response to a question in the Rajya Sabha.
- **Mr. Jaishankar said the number of Indians who had given up their Indian citizenship in 2015 was 1,31,489, while 1,41,603 people foresook it in 2016 and 1,33,049 in 2017. In 2018, the number was 1,34,561, while 1,44,017 renounced their citizenship in 2019, 85,256 in 2020 and 1,63,370 in 2021. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**



- The Citizenship Act (1955) prescribes three ways of losing citizenship whether acquired under the Act or prior to it under the Constitution, viz, renunciation, termination and deprivation.
- **Any citizen of India of full age and capacity can make a declaration renouncing his Indian citizenship. Upon the registration of that declaration, that person ceases to be a citizen of India.** However, if such a declaration is made during a war in which India is engaged, its registration shall be withheld by the Central Government. **Further, when a person renounces his Indian citizenship, every minor child of that person also loses Indian citizenship. However, when such a child attains the age of eighteen, he may resume Indian citizenship. Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.**
- People giving up Indian citizenship can, however, apply for Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) membership which facilitates visa-free travel to India, rights of residency and participation in

business and educational activities. In 2020, a total of 1.9 lakh foreigners registered as OCI cardholders, as per the Ministry of Home Affairs. The figure was as low as 300 in 2005. Hence, statement 4 is not correct.

#### Q 5.A

**Nadir Shah (1688-1747)** was a formidable Persian military leader and the founder of the Afsharid dynasty in Iran. He is renowned for his military campaigns and his audacious invasion of India.

- **Nadir Shah's Invasions (1738-1739):**
  - **Battle of Karnal (1739):** Nadir Shah defeated the Mughal army led by Muhammad Shah at Karnal. This battle exposed the weakness of the Mughal Empire.
  - **Capture of Delhi: Following the Battle of Karnal, Nadir Shah captured Delhi. He looted the city and took the Peacock Throne among other treasures. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - **Agreement with Muhammad Shah:** Nadir Shah and Muhammad Shah reached an agreement. Muhammad Shah paid a significant amount of tribute to Nadir Shah.

**Ahmed Shah Abdali** declared himself ruler of Kandahar after the death of Nadir Shah and later established the modern kingdom of Afghanistan. He initiated a series of invasions into India, beginning in 1748, with the objective of asserting his control over territories in India's northwest, including the Punjab region.

- **Ahmed Shah Abdali's Invasions:**
  - **First Invasion (1748):**  
Abdali's initial invasion of India ended in failure, but it marked the beginning of his incursions.
  - **Second Invasion (1751-1752):**  
Abdali invaded again, leading to the surrender of the Punjab and Sindh to him. He established influence over the region.
  - **Third Invasion (1756-1757):**  
Abdali returned to India and plundered Delhi, Mathura, and Agra. **He recognised Alamgir II as the emperor and Najib-ud-Daula as his agent and Mir Bakhshi.**
  - **Fourth Invasion (1759):**  
Abdali invaded India again, targeting the Marathas.
  - **Third Battle of Panipat (1761):**  
A major confrontation where Abdali's forces defeated the Marathas. **Shah Alam II was named the Mughal Emperor by Abdali after this battle. Hence statement 1 is correct.**

#### Q 6.C

**Gram Nyayalayas Structure:**

- **The Gram Nyayalaya is a court of Judicial Magistrates of the first class. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **Its Presiding Officer (Nyayadhikari) is appointed by the State Government in consultation with the High Court. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Gram Nyayalayas are established for every Panchayat at the intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats at an intermediate level in a district or for a group of Panchayats if there is no Panchayat at an intermediate level.
- **The Nyayadhikaris who preside over these Gram Nyayalayas are strictly judicial officers and draw the same salary, deriving the same powers as First Class Magistrates working under the High Courts. Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Jurisdiction of Gram Nyayalayas**

- A Gram Nyayalaya can try only certain cases on the criminal and civil sides, as provided in the Schedules to the Act.
- The Gram Nyayalaya shall be a mobile court and shall exercise the powers of both Criminal and Civil courts.
- The Gram Nyayalayas shall try criminal cases, civil suits, claims or disputes which are specified in the First Schedule and the Second Schedule to the Act.

#### Q 7.A

- **Fundamental Duties** serve as a constant reminder to the citizens while enjoying their rights, the citizens should be aware of their duties to their nation and towards other citizens.
- **These serve as a warning to the people against the anti-social activities** that disrespect the nation like burning the flag, destroying public property or disturbing public peace. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- These help in the promotion of a sense of discipline and commitment towards the nation. They **help in realizing national goals by the active participation of citizens rather than mere spectators. Hence statement 3 is correct**
- It helps the Court in determining the constitutionality of the law. For instance, any law passed by the legislatures, when taken to Court for constitutional validity of the law, if it is giving force to any Fundamental Duty, then such law would be taken as reasonable.
- **They can be enforced by the law, the parliament has the right to impose any type of penalty or punishment for violating any of the Fundamental Duties. Hence statement 2 is not correct**

#### Q 8.B

- **Henry Vivian Derozio:**
  - A 'Eurasian' teacher at the Hindu College in Calcutta, who developed among his pupils a spirit of free thinking. **His followers were known as the Derozians and their movement the Young Bengal Movement.**
  - This controversial group, known as the Young Bengal, **became notorious in their own times for their individual social rebellion, manifested through wining and dining in forbidden meat and professed "atheism". Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - But what was more important about them was that **they posed an intellectual challenge to the religious and social orthodoxy of Hinduism. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - It was they who formed in 1838 the 'Society for the Acquisition of General Knowledge', where they discussed various aspects of Western science, and stood for a number of social reforms, such as the prohibition of caste taboos, child marriage, kulin polygamy or the ban on widow remarriage. Yet, they could not usher in the desired age of reform.
  - **Their total faith in the British and in English education,** their rationalism and scientism derived from the West set them apart from the masses of Indians and they never succeeded in organising any social movement in support of their proposed reforms. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 9.A

- **Lord Cross's Act or the Indian Councils Amendment Act of 1892:**
  - **The act only provided for marginal expansion of the legislative councils both at the centre and the provinces. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - **These council members were actually to be constituted through selection rather than election,**
    - The local bodies would send their nominees from among whom the viceroy at the centre and the governors at the provinces would select the members of the legislative councils. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - **The budget was to be discussed in the legislatures, but not to be voted on. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
  - The opposition could not bring in any resolution, nor demand a vote on any resolution proposed by the government.
  - The Government of India was given the power to legislate without even referring to the legislatures, whose functions would be at best recommendatory and not mandatory.
  - Very few of the constitutional demands of the moderates, it seems, were fulfilled by this act.

#### Q 10.C

- Some of the federal features of the Constitution of India are explained below:
  - **Dual Polity: The Constitution establishes a dual polity consisting of the Union at the Centre and the states at the periphery. Each is endowed with sovereign powers to be exercised in the field assigned to them by the Constitution. The Union government deals with matters of national importance like defence, foreign affairs, currency, communication and so on. The state governments, on the other hand, look after matters of regional and local importance like public order, agriculture, health, local government and so on. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - **Division of powers: The Constitution divided the powers between the Centre and the states in terms of the Union List, State List and Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule. The union list now has 100 subjects, the State list has 61 subjects, and the Concurrent List has 52 subjects. Both the Centre and**

the states can make laws on the subjects of the concurrent list, but in case of a conflict, the Central law prevails. The residuary subjects (i.e., which are not mentioned in any of the three lists) are given to the Centre. Separation of power is a different concept than the division of power where there is a separation of state's governments into branches whereas division of power is more of a division of functions.

- **Written Constitution:** The Constitution is not only a written document but also the lengthiest Constitution of the world. It specifies the structure, organisation, powers and functions of both the Central and state governments and prescribes the limits within which they must operate. Thus, it avoids the misunderstandings and disagreements between the two.
- **Supremacy of the Constitution:** The Constitution is the supreme (or the highest) law of the land. The laws enacted by the Centre and the states must conform to its provisions. Otherwise, they can be declared invalid by the Supreme Court or the high courts through their power of judicial review. Thus, the organs of the government (legislative, executive and judicial) at both levels must operate within the jurisdiction prescribed by the Constitution.
- **Bicameralism:** The Constitution provides for a bicameral legislature consisting of an Upper House (Rajya Sabha) and a Lower House (Lok Sabha). The Rajya Sabha represents the states of the Indian Federation, while the Lok Sabha represents the people of India as a whole. The Rajya Sabha (even though a less powerful chamber) is required to maintain the federal equilibrium by protecting the interests of the states against the undue interference of the Centre. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 11.C

- **The British had been suspicious of the National Congress from its inception. But they had not been overtly hostile, in the first few years of its existence because they believed its activities would remain academic and confined to a handful of intellectuals.**
- However, as soon as it became apparent that the Congress would not remain so narrowly confined, and that it was becoming a focus of Indian nationalism, the officials turned openly critical of the Congress, the nationalist leaders and the Press. They now began to brand the nationalists as 'disloyal babus' 'seditious Brahmins,' and 'violent villains.' The Congress was described as 'a factory of sedition' and Congressmen as 'disappointed candidates for office and discontented lawyers who represent no one but themselves.'
- **In 1888, Dufferin, the Viceroy, attacked the National Congress in a public speech and ridiculed it as representing only the elite 'a microscopic minority.'** George Hamilton, Secretary of State for India, accused the Congress leaders of possessing 'seditious and double sided character.'
- The British policy-makers felt that the Moderate-led Congress could be easily finished because it was weak and without a popular base. **Curzon, in particular, supported by George Hamilton, pursued this policy. He declared in 1900: 'The Congress is tottering to its fall, and one of my greatest ambitions while in India is to assist it to a peaceful demise'.** In 1903, he wrote to the Madras Governor: 'My policy, ever since I came to India, has been to reduce the Congress to impotence.' In 1904, he had insulted the Congress by refusing to meet its delegation headed by its President.
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 12.A

- The doctrine of sovereignty of Parliament is associated with the British Parliament while the principle of judicial supremacy with that of the American Supreme Court.
- Just as the Indian parliamentary system differs from the British system, **the scope of judicial review power of the Supreme Court in India is narrower than that of what exists in US. This is because the American Constitution provides for 'due process of law' against that of 'procedure established by law' contained in the Indian Constitution (Article 21). Hence both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.**
- Therefore, the framers of the Indian Constitution have preferred a proper synthesis between the British principle of parliamentary sovereignty and the American principle of judicial supremacy. The Supreme Court, on the one hand, can declare the parliamentary laws as unconstitutional through its power of judicial review. The Parliament, on the other hand, can amend the major portion of the Constitution through its constituent power.

#### Q 13.B

- **Lord William Bentinck(British governor-general of Bengal (1828–33) and of India (1833–35).**
  - An aristocrat who sympathized with many of the liberal ideas of his day, he made important administrative reforms in Indian government and society.



- He reformed the finances, opened up judicial posts to Indians, and suppressed such practices as suttee, or widow burning, and thuggee, or ritual murder by robber gangs.
- Bentinck showed great courage and humanity by his decision to abolish suttee (sati), **through Abolition of sati Act, 1829** with the support of Raja Rammohan Roy. **Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- He was also responsible for the measures taken to suppress the murder of unwanted children, human sacrifice, and the thags—bands of robbers, bound together by oaths and ritual, who murdered unsuspecting travelers in the name of the goddess Kālī. Flogging in the Indian army was also abolished, long before it ended in the British army.
- **Lord Canning:**
  - The Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act 1856, also Act XV, 1856, passed on 16 July 1856, legalised the remarriage of widows in all jurisdictions of India under East India Company rule.
  - The act was enacted on 26 July 1856. It was drafted by Lord Dalhousie and **passed by Lord Canning before the Indian Rebellion of 1857. Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Lord Lansdowne (1888-94):** In India, Lansdowne's rule was characterised by tranquillity, advancement, and a few construction undertakings.
  - **Significant Events During His Tenure:**
    - ✓ When Lord Lansdowne served as India's Viceroy, the Indian Factory Act of 1891 was enacted.
    - ✓ Statutory Civil Service was eliminated based on suggestions made by the Aitchison Commission in 1889. Imperial Indian Civil Service, Provincial Civil Service, and Subordinate Civil Service were the three divisions that made up the civil service of the government.
    - ✓ In British India, **the Age of Consent Act, of 1891 was passed in 1891, increasing the minimum age of consent for sexual activity for all girls, whether married or not, from ten to twelve years in all jurisdictions, with violations penalised as rape. Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.**
    - ✓ **1892: Indian Councils Act**
      - Additional members for the national and provincial legislative councils were made possible by this statute.
      - With the previous approval of the Governor General, the members were permitted to raise inquiries about domestic issues.
      - To choose the council members, an indirect election procedure was implemented.

#### Q 14.A

- **Recent context :** For the second time in a decade, the U.N.-recognised Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) deferred the accreditation of National Human Rights Commission, India (NHRC-India) citing objections like political interference in appointments, involving the police in probes into human rights violations, and poor cooperation with civil society.
- **National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) have been recognized at the international level as actors for the promotion and protection of human rights since 1946.**
  - Throughout the next three decades the United Nations and some of its affiliated organizations prepared a series of reports on the feasibility of national institutions as instruments for protection and promotion of human rights.
  - These reports culminated in the UN International Workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, held in Paris in 1991.
  - **The workshop led to the drafting of guiding principles – popularly known as the “Paris Principles” – that were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993.**
- When NHRIs met in Tunis for their second international workshop, they decided to establish the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), previously known as the International Coordinating Committee of institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (ICC).
  - Since then, the UN General Assembly has adopted numerous resolutions calling for the strengthening of NHRIs.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 15.A

- **Calcutta Madrasah (1781):**
  - Calcutta Madrasah, the first Education institution in British India, was set up in 1781 A.D. by **Warren Hastings** of the first Governor General of East India Company at the request of a considerable number of credited and learner Musalman of Calcutta. **Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched**

- **The main objective** of the founder was to promote the study of Arabic and Persian Language and of Mohammedan laws with a view to qualify the sons of Muslim gentlemen for responsible and lucrative offices and to **produce competent officers for the courts of justice.**
- **Sanskrit College of Banaras (1791):**
  - In the year 1791, **Cornwallis helped Jonathan Duncan** to establish the Sanskrit College of Banaras. Jonathan Duncan was a resident of the company. Lord Cornwallis sanctioned the initiative of Duncan to establish this college. **Hence pair 1 is correctly matched**
- **The Calcutta Madrasah and the Sanskrit College were designed to provide a regular supply of qualified Indians to help the administration of law in the Company's court.**
- **Fort William College (1800):**
  - Fort William College was an academy of **oriental studies and a centre of learning, founded in 1800 by Lord Wellesley**, then Governor-General of British India, located within the Fort William complex in Calcutta. **Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
  - Wellesley started the Fort William College **to train the European administrators.** He backdated the statute of foundation to 4 May 1800, to **commemorate the first anniversary of his victory over Tipu Sultan at Seringapatam.**
  - Thousands of books were translated from Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, Bengali, Hindi, and Urdu into English at this institution.

#### Q 16.A

- **Macquarie Island**
  - **Context:** Macquarie Island is the only piece of land on the planet formed completely from the ocean floor.
    - ✓ Macquarie Island is an island in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, about halfway **between New Zealand and Antarctica.**
    - ✓ **Regionally part of Oceania and politically a part of Tasmania, Australia,** since 1900, it became a Tasmanian State Reserve in 1978 and was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997. **Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
    - ✓ The island is home to the entire royal penguin population during their annual nesting season. Ecologically, the island is part of the Antipodes Subantarctic Islands tundra ecoregion.
- **Munroe Thuruthu Islands**
  - **Context:** A study conducted by the National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS) has revealed anthropogenic interventions as the main reason for the plight of Munroe Thuruthu residents, Kerala's first set of climate refugees.
  - The islanders are facing steady land subsidence, tidal flooding, and lower agricultural productivity, all of which have triggered a mass exodus from the region.
  - **About Munroe Thuruthu Island**
    - ✓ Munroe Thuruthu is an inland island group located at the confluence of Ashtamudi Lake and the Kallada River, in the Kollam district of Kerala. **Hence pair 2 is correctly matched:**
    - ✓ The place is named in honour of Resident Colonel John Munro of the former Princely State of Travancore.
    - ✓ It is a group of eight small islets comprising a total area of about 13.4 km<sup>2</sup>. This island is also known as the "Sinking Island of Kerala".
- **Siniyah Island**
  - **Context:** Archaeologists have found the oldest pearling town in the Persian Gulf on an island off one of the northern sheikhdoms of the UAE. **Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
    - ✓ The pearling town sits on Siniyah Island, whose name means 'flashing lights'.
    - ✓ Siniyah Island shields the Khor al-Beida marshlands and is located north of Umm al-Quwain. Umm al-Quwain is the least-populated emirate in the UAE.

#### Q 17.B

- **EXPUNGING OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT**
  - **Context:** Portions of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's speech delivered in Lok Sabha have been expunged or removed from the records of Parliament by the orders of the Speaker.
    - ✓ Expunged portions of the proceedings **cease to exist in the records of Parliament, and they can no longer be reported by media houses**, even though they may have been heard during the live telecast of the proceedings. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
    - ✓ **Expunging of Proceedings in the Indian Parliament**

- ✓ **Article 105(2)** of the Indian Constitution: MPs are immune from legal proceedings for anything said in Parliament.
- ✓ The speech of MPs is subject to the discipline of the Rules of Parliament, the “good sense” of its Members, and the control of proceedings by the Speaker.
- ✓ **Rule 380 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha:** The Speaker can expunge words from parliamentary proceedings if they are deemed defamatory, indecent, unparliamentary, or undignified.
- ✓ **Rule 381:** Expunged parts of the proceedings are marked with asterisks and a footnote saying “Expunged as ordered by the Chair” is inserted.
- **What are Unparliamentary Expressions?**
  - ✓ A large number of words, both in English and Indian languages, have been deemed unparliamentary by the Presiding Officers (the Speaker of Lok Sabha and Chairperson of Rajya Sabha) over the years.
  - ✓ The Lok Sabha Secretariat has compiled a comprehensive list of unparliamentary expressions, including words and phrases considered rude, offensive, or inappropriate in most cultures.
  - ✓ The list is regularly updated based on rulings by the Presiding Officers.
- **Decision-Making Process for Expunging**
  - ✓ The decision to expunge a word or portion of a speech **is made by the Speaker. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - ✓ If an MP uses a word that could be considered unparliamentary or indecent, the head of the reporting section of Parliament submits the issue to the Speaker with relevant rules and precedents, along with a recommendation for expunging.
  - ✓ The Speaker has discretion under Rule 380 to expunge the word or usage and, upon doing so, the reporting section removes the word from the records and mentions in the proceedings that it was expunged as ordered by the Chair.

#### Q 18.C

- **A Person of Indian Origin (PIO) means a foreign citizen (except a national of Pakistan, Afghanistan Bangladesh, China, Iran, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Nepal).**
  - **who at any time held an Indian passport Or**
  - **Who or either of their parents/grandparents/ great grandparents was born** and permanently resident in India as defined in the Government of India Act, 1935 and other territories that became part of India thereafter provided neither was at any time a citizen of any of the aforesaid countries ( as referred above); Or
  - **Who is a spouse of a citizen of India or a PIO. Hence, statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.**
- **Benefits of PIO card:**
  - PIO card holders do not require a visa to visit India for a period of 15 years from the date of issue of the PIO card.
  - They are exempted from registration at FRRO/FRO if their stay does not exceed 180 days, In case if the stay exceeds 180 days, they shall have to register with FRRO/ FRO within the next 30 days.
- They enjoy parity with NRIs in economic, financial and educational benefits like:
  - Acquisition, holding, transfer and disposal of immovable properties in India, except agricultural/ plantation properties
  - Admission of children to educational institutions in India under the general category quota for NRIs, including medical and engineering colleges, IITs, IIMs, etc
  - Availing Various housing schemes of LIC of India, State Government and Central Government agencies
  - All future benefits that would be exempted from NRIs would also be available to the PIO cardholders

#### Q 19.C

- **Minor millets**
  - **Context:** Considering the increase in the cultivation of millets, the Centre may soon announce a benchmark price for minor millets produced in various States. The Centre said it would help States to procure and distribute millet through the public distribution system.
  - Millets are classified into Major Millets and Minor Millets based on their grain size. Pseudo millets are so called because they are not part of the Poaceae botanical family, to which ‘true’ grains belong, however they are nutritionally similar and used in similar ways to ‘true’ grains.
    - ✓ At present, **millets such as jowar, bajra and ragi are procured by nine States** with the minimum support price announced by the Centre.



- ✓ **Minor millets are not procured at the moment.**
- ✓ **The minor millets comprise of proso millet, foxtail millet, little millet, barnyard millet and Kodo millet. Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**
- ✓ Minor millets are high-energy, nutritious foods comparable to other cereals and some of them are even better with regard to protein and mineral content.
- ✓ They are particularly low in phytic acid and rich in dietary fibre, iron, calcium and B vitamins.
- ✓ With proper preparation, 30 per cent of minor millets can be gainfully substituted in value-added foods belonging to the categories of traditional foods, bakery products, extruded foods and allied mixes for convenient preparation by rural and town folk at low cost.
- ✓ Poroso millet flour is used as a substitute for rice flour in various snack foods.
- ✓ Traditionally, finger, Kodo and Poroso millets are brewed by tribal in certain parts of India.
- ✓ Popping of finger millet is done on the cottage industry level and the popped meal is marketed in polyethylene pouches.

#### Q 20.D

- Constitution (Article 4) declares that laws made for admission or establishment of new states (under Article 2) and formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states (under Articles 3) are not to be considered as amendments of the Constitution under Article 368. This means that such laws can be passed by a simple majority and by the ordinary legislative process.
- Does the power of Parliament to diminish the areas of a state (under Article 3) include also the power to cede Indian territory to a foreign country? This question came up for examination before the Supreme Court in a reference made by the President in 1960. The decision of the Central government to cede part of a territory known as Berubari Union (west Bengal) to Pakistan led to political agitation and controversy and thereby necessitated the Presidential reference. **The Supreme Court held that the power of Parliament to diminish the area of a state (under Article 3) does not cover cession of Indian territory to a foreign country. Hence, Indian territory can be ceded to a foreign state only by amending the Constitution under Article 368.** Consequently, the 9th Constitutional Amendment Act (1960) was enacted to transfer the said territory to Pakistan. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- On the other hand, the Supreme Court in 1969 ruled that, **settlement of a boundary dispute between India and another country does not require a constitutional amendment.** It can be done by executive action as it does not involve cession of Indian territory to a foreign country. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 21.B

- **Balaji Vishwanath:**
  - Balaji Vishwanath was a self-made man. From a scratch he rose to the position of the Peshwa. He is remembered today not as a brave soldier, but as a politician and a statesman.
  - His shrewd insight into the state of politics of Maharashtra led him to espouse the cause of Shahu in preference to that of Tara Bai.
  - By his clever diplomacy he won over to the side of Shahu the support of Dhanaji Jadhav, Khanderao Dahbade, Parsoji and, above all, that of Kanhoji Angre. He achieved by clever moves what otherwise would have plunged Maharashtra into an endless civil war.
  - Balaji also secured to Shahu the financial support of rich bankers like Madhaji Krishna Joshi and thus helped the state to ward off financial difficulties.
  - His deal with the Sayyid brothers secured into the state treasury 30 lakh rupees besides the recurring gains coming in the shape of **Chauth and Sardeshmukhi (i.e., 35% of the revenue) from the Mughal Subahs in the Deccan. Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Raghunath rao:**
  - After the death of Madhavrao in 1772, his brother Narayanrao succeeded him as the fifth peshwa. However Raghunath rao, assassinated Narayana Rao and named himself as the next peshwa, although he was not a legal heir.
  - Narayanrao's widow, Gangabai, gave birth to a son after her husband's death. The newborn infant was named 'Sawai' Madhavrao and he was legally the next peshwa. Twelve Maratha chiefs (Barabhai), led by Nana Phadnavis, made an effort to name the infant as the new peshwa and rule for him as regents.
  - **Treaties of Surat:**
    - ✓ Raghunath rao, unwilling to give up his position in power, sought help from the English at Bombay and signed the Treaty of Surat in 1775. Under the treaty, Raghunathrao ceded the

territories of Salsette and Bassein to the English along with a portion of the revenues from Surat and Bharuch districts. In return, the English were to provide Raghunathrao with 2,500 soldiers.

- **Treaty of Bassein (1802):**
  - ✓ This treaty was signed between **Bajirao II**, (son of Raghunathrao) and the English after Bajirao II murdered the brother of Yashwantrao. **Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched**
- **Madhav rao(1761-1772)**
  - After the death of Balaji Baji rao, his 17-year old son Madhav Rao became the Peshwa in 1761. He was a talented soldier and statesman. Within the short period of 11 years, he restored the lost fortunes of the Maratha Empire.
  - He defeated the Nizam, compelled Haidar Ali of Mysore to pay tribute, and reasserted control over North India by defeating the Rohelas and subjugating the Rajput states and Jat chiefs.
  - **In 1771, he brought back to Delhi, Emperor Shah Alam, who now became their pensioner.** He gave Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II the throne back with the treaty. **Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.**
  - Thus it appeared as if Maratha ascendancy in the north had been recovered but Madhav Rao died of consumption in 1772 leaving Maratha Empire in a state of confusion.

#### Q 22.B

- **Recent context:** Three new lakes may form in Parkachik Glacier in Ladakh due to glacial retreat. Himalayan glaciers could lose 80% of their volume if global warming isn't controlled, study finds.
- **The Parkachik Glacier in Ladakh** is likely to have three lakes of different dimensions due to subglacial over-deepening -- a characteristic of basins and valleys eroded by glaciers, shows a new study.
- Scientists from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), GoI carried out a study that describes the morphological and dynamic changes of Parkachik Glacier, Suru River Valley, Ladakh Himalaya, India.
- **Pindari glacier is a ~9 km long south-facing glacier located in the Central Himalayas.**
- **The Machoi glacier is in the Drass region of Ladakh and has a distinct climate** due to high altitude, and it is covered all sides by mountain ranges.
- Other important glaciers
  - Gangotri glacier--Uttarkashi District, Uttarakhand
  - Zemu Glacier is the largest glacier in the Eastern Himalaya.
    - ✓ It is about 26 kilometres in length and is located at the base of Kangchenjunga in the Himalayan region of Sikkim.
  - Bara Shigri is a glacier located in Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.
  - Shafat glacier
  - Chhota Shigri Glacier
  - Biafo Gyang Glacier
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 23.B

- The **Press Act, or Metcalfe Act, of 1835 repealed the Licensing regulations of 1823.** For this reason, Metcalfe was known as the Liberator of the Indian Press. This policy resulted in the rapid expansion of newspapers. It **did not curb the freedom of the press**, rather, **liberated it**, and hence, **Option 1 is not correct.**
- Due to the widespread impact of the **Revolt of 1857**, the then Governor General, **Lord Canning**, imposed **restrictions on the Indian press, by passing the Licensing Act, 1857.** Its provisions included:
  - The government reserved the right to **grant and revoke licenses.**
  - The government was given the authority to **prohibit the publication of any newspaper or book.**
- The **Vernacular Press Act** was passed by **Lytton, in 1878.** This act was meant to **control seditious writing in 'publications in Oriental languages'** in the country. One of its provisions included: Any magistrate or Commissioner of Police had the authority to call upon any printer or publisher of a newspaper to enter into a bond, undertaking not to print a certain kind of material, and could confiscate any printed material it deemed objectionable.
- **Lord Minto II**, the then **Viceroy of India**, implemented the **Indian Press Act of 1910.** Section 12(1) of the Act empowered the **Local Governments to issue warrants** against any newspaper or book which contained **seditious matters**, were to be forfeited to his majesty.
- Hence, except for the Press Act, the rest were meant to curb the freedom of the press in India.

#### Q 24.B

- **Kuka Movement :**

- The Kuka Movement was founded in 1840 by Bhagat Jawahar Mal (also called Sian Saheb) in western Punjab. A major leader of the movement after him was Baba Ram Singh. (He founded the Namdhari Sikh sect.) **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- After the annexation of Punjab in 1849, the movement got transformed from a religious purification campaign to a political campaign. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Its basic tenets were abolition of caste and similar discriminations among Sikhs, discouraging the consumption of meat and alcohol and drugs, permission for intermarriages, widow remarriage, and encouraging women to step out of seclusion.
- On the political side, the Kukas wanted to remove the British and restore Sikh rule over Punjab; they advocated wearing hand-woven clothes and **boycott of English laws and education and products.**
- So, the concepts of Swadeshi and non-cooperation were propagated by the Kukas, much before they became part of the Indian national movement in the early 20th century. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- As the movement gained in popularity, the British took several steps to crush it in the period between 1863 and 1872. And in 1872, Ram Singh was deported to Rangoon.

#### Q 25.D

- The East India Company was established in 1600.
- In 1609, William Hawkins arrived at Jahangir's court.
- In 1611, Captain Middleton obtained the permission of the Mughal governor of Surat to trade there the same year, the **Company established its first factory in the south in Masulipatnam.**
- **A permanent factory of the East India Company was established at Surat in 1613.**
- In 1615, Sir Thomas Roe, the ambassador of King James I, arrived at Jahangir's court. By 1618, the ambassador succeeded in obtaining two farmans (one each from the emperor and Prince Khurram) confirming free trade with exemption from inland tolls.
- In 1632, the Company got the golden farman from the Sultan of Golconda which ensured safety and prosperity of their trade.
- **In 1633, the Company established its first factory in east India in Hariharpur, Balasore (Odisha).**
- In 1639, the Company got the lease of Madras from a local king.
- **In 1651, the Company was given permission to trade at Hughli (Bengal).**
- In 1662, the British King, Charles II, was given Bombay as a dowry for marrying a Portuguese princess (Catherine of Braganza). In 1667, Aurangzeb gave the English a farman for trade in Bengal.
- **In 1668, the Company acquired the island of Bombay from Portugal.**
- In 1691, the Company got the imperial order to continue their trade in Bengal in lieu of payment of Rs 3,000 a year.
- In 1717, the Mughal emperor Farrukhsiyar issued a farman, called Magna Carta of the Company, giving the Company a large number of trade concessions.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 26.D

- The president has veto powers with respect to the state assembly bills. When a bill passed by a state legislature is reserved by the governor for consideration by the President, the President can:
  - give his assent to the bill, or
  - withhold his assent to the bill, or
  - direct the governor to return the bill (if it is not a money bill) reconsideration of the state legislature.
- It should be noted that it is not obligatory for the President to give his assent even if the bill is again passed by the state legislature and sent again to him for his consideration.
- **Also, the president has no direct power to disallowance and only when the governor presents him a bill for reconsideration. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **When the president directs the governor to return the bill for reconsideration by the state assembly. If the state legislature again passes the bill, the bill shall be presented to the President for reconsideration. If he refuses to assent again, the bill fails. In short, there is no means of overriding the President's veto, in the case of state legislation. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 27.D

- The Tenth Schedule contains the following provisions with respect to the disqualification of members of Parliament and the state legislatures on the ground of defection:
- A member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified from being a member of the House,
  - if he voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party; or
  - if he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party without obtaining prior permission of such party and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days.
- The law provides for a member to be disqualified if he 'voluntarily gives up his membership'.
- **However, the Supreme Court has interpreted that in the absence of a formal resignation by the member, the giving up of membership can be inferred from his conduct. In other judgments, members who have publicly expressed opposition to their party or support for another party were deemed to have resigned.**
- The Tenth Schedule provides for the disqualification of a member on the grounds of defection is decided by the Presiding Officer.
- **The process followed for disqualification in case the person holds an office of profit - the decision to disqualify a member is made by the President (in case of MPs) or the Governor (in case of MLAs) on the advice of the Election Commission. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The 91st Amendment Act of 2003 has made the following provisions:**
  - The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Central Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15 percent of the total strength of the Lok Sabha.
  - A member of either the House of Parliament or the House of a state legislature belonging to any political party who is disqualified on the grounds of defection shall also be disqualified from being appointed as a minister.
  - **The total number of ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a state shall not exceed 15 percent of the total strength of the Legislative Assembly of that state. But, the number of ministers, including the Chief Minister, in a state shall not be less than 12.**
  - The provision of the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law) pertaining to exemption from disqualification in case of split by one-third of members of the legislature party has been deleted.
- **The presiding officer of a House is empowered to make rules to give effect to the provisions of the Tenth Schedule.** All such rules must be placed before the House for 30 days. The House may approve, modify or disapprove them.
- **According to the rules made, the presiding officer can take up a defection case only when he receives a complaint from a member of the House. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 28.C

- **The West Coast of North America since 1904 became home to a steadily increasing number of Punjabi immigrants. They were pushed out from their homes by economic hardship and lured by the prospect of building a new and prosperous life for themselves in USA and Canada.**
- But many were refused entry, especially those who came straight from their villages and did not know Western Ways and manners those who were allowed to stay not only had to face racial Contempt but also the brunt of the hostility of the White labour force and unions who resented the competition they offered.
- **Tarak Nath Das, an Indian student, and one of the first leaders of the Indian community in North America to start a paper (called Free Hindustan) realized that while the British government was keen on Indians going to Fiji to work as labourers for British planters, it did not want them to go to North America where they might be infected by ideas of liberty.**
- The discriminatory policies of the host countries soon resulted in a flurry of political activity among Indian nationalists. As early as 1907, Ramnath Puri, a political exile on the West Coast, issued a Circular-e-Azadi (Circular of Liberty) in which he also pledged support to the Swadeshi Movement; **Tarak Nath Das in Vancouver started the Free Hindustan and adopted a very militant nationalist tone;** G.D. Kumar set up a Swadesh Sevak Home in Vancouver on the lines of the India House in London.
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 29.B

- **Establishment of the GST Council:**
  - **The 101st Amendment Act of 2016 (122nd Amendment Bill), paved the way for the implementation of a new tax regime in the country. i.e. goods and services tax - GST. The**



amendment provided for the establishment of a Goods and Services Tax Council, or GST Council, to facilitate this consultation process.

- **The amendment to the Constitution added a new Article 279-A. This Article gave the President the authority to appoint a GST Council by executive order. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Quorum and decision-making**
  - **The council shall meet from which one-half of its members will constitute a quorum, which will have the power to make decisions on certain listed matters and the decision shall be taken by at least three-fourths majority. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - The vote of the Central Government will have one-third of the weightage.
  - The vote of all the State Governments shall account for two-thirds of weightage.
  - **Any act or proceeding of the Council will not be rendered invalid on the following grounds:**
    - ✓ **Any vacancy or defect in the Council's constitution;**
    - ✓ Any defect in the appointment of a person as a member of the Council;
    - ✓ Any procedural irregularity of the Council that does not affect the merits of the case. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

#### Q 30.A

- **Rang Ghar:**
  - **Context: The Rang Ghar amphitheatre (large open area surrounded by rows of seats sloping upwards) in Assam's Sivasagar district has drawn criticism after a laser show projecting "religious symbols" as part of PM's 100th Man Ki Baat episode celebration. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - **About Rang Ghar:**
    - ✓ Rang Ghar is a historical two-story amphitheatre, **built during the reign of Swargadeo Pramatta Singha** in the mid-18th century and served as a royal pavilion and amphitheatre during the Ahom dynasty. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
    - ✓ It is considered Asia's first amphitheatre and is known for its unique octagonal shape and architectural features, including an inverted boat-shaped roof topped with stone crocodiles.

#### Q 31.D

- **There occurred a resurgence of working class activity in the years from 1919 to 1922.** The working class created its own national level organisation to defend its class rights.
- **The most important development was the formation of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) in 1920. Lala Lajpat Rai, the famous Extremist leader from Punjab, became its first president.**
- **Lajpat Rai was among the first in India to link capitalism with imperialism and emphasize the crucial of the working class in fighting this combination.** He said on 7 November, 1920: 'India... has... been bled by the forces of organized capital and is today lying prostrate at its feet. Militarism and Imperialism are the twin-children of capitalism; they are one in three and three in one. Their shadow, their fruit and their bark all are poisonous. It is only lately that an antidote has been discovered and that antidote is organized labour.'
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 32.D

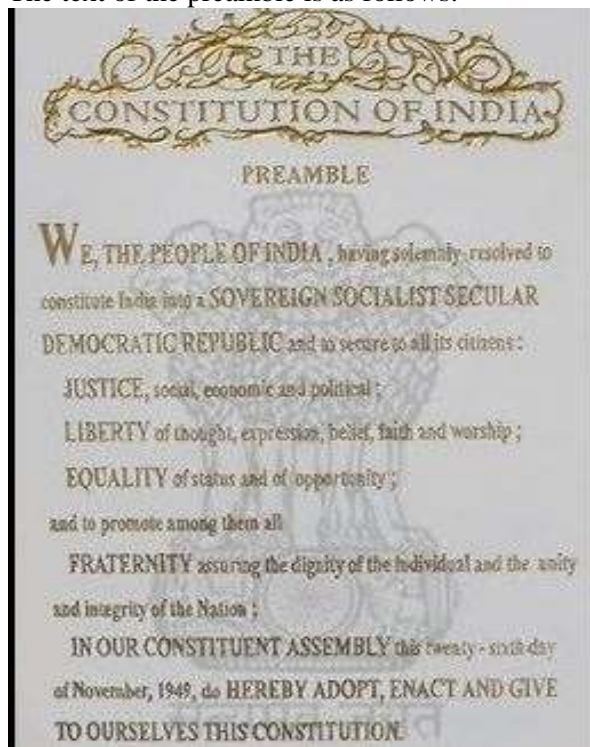
- **Oath or Affirmation of Judges in Third Schedule**
- Form of oath or affirmation to be made by the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India:— "I, A.B., having been appointed .... do swear in the name of God that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, 1 [that I will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India,] that I will duly and faithfully and to the best of my ability, knowledge and judgment perform the duties of my office without fear or favour, affection or ill-will and that I will uphold the Constitution and the laws."
- A person appointed as a judge of a high court, before entering upon his office, has to make and subscribe to an oath or affirmation before the governor of the state or some person appointed by him for this purpose. In his oath, a judge of a high court swears:
  - to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India;
  - to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India;
  - to duly and faithfully and to the best of his ability, knowledge and judgement perform the duties of the office without fear or favour, affection or ill-will; and
  - to uphold the Constitution and the laws. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**



- The oaths of the judges of High courts and the Supreme Court is mentioned in the third schedule of the Constitution of India. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Oath or affirmation of President** The president is required to make and subscribe in the presence of the Chief Justice of India—or in their absence, the senior-most judge of the supreme court—an oath or affirmation to protect, preserve and defend the constitution as follows: I, (name), do swear in the name of God (or solemnly affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President (or discharge the functions of the President) of the Republic of India, **and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law** and that I will devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of the Republic of India. (Article 60, Constitution of India). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

### Q 33.B

- The text of the preamble is as follows:



- Here, it is specifically mentioned that the people of India are constituting the constitution to secure for all citizens, equality of status and opportunity. The term 'equality' means the absence of special privileges to any section of the society, and the provision of adequate opportunities for all individuals without any discrimination. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.
- Equality of welfare is not directly given in the preamble and the idea of social welfare and welfare state is enshrined in the directive principles. Article To promote the welfare of the people by securing a social order permeated by justice—social, economic and political- and to minimise inequalities in income, status, facilities and opportunities. The equality of welfare is a social-liberal concept that can be seen in directive principles in a comprehensive manner.
- Equality of outcome is a socialist principle which is in contrast to the idea of socialism accepted by the constitution of India. The Indian brand of socialism is a 'democratic socialism' and not a 'communistic socialism' (also known as 'state socialism') which involves the nationalization of all means of production and distribution and the abolition of private property. Democratic socialism, on the other hand, holds faith in a 'mixed economy' where both public and private sectors co-exist side by side. Outcome equality is achieved in state socialism through the autocratic application of power.

### Q 34.A

- The Provincial and District Administration of Marathas:
- **Sarsubahdars:**
  - The big provinces of Khandesh, Gujarat and Carnatic were under officers known as **Sarsubahdars**. The **Sarsubahdar of Carnatic appointed his own Mamlatdars**, but the Sarsubahdar of Khandesh had only the powers of general superintendence, the Mamlatdars under him rendering account direct to the central government.

- **Mamlatdar and Kamavisdar:**
  - **Mamlatadars** held charge of an administrative division variously styled as Sarkar, Subah or Prant.
  - **He was assisted in his work by Kamavisdar.**
  - **The Mamlatdar and Kamavisdar were the representatives of the Peshwa in the district.** They were men of all jobs, looking after the development of agriculture and industry, civil and criminal justice, control of local militia, the police and even arbitration in social and religious disputes. **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
  - **The revenue assessment of the villages in the districts was fixed by the Mamlatdar in consultation with the Patels in the villages.** In case of need the Mamlatdar made available a Shibandi (militia) to assist the Patel in matters of revenue collection.
  - In Shivaji's times these posts were transferable but under the Peshwas these tended to become hereditary with its concomitants of bribery and corruption.
- **The Deshmukh and the Deshpande: They were other district officers who served as checks on the Mamlatadar** and no accounts were passed unless corroborated by corresponding accounts from them. Hence Deshmukh and Deshpande are treated as superiors to Mamlatdar.
- **Other Officers:**
  - Besides, the Darakhedars - hereditary officers independent of the control of the Mamlatdar-served as checks on the district officers of every department.
  - The Karkuns in the districts were also independent in every respect and reported direct to the central government any deviation from the normal functioning of the district administration.
  - The smaller administrative divisions called Mahals or Tars were run on the same lines as the district. The chief officer in a mahal was the **Havaldar who was assisted by a Mazumdar and a Fadnavis.**

#### Q 35.A

- The **idea** of an "Indian National Army" was first conceived by **Mohan Singh (and not Rashbehari Bose)** in Malaya. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- He was a **British Indian soldier** who requested the **Japanese** to return the Indian prisoners of war (**PoW**) that they had captured during the Malayan campaign. With these, he formed an **armed force to help free India** from British rule.
- In contemporary times, the **Quit India Movement** began in August **1942**; this gave a **fillip to the INA** as well due to the rise in **anti-British sentiments**. In fact, on **September 1st, 1942**, the **first division of the INA** was formed with 16,300 men. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In the **second phase of INA**, in October 1943, Rashbehari Bose set up a **Provisional Indian Government** with **headquarters in Rangoon as well as Singapore**. This provisional government had **recognition from the Axis powers**. It also had its own ministries and engaged itself in constructive works apart from the objective of freeing India. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 36.D

- In the early hours of 9 August, in a single sweep, all the top leaders of the congress were arrested and taken to unknown destinations.
- The sudden attack by the Government produced an instantaneous reaction among the people.
- In Bombay, as soon as the news of arrests spread lakhs of people flocked to Gowalia Tank where a mass meeting had been scheduled and there were clashes with the authorities.
- **The National Herald and Harijan ceased publication for the entire duration of the struggle, others for shorter periods. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Dissemination of news was a very important part of the activity, and considerable success was achieved on this score, the most dramatic being that Congress Radio operated clandestinely from different locations in Bombay City, whose broadcast could be heard as far as Madras.
- **Ram Manohar Lohia regularly broadcast on this radio, and the radio continued till November 1942 when it was discovered and confiscated by the police. Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- A significant feature of the Quit India Movement was the emergence of what came to be known as parallel governments in some parts of the country.
- **The first one was proclaimed in Ballia, in East U P, in August 1942 under the leadership of Chittu Pande, who called himself a Gandhian. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In some places, huge crowds attacked police stations, post offices, kutcheries (courts), railway stations and other symbols of Government authority.
- **National flags were forcibly hoisted on public buildings in defiance of the police. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

### Q 37.B

- The Constitution of India provides for a high court for each state, but the Seventh Amendment Act of 1956 authorised the Parliament to establish a common high court for two or more states or for two or more states and a union territory.
- The territorial jurisdiction of a high court is co-terminus with the territory of a state. Similarly, the territorial jurisdiction of a common high court is co-terminus with the territories of the concerned states and union territory.
- At present (2019), there are 25 high courts in the country. Out of them, only three high courts have jurisdiction over more than one state ( Bombay, Guwahati, Punjab&Haryana ). Among the nine union territories, Delhi alone has a separate high court (since 1966).
- The union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have a common high court. The other union territories fall under the jurisdiction of different state high courts.
- **The Parliament can extend the jurisdiction of a high court to any union territory or exclude the jurisdiction of a high court from any union territory. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Every high court (whether exclusive or common) consists of a chief justice and such other judges as the **president may** from time to time deem necessary to appoint.
- **Thus, the Constitution does not specify the strength of a high court and leaves it to the discretion of the president. Accordingly, the President determines the strength of a high court from time to time depending upon its workload. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

### Q 38.C

- The Government of India Act of 1935 had provisions for setting up a central government consisting of representatives from the provinces (areas ruled by the British Indian government) and the states (the areas covered under princely states). Thus, Government of India Act (1935) conceived of a plan of federation in which the Indian states were to be brought into a direct constitutional relationship with the British India and the states were to send representatives to the Federal Legislature.
  - It was proposed that the native states would get 2/5th of the seats in the Upper House and 1/3rd of the seats in the lower house.
  - The **Scheme was undemocratic** as these representatives would be nominees of the Princes and not democratically elected representatives of the people.
  - **Both Congress and the All-India States' People's Conference opposed the move and demanded that all representatives for the Federal Legislature should be on the basis of a popular elective principle.**
  - This part of the Act was never implemented and the federal government could not be formed because there was **no unanimity among the princes to join the federation; the consent of all princes was essential for the formation of the federation. Thus, only the provincial governments could be formed as per this Act. Hence statement I is correct and statement II is not correct.**
- The All India States Peoples' Conference (AISPC) was the association of the Praja Mandals in the princely states under the British Raj. These Praja Mandals established all over the country, sought to introduce responsible government.
  - The **first session of AISPC was held in Bombay in 1927** which brought together representatives from various Indian princely states.
  - The **1939 Session of the All India States People's Conference was held at Ludhiana, Punjab** under the leadership of **Jawaharlal Nehru, he continued to hold this position till 1946.** In the same year, the Indian National Congress amended its policy to lend support to the AISPC in view of the rising tide of nationalism and political mobilization in the Princely States. This made the Ludhiana Session of the AISPC even more significant.

### Q 39.A

- The Central Council of Local Government was set up in 1954. It was constituted under Article 263 of the Constitution of India by an order of the President of India.
- Originally, it was known as the Central Council of Local Self-Government. However, the term 'self-government' was found to be superfluous and hence was replaced by the term 'government' in the 1980s. Hence statement 1 is not correct.
- The Council is an advisory body. It consists of the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (erstwhile the Minister for Urban Development) in the Government of India and the ministers for local self-government in states.
- The Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs acts as the Chairman of the Council. Hence statement 2 is correct.

- Till 1958, it dealt with both urban as well as rural local governments, but after 1958 it has been dealing with matters of urban local government only. Hence statement 3 is correct.
- The Council performs the following functions with regard to local government:
  - Considering and recommending the policy matters
  - Making proposals for legislation
  - Examining the possibility of cooperation between the Centre and the states
  - Drawing up a common programme of action
  - Recommending Central financial assistance
  - Reviewing the work done by the local bodies with the Central financial assistance.
- Hence option (a) is the correct answer.

#### Q 40.D

- **First Carnatic War (1740-48)**
  - **Background:** Carnatic is referred to the Coromandel coast and its hinterland. It was an extension of the Anglo-French War in Europe, **due to the Austrian War of Succession.**
  - **Key Events:** Battle of St. Thome in Madras between French and Nawab of Carnatic's forces.
  - **Cause of the War:** Conflict in Europe, and British provocation of France in India.
  - **Result:** The war ended with the Treaty of Aix-La Chapelle; And Madras was handed back to the English. Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched.
  - **Significance:** The war revealed the importance of naval force in Anglo-French conflicts in India.
- **Second Carnatic War (1749-54)**
  - **Background:** This Continued rivalry between British and French.
  - The war is because of dispute over the Nizam of Hyderabad's succession.
  - **Key Events:** English and French involvement in local dynastic disputes. **Battle of Ambur which was fought in 1749 between the combined force of Chanda Sahib, Muzaffar Jang and French vs Anwar-Ud-Din.**
  - **Cause of the War:** Death of Nizam-ul-Mulk and release of Chanda Sahib.
  - **Result:** French recalled Dupleix due to financial losses. **Treaty of Pondicherry signed, English and French agreed not to interfere in native princes' quarrels. Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Third Carnatic War (1758-63)**
  - **Background:** Outbreak of Seven Years War in Europe.
  - **Key Events:** Capture of English forts by the French, followed by English offensive. **Decisive Battle of Wandiwash in 1760.**
  - **Result:** **Treaty of Peace of Paris (1763) restored Pondicherry and Chandannagar to France. Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
  - English became the supreme European power in India.
  - **Significance:** English East India Company had no European rival in India.

#### Q 41.C

- **1st Global Buddhist Summit 2023:**
  - **Context:** Recently, the Ministry of Culture in partnership with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) has organized the 1st Global Buddhist Summit 2023, which aims to enhance cultural and diplomatic relations with other countries.
  - **About the Global Buddhist Summit**
    - ✓ It was the first-ever Global Buddhist Summit organized by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC). **Hence, statement 1 and statement 2 are correct.**
    - ✓ Eminent scholars, Sangha leaders Dharma practitioners, and Buddhist monks from all over the world attended the conference.
    - ✓ The focus of the Global Buddhist Summit was on modes of disseminating and internalizing universal values and finding ways to work together, to address the burning challenges both within and globally and offer a sustainable model for the future of the world.
    - ✓ The main theme of the summit was Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis.
  - **About International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)**
    - ✓ IBC is the biggest religious Buddhist confederation in the world.
    - ✓ The body was formed in New Delhi in 2011 and is headquartered here.
    - ✓ The goal of IBC is to create a role for Buddhism on the global stage so as to help preserve heritage, share knowledge, and promote values.



- ✓ It also aims to represent a united front for Buddhism to participate in the current global happenings.

#### Q 42.B

- **The Commonwealth of India Bill 1925 was first drafted by the 'National Convention' in April 1924 in the context of the Indian nationalist movement that believed it was time for Indians to be governed by a Constitution framed by Indians.**
- **The Convention, with Tej Bahadur Sapru as the Chairman, consisted of 256 members, the majority of whom were legislators and ex-legislators with some representation from the Home Rule League, 1921 Club, and the India Women's Association. Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
- **The Convention sat again on December 1924 in Bombay and submitted an amended draft of the Bill to a sub-committee appointed by the All Parties Conference, 1925 of which Annie Besant was the Chairwoman.** This sub-committee made a number of amendments and these were considered by the National Convention in April 1925.
- The Bill consisted of 127 Articles organized around ten chapters. It read like a full-fledged constitution and was comprehensive: it touched upon almost all themes that one would expect in a constitutional document.
- **The Commonwealth of India Bill demanded seven Fundamental Rights for Indians.** Among these rights included: individual liberty, freedom of conscience, free expression of opinion, free assembly, and equality before law. The Bill also had provisions for the right to free elementary education, equal right to use roads, court of justice and all other places of business or resort dedicated to the public.

#### Q 43.C

- **The Constitution of India provides for a parliamentary form of government, both at the Centre and in the states. Articles 74 and 75 deal with the parliamentary system at the Centre and Articles 163 and 164 in the states.**
- Modern democratic governments are classified into parliamentary and presidential on the basis of the nature of relations between the executive and the legislative organs of the government. The parliamentary system of government is the one in which the executive is responsible to the legislature for its policies and acts. The presidential system of government, on the other hand, is one in which the executive is not responsible to the legislature for its policies and acts, and is constitutionally independent of the legislature in respect of its term of office.
- The parliamentary government is also known as cabinet government or responsible government or Westminster model of government and is prevalent in Britain, Japan, Canada, and India among others. The presidential government, on the other hand, is also known as the non-responsible or non-parliamentary or fixed executive system of government and is prevalent in the USA, Brazil, Russia, and Sri Lanka among others.
- **In the Parliamentary system, the members of the Council of Ministers is selected by the Prime Minister (Article 75) among the elected representatives from his/her party or coalition. It is not elected by the parliament per se. Hence, statement I is correct but statement II is not correct.**

#### Q 44.B

- **Raleigh Commission:**
  - **In 1902, Raleigh Commission was set up to go into conditions and prospects of universities in India and to suggest measures for improvement in their constitution and working. The commission precluded (Prohibited) from reporting on primary or secondary education. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - **Based on its recommendations, the Indian Universities Act was passed in 1904. The provisions of the act are as follows**
    - ✓ Universities were to give more attention to study and research;
    - ✓ The number of fellows of a university and their period in office were reduced, and most fellows were to be nominated by the government;
    - ✓ Government was to have powers to veto universities' senate regulations and could amend these regulations or pass regulations on its own;
    - ✓ Conditions were to be made stricter for affiliation of private colleges; and
    - ✓ **Five lakh rupees** were to be sanctioned per annum for five years for improvement of higher education and universities.
- Curzon justified greater control over universities in the name of quality and efficiency, but actually sought to restrict education and to discipline the educated towards loyalty to the government.



- The nationalists saw in it an attempt to strengthen imperialism and to sabotage nationalist feelings. Moderates rejected the act and Gokhale called it a “retrograde measure”. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Q 45.D

- **Composition of the Legislative Assemblies (Article:170)**
  - The maximum strength of the Legislative Assembly is fixed at 500 and the minimum strength at 60. It means that its strength varies from 60 to 500 depending on the population size of the State. **The Uttar Pradesh Assembly consists of 403 elected members which is the highest among all states.**
  - However, in states like Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, and Sikkim, the minimum strength is fixed at 30, and in the case of Mizoram and Nagaland, it is 40 and 46 respectively.
  - Further, some members of the legislative assemblies in Sikkim and Nagaland are also elected indirectly.
  - There are a total of 200 members in Rajasthan, 147 members in Odisha, 175 members in Andhra Pradesh, and 117 members in the Punjab legislative assembly. **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 46.A

Sources	Features Borrowed
Government of India Act of 1935	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Scheme</li> <li>• Office of governor</li> <li>• Judiciary</li> <li>• Public Service Commissions</li> <li>• Emergency provisions and administrative details.</li> </ul>
British Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parliamentary government</li> <li>• Rule of Law</li> <li>• Legislative procedure</li> <li>• Single citizenship</li> <li>• Cabinet system</li> <li>• Prerogative writs</li> <li>• Parliamentary privileges and</li> <li>• Bicameralism</li> </ul>
US Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundamental rights</li> <li>• Independence of judiciary</li> <li>• Judicial review</li> <li>• Impeachment of the president</li> <li>• Removal of Supreme Court and high court judges</li> <li>• <b>Post of vice- president.</b></li> </ul>
Irish Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directive Principles of State Policy</li> <li>• Nomination of members to Rajya Sabha</li> <li>• <b>Method of election of president.</b></li> </ul>
Canadian Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federation with a strong Centre</li> <li>• Vesting of residuary powers in the Centre</li> <li>• Appointment of state governors by the Centre,</li> <li>• Advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.</li> </ul>
Australian Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concurrent List</li> <li>• Freedom of trade</li> <li>• Commerce and inter- course</li> <li>• Joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament.</li> </ul>
Weimar Constitution of Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Suspension of Fundamental Rights during Emergency.</b></li> </ul>
Soviet Constitution (USSR, now Russia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundamental duties</li> <li>• The ideal of justice (social, economic and political) in the Preamble.</li> </ul>
French Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Republic and the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity in the Preamble.</li> </ul>
South African Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Procedure for amendment of the Constitution</b></li> <li>• Election of members of Rajya Sabha.</li> </ul>
Japanese	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedure established by Law.</li> </ul>

- Hence option (a) is the correct answer.

#### Q 47.A

- While many **zamindars** were facing a crisis at the end of the eighteenth century, a group of rich peasants were consolidating their position in the villages.
  - In Francis Buchanan's survey of the Dinajpur district in North Bengal, he made a vivid description of **this class of rich peasants known as jotedars. Hence option (a) is correct.**
- **Jotedars:**
  - By the early nineteenth century, jotedars had acquired vast areas of land – sometimes as much as several thousand acres.
  - They controlled local trade as well as moneylending, exercising immense power over the poorer cultivators of the region.
  - A large part of their land was cultivated through sharecroppers (adhiyars or bargadars) who brought their own ploughs, laboured in the field, and handed over half the produce to the jotedars after the harvest.
  - Within the villages, **the power of jotedars was more effective than that of zamindars.** Unlike zamindars who often lived in urban areas, jotedars were located in the villages and exercised direct control over a considerable section of poor villagers.
  - **They fiercely resisted efforts by zamindars to increase the jama of the village,** prevented zamindari officials from executing their duties, mobilised ryots who were dependent on them, and deliberately delayed payments of revenue to the zamindar.
  - In fact, when the estates of the zamindars were auctioned for failure to make revenue payment, jotedars were often amongst the purchasers.
  - In some places they were called **haoladars**, elsewhere they were known as **gantidars** or **mandals**. **Their rise inevitably weakened zamindari authority.**

#### Q 48.B

- **The text of aims and objectives which were to be discussed in the Constituent Assembly first were prepared by Jawaharlal Nehru in the form of Objectives Resolution. In the Constituent Assembly, it was presented by Jawaharlal Nehru and seconded by Purushottam Das Tandon. After the discussion in the Constituent Assembly, most of the provisions of the Objectives Resolution were accepted as the Preamble. Hence, statement 1 is correct but statement 3 is not correct.**
- Objectives Resolution meant to lay certain ground on which the structure of the Constitution could be built after the debates and deliberations in the Constituent Assembly. Objective Resolutions were “in the nature of pledge” which the people of India through the Constituent Assembly took for their fulfillment in the future. The Resolution laid down certain “Fundamentals” for the future constitution of India.
- **Objectives Resolution did not mention the word “democratic”. About this, Jawaharlal Nehru opined that the word “republic” mentioned in the Objectives Resolution implies democracy. He also clarified that the Objectives Resolution had not only “content of democracy” but also “content of economic democracy”. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Objectives Resolution was going to be the part of the Constitution that the Assembly was expected to make. This was not binding on the members of the Constituent Assembly. They had “perfect freedom” to draw up the Constitution. The Resolution only laid down “certain fundamentals”.

#### Q 49.D

- During the Second World War, on **August 6, 1945**, the **United States dropped an atomic bomb** on the Japanese city of **Hiroshima**. This was done in order to ensure quick surrender by the Japanese to reduce the number of American lives lost. In addition, it was secretly decided at the **Yalta Summit in February 1945** that the **Soviet Union would enter the war against Japan**.
- The **Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Mutiny** started on **February 18, 1946**.
  - Background: The rating of **HMIS Talwar** was subjected to **racial discrimination** by the British forces, further, the Indian and British troops were paid **unequal salaries** even for the identical designation, creating resentment among the Indian soldiers.
- **The Prime Minister of Britain Clement Attlee declared on February 20, 1947, in the House of Commons that the British would quit India after transferring power into the responsible hand not later than June 1948.** The idea was that the Indians should settle their issues before that. He also announced the appointment of Lord Mountbatten as Viceroy in place of Lord Wavell. **This is famously known as Attlee's declaration.**
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 50.B

- **The Moderates' Constitutional Demands**
  - Moderates did not aim for complete separation from the British Empire but sought limited self-government within it. **Hence Statement 1 is correct.**
- **Their demands included the following:**
  - They wanted the abolition of the India Council which prevented the secretary of state from initiating liberal policies in India. They have issue with India Council but not with the Secretary of State. **Hence Statement 2 is not correct.**
  - They wanted to broader Indian participation in legislatures through an expansion of central and provincial legislatures.
  - They proposed including elected representation from local bodies, chambers of commerce, and universities.
  - They wanted new councils for specific provinces, Indian members in the Viceroy's Executive Council, and budget discussions in legislatures.
  - They also sought the right to appeal to the House of Commons against the Government of India.
  - They demanded democratic rights **only for the educated members of the Indian society** who would substitute for the masses. **Hence Statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Extension of the Permanent Settlement:**
  - Among the administrative demands made by the moderates, **one was for the extension of the Permanent Settlement. Hence Statement 4 is correct.**
  - It involved fixing land revenue rates permanently, without periodic revisions. The moderates likely called for the expansion of this system to cover more regions or territories beyond those where it was initially introduced. Their rationale have been to provide stability in land revenue for landowners and to reduce potential disputes over revenue rates.

#### Q 51.C

- Approval voting system - a voting method that allows voters to choose as many candidates or parties as they want from a list of options.
- **Approval voting is different from ranked-choice voting**, which requires voters to rank their preferences of candidates or parties and eliminates the least preferred options until one option has a majority. **Statement II is not correct.**
- Approval voting **can reduce voter fragmentation and encourage ideological politics**. It can also prevent post-election defections and horse-trading (political vote trading), as it reduces the need for pre-poll alliances and seat-sharing arrangements among parties. **Hence statement I is correct.**
- **The winner is the candidate or party that receives the most approvals or tick marks from the voters.**
- Approval voting is different from the First Past the Post System method, which forces voters to choose only one option and gives the victory to the option with the most votes, even if it does not have a majority.
- Approval voting is a voting method that allows voters to choose as many candidates or parties as they want from a list of options.
- **This allows voters to express their support for multiple parties without fear of wasting their vote or helping their least preferred option.**
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 52.A

- On **28 December 1885**, the **Indian National Congress** was founded at **Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College in Bombay**, with 72 delegates in attendance.
- **The Safety Valve theory:**
  - In the early 1880s, a solid ground had been prepared for the establishment of an **all-India organization** in order to create a **Safety Valve** for releasing the growing discontent of the Indians and to avoid any situation like that of 1857.
  - In this regard, **A.O. Hume**, a retired English civil servant, **convinced Lord Dufferin** not to obstruct the formation of the **Congress**.
  - He mobilized the leading intellectuals of the time and, with their cooperation, organized the first session of the **Indian National Congress in Bombay in December 1885**.
  - Herein, **Hume assumed office as the General Secretary**, and **Womesh Chunder Bonnerjee** of Calcutta was **elected president**. **Hume never became Congress president which is a point under Safety Valve Theory. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- **In the Calcutta session** of the Indian National Congress held in **1917**, **Annie Besant** became the **first woman President** of Indian National Congress. The first Indian woman to be President of INC was Sarojini Naidu. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

#### Q 53.A

- Odisha Cabinet gave a nod to the Inclusion of the Kui Language in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. However, there is no such procedure for the inclusion of a language under the 8th schedule in the Constitution.
- **Parliament can amend the provision on the official language of India and the Eighth Schedule under the Constitution by a simple majority of its members. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- In terms of the Constitution provisions, there are two objectives behind the specification of the above regional languages in the Eighth Schedule:
  - the members of these languages are to be given representation in the Official Language Commission; and
  - The forms, style, and expression of these languages are to be used for the enrichment of the Hindi language.
- At present, the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution specifies 22 languages (originally 14 languages). These are Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri (Dongri), Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Mathili (Maithili), Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. Sindhi was added by the 21st Amendment Act of 1967; **Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali were added by the 71st Amendment Act of 1992**; and Bodo, Dongri, Maithili and Santhali were added by the 92nd Amendment Act of 2003. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 54.A

- **All India Report of First Census of Water Bodies**
  - **Context:** The Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched the 1st Census of Water Bodies in convergence with the 6th Minor Irrigation (MI) Census under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Irrigation Census”.
  - **The First Census of Water Bodies**
  - **Objective:** To develop a national database for all water bodies by collecting information on their size, condition, status of encroachments, use, storage capacity, filling up of storage, etc.
  - **What is unique about the census?**
    - ✓ Until the 5th minor irrigation census, water body data was only available at the village level.
    - ✓ The first water body census included data on all types of water bodies in both rural and urban areas.
    - ✓ **For the first time, data on the encroachment of water bodies was also gathered during the census.**
  - **How is a ‘water body’ defined?**
    - ✓ The census defines a water body as all-natural or man-made units bounded on all sides with some or no masonry work used for storing water for Irrigation or
    - ✓ Other purposes (for example industrial, pisciculture, domestic/drinking, recreation, religious, groundwater recharge, etc.).
    - ✓ Water bodies are usually of various types known by different names like tanks, reservoirs, ponds, etc.
    - ✓ A structure where water from ice melt, streams, springs, rain, or water drainage from residential or other areas is accumulated will also be treated as a waterbody.
    - ✓ Water stored by diversion from a stream, nala, or river will also be treated as a water body.
  - **Did the census cover all water bodies that fit this definition?**
    - ✓ Seven specific types of water bodies were excluded from the count:
      - ✓ Oceans and lagoons;
      - ✓ Rivers, streams, springs, waterfalls, canals, etc. which are free-flowing, without any bounded storage of water;
      - ✓ Swimming pools;
      - ✓ Covered water tanks created for a specific purpose by a family or household for their own consumption;
      - ✓ A water tank constructed by a factory owner for the consumption of water as raw material or consumable;
      - ✓ Temporary water bodies created by digging for mining, brick kilns, and construction activities, which may get filled during the rainy season; and
      - ✓ Pucca open water tanks were created only for cattle to drink water. **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**



#### Q 55.C

- **C. Rajagopalachari (CR), the veteran Congress leader, prepared a formula for Congress-League cooperation in 1944. It was a tacit acceptance of the League's demand for Pakistan. Gandhi supported the formula.**
- **The main points in the CR Plan were:**
  - **Muslim League to endorse Congress's demand for independence.**
  - League to cooperate with Congress in forming a provisional government at the centre.
  - After the end of the war, **the entire population of Muslim-majority areas in North-West and North-East India** to decide by a plebiscite, whether or not to form a separate sovereign state.
  - In case of acceptance of partition, an agreement is to be made jointly for safeguarding defence, commerce, communications, etc.
  - The above terms were to be operative **only if England transferred full powers to India.**
- **Objections raised to the formula were:**
  - Jinnah wanted the Congress to accept the two-nation theory. **He wanted only the Muslims of North-West and North-East to vote in the plebiscite and not the entire population.** He also opposed the idea of a common centre. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - While the Congress was ready to cooperate with the League for the independence of the Indian Union, the League did not care for the independence of the Union. It was only interested in a separate nation.
  - **Hindu leaders led by Vir Savarkar condemned the CR Plan. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 56.C

- **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose** was a dynamic leader of the Indian National Movement. In this regard, he was associated with multiple organizations. Some of these include:
  - **Indian Independence League:** It was a **political organization** founded by **Rashbehari Bose in 1942**. Its purpose was to organize those living outside India into seeking the **removal of British colonial rule** over India. **On 4 July 1943, Subhas Chandra Bose was elected as its president.**
  - **Forward Bloc:** It was a Political Party formed by **Subhash Bose** himself in **May 1939**. It emerged as a result of Bose's resignation as Congress President in 1939 due to differences with Gandhiji.
  - **Mukti Sena/Freedom Army:** After escaping House Arrest in 1941, Bose gradually reached Germany, where he met Hitler under the pseudo name, Orlando Mazzotta. With the help of Hitler, the '**Freedom Army**' (**Mukti Sena**) was **formed, consisting of all the prisoners of war of Indian origin captured by Germany and Italy.** Dresden, Germany, was designated as its headquarters.
- **Ghadar Party:** The Party was founded by **Sohan Singh Bhakna** and **Lala Hardayal on 15 July 1913 in the United States.** Its aim was to **get rid of the colonial superpower** by means of an **armed struggle** and to set up a national democratic government on the subcontinent. **Rashbehari Bose was associated with it, not Subhash Bose.**

#### Q 57.C

- **Gongadi Shawls**
  - **Context:** A group of alumni from the National Institute of Design has repurposed Telangana's woollen gongadi shawls into all-weather shoes for farmers.
  - **About Gongadi Shawls:**
    - ✓ Gongadi is a traditional woollen blanket woven by the indigenous Kuruma and Kuruba pastoralist communities. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
    - ✓ Material: It is made using the coarse wool of the Deccani sheep, known locally as Nalla gorrae. It is produced organically without using any dyes. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
    - ✓ Durability: Gongadi shawls are famous for their durability and versatility. They are known for their ability to withstand all weather conditions and remain intact for a long time. The shawls do not fade but grow darker in colour over time.

#### Q 58.B

- The **Civil Disobedience Movement** began on **April 6, 1930**, with **Gandhiji violating the "salt law" in Dandi**, a village on Gujarat's seacoast.
- In this movement, various personalities participated, leading the movement from different places. These included:
  - **Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi:** He picked up some salt in his hands as a symbol of registering his disobedience and breaking the salt law at **Dandi**.
  - **C. Rajagopalachari:** He led a salt march from **Trichinopoly to Vedaranniyam** on the **Tanjore coast in Tamil Nadu. Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**



- **K. Kelappan:** In defiance of salt laws, he marched from **Calicut to Payoneer in Kerala. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **P. Krishna Pillai:** He faced the lathi charge on the **Calicut beach, Kerala.**
- **Sarohini Naidu, Manilal and Imam Sahib** led a non-violent raid at the **Dharsana Salt Works in Gujarat. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**

#### Q 59.B

- **Tiwa Tribes**
  - **Context:** The RSS-affiliate group in Assam demands the removal of converted tribals from Scheduled Tribe list.
    - ✓ The tribe Tiwas (Lalungs) lives both **in the hills and plains of Assam** and Meghalaya state. Tiwa means people who were lifted from below. **Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
    - ✓ They are recognized as a Scheduled tribe within the State of Assam.
    - ✓ Wanchuwa festival is celebrated by the Tiwa tribe to mark their good harvest.
    - ✓ The hill Tiwa villagers are habitual to the Jhum cultivation, horticulture, vegetables and the crops which are cultivable in the area.
    - ✓ They speak the Tibeto Burman language.
- **Kattunayakan tribe**
  - **Context:** The Elephant Whisperers won an Oscar in a short documentary film that was shot in Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai- Theppakadu Elephant Camp and It's based on the Kattunayakan tribe.
    - ✓ **Kattunayakan community is a tribal group that, for generations, has devoted itself to caring for elephants.**
    - ✓ They are mainly **found in parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala** (Nilgiris and surrounding region). **Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**
    - ✓ They are one of the earliest known inhabitants of the Western Ghats, who are engaged in the collection and gathering of forest produce, mainly wild honey and wax.
    - ✓ Also called as Kattunayakar or Jennu Kurumbas. This community is one of the 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India.
    - ✓ Designated as a scheduled tribe in the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. Monogamy is generally practiced among the Kattunayakans.
- **Soliga ecarinata: New Wasp named after Soliga Community**
  - **Context:** A group of researchers found a new wasp species in the region. The new wasp species has been named after the Soliga community of the region.
    - ✓ Soliga is an ethnic tribal community living in the region. They are also called Sholaga, Solega, and Sholaga. They dwell in the **southern Karnataka region**. The language of the community of Sholga is Dravidian. Indian law categorizes them as Scheduled Tribes. **Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
    - ✓ Soliga plays a vital role in conserving the Biligiri Ranganatha Swamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary. This wildlife corridor connects the eastern and western Ghats. The site is known for Elephant bathing, bird watching, and forest safari. It is home to tigers, bovines, etc.

#### Q 60.C

- The term 'equality' means the absence of special privileges to any section of the society, and the provision of adequate opportunities for all individuals without any discrimination.
- The Preamble secures to all citizens of India equality of status and opportunity. This provision embraces three dimensions of equality—civic, political and economic.
  - **The following provisions of the chapter on Fundamental Rights ensure civic equality:**
    - ✓ Equality before the law (Article 14).
    - ✓ Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15).
    - ✓ Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment (Article 16). (d) Abolition of untouchability (Article 17).
    - ✓ Abolition of titles (Article 18).
- **There are two provisions in the Constitution that seek to achieve political equality.** One, no person is to be declared ineligible for inclusion in electoral rolls on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex (**Article 325**). Two, elections to the Lok Sabha and the state assemblies to be on the basis of adult suffrage (**Article 326**).
- **The Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 39)** secures men and women equal rights to an adequate means of livelihood and equal pay for equal work under part Part IV guarantees Economic equality.

<i>Parts</i>	<i>Subject Matter</i>	<i>Articles Covered</i>
• III	• Fundamental Rights	• 12 to 35
• IV	• Directive Principles of State Policy	• 36 to 51
• XV	• Elections	• 324 to 329 A

- Hence option (c) is the correct answer.

#### Q 61.D

- **Santosh Trophy 2023**
  - **Context:** Karnataka ended their 54-year wait to win the Santosh Trophy national football championship, beating Meghalaya 3-2 in a pulsating final at the King Fahd International Stadium in the Saudi Arabia capital. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - **About the Santosh Trophy**
    - ✓ The National Football Championship for Hero Santosh Trophy, due to sponsorship ties with Hero MotoCorp also known as the Hero National Football Championship, or simply Santosh Trophy, is a state-level national football competition contested by the state associations and government institutions under the All India Football Federation (AIFF), the sport's governing body in India.
    - ✓ The tournament is held every year with eligible teams who are divided into zones, must play in the qualifying round, and can progress into the tournament proper.
    - ✓ The tournament was started in 1941 by the Indian Football Association (IFA), which was the then de facto governing body of football in India. It was named after the former president of the IFA, Sir Manmatha Nath Roy Chowdhury, the Maharaja of Santosh. The IFA later donated the Santosh Trophy to the AIFF, soon after its formation as the sport's official governing body in India, and since then AIFF has been organizing the tournament.
  - **Durand Cup:**
    - ✓ It is Asia's oldest and the world's third-oldest football tournament, in which top Indian football clubs from across the country participate. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
    - ✓ The inaugural edition took place in Shimla in 1888, when it started off as an Army Cup, open only to the British Indian Army troops in India. The tournament is named after its founder Sir Henry Mortimer Durand.

#### Q 62.B

- **It was in 1934 that the idea of a Constituent Assembly for India was put forward for the first time by M. N. Roy, a pioneer of communist movement in India.** In 1935, the Indian National Congress (INC), for the first time, officially demanded a Constituent Assembly to frame the Constitution of India. In 1938, Jawaharlal Nehru, on behalf the INC declared that 'the Constitution of free India must be framed, without outside interference, by a Constituent Assembly elected on the basis of adult franchise'. **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
- The Constituent Assembly was constituted in November 1946 under the scheme formulated by the Cabinet Mission Plan. The features of the scheme were:
  - The total strength of the Constituent Assembly was to be 389. Of these, 296 seats were to be allotted to British India and 93 seats to the Princely States. Out of 296 seats allotted to the British India, 292 members were to be drawn from the eleven governors' provinces and four from the four chief commissioners' provinces, one from each.
  - Each province and princely state (or group of states in case of small states) were to be allotted seats in proportion to their respective population. Roughly, one seat was to be allotted for every million population.
  - **Seats allocated to each British province were to be divided among the three principal communities—Muslims, Sikhs and general (all except Muslims and Sikhs), in proportion to their population.**
  - The representatives of each community were to be elected by members of that community in the provincial legislative assembly and voting was to be by the method of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote.
  - The representatives of princely states were to be nominated by the heads of the princely states.
- **The Constituent Assembly held its first meeting on December 9, 1946.** The Muslim League boycotted the meeting and insisted on a separate state of Pakistan. The meeting was thus attended by only 211

members. **Dr Sachchidanand Sinha, the oldest member, was elected as the temporary President of the Assembly, following the French practice.**

- Later, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as the President of the Assembly. **Similarly, both H.C. Mukherjee and V.T. Krishnamachari were elected as the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly. In other words, the Assembly had two Vice-Presidents.**

#### Q 63.C

- **Features of the Independence Act of 1947:**
  - It ended British rule in India and declared India as an independent and sovereign state on August 15, 1947.
  - **It provided for the partition of India and the creation of two independent dominions of India and Pakistan with the right to secede from the British Commonwealth. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - It abolished the office of viceroy and provided, for each dominion, a governor-general, who was to be appointed by the British King on the advice of the dominion cabinet. His Majesty's Government in Britain was to have no responsibility with respect to the Government of India or Pakistan.
  - **It empowered the Constituent Assemblies of the two dominions to frame and adopt any constitution for their respective nations and to repeal any act of the British Parliament, including the Independence Act itself. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - It abolished the office of the secretary of state for India and transferred his functions to the secretary of state for Commonwealth Affairs.
  - It proclaimed the lapse of British paramountcy over the Indian princely states and treaty relations with tribal areas from August 15, 1947.
  - It granted freedom to the Indian princely states either to join the Dominion of India or the Dominion of Pakistan or to remain independent.
  - It provided for the governance of each of the dominions and the provinces by the Government of India Act of 1935, till the new Constitutions were framed. The dominions were however authorized to make modifications in the Act.
  - **It designated the Governor-General of India and the provincial governors as constitutional (nominal) heads of the states. They were made to act on the advice of the respective council of ministers in all matters. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - It dropped the title of Emperor of India from the royal titles of the king of England.

#### Q 64.B

- **Prarthana Samaj:**
  - In 1867, Keshub Chandra Sen helped **Atmaram Pandurang** found the Prarthana Samaj in Bombay. It was an off-shoot of Brahmo Samaj. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - A precursor of the Prarthana Samaj was the Paramahansa Sabha, something like a secret society to spread liberal ideas and encourage the breakdown of caste and communal barriers.
  - In Prarthana Samaj the emphasis was on monotheism, on 'works' rather than on faith, but on the whole, the samaj was more concerned with social reforms than with religion.
  - **They relied on education and persuasion and not on confrontation with Hindu orthodoxy. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - **There was a four-point social agenda also:**
    - ✓ disapproval of caste system
    - ✓ women's education
    - ✓ **widow remarriage**
    - ✓ **raising the age of marriage for both males and females. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - It was a reform movement within Hinduism and concentrated on social reforms like inter-dining, inter-marriage, widow remarriage and uplift of women and depressed classes.
  - **Justice M.G. Ranade and R.G. Bhandarkar joined it in 1870 and infused new strength to it.**
  - Along with Karve, Ranade founded the Widow Remarriage Movement as well as Widows' Home Association with the aim of providing education and training to widows so that they could support themselves.

#### Q 65.D

- **Treaty of Sugauli, 1816.**
  - It was an agreement between the **Gurkha chiefs of Nepal and the British Indian government** that ended the **Anglo-Nepalese (Gurkha) War (1814–16)**. **Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched.**

- By the treaty, Nepal renounced all claim to the disputed Tarai, or lowland country, and ceded its conquests west of the Kali River and extending to the Sutlej River.
- **Nepal remained independent**, but it received a British resident with the status of an ambassador to an independent country rather than of the controlling agent of the supreme government in an Indian state.
- **The Treaty of Yandaboo, 1826:**
  - **It formally ended the First Anglo-Burmese War.** The British victory had been achieved mainly because India's superior resources had made possible a sustained campaign running through two rainy seasons. But in the fighting the British-led Indian troops had suffered more than 15,000 fatalities. **Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
  - Its terms included cession of Tenasserim and Arakan to the British, payment of an indemnity equivalent to £1,000,000, and renunciation of all Myanmar claims in Assam and Manipur, which became British protectorates.
- **Treaty of Lhasa (1904)**
  - **It was an agreement between British India and Tibet. Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
  - **Terms under Treaty of Lhasa (1904):**
    - ✓ Tibet would pay an indemnity of 75 lakh rupees at the rate of one lakh rupees per annum.
    - ✓ As a security for payment, the Indian Government would occupy the Chumbi Valley (territory between Bhutan and Sikkim) for 75 years.
    - ✓ Tibet would respect the frontier of Sikkim and Trade marts would be opened at Yatung, Gyantse, Gartok; and
    - ✓ Tibet would not grant any concession for railways, roads, telegraph, etc., to any foreign state, but give Great Britain some control over foreign affairs of Tibet.

#### Q 66.B

- **Article 3 authorises the Parliament to:**
  - form a new state by separation of territory from any state or by uniting two or more states or parts of states or by uniting any territory to a part of any state,
  - increase the area of any state,
  - diminish the area of any state,
  - alter the boundaries of any state, and (e) alter the name of any state.
- **Article 2 empowers the Parliament** to 'admit into the Union of India, or establish, new states on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit'. Thus, Article 2 grants two powers to the Parliament:
  - the power to admit into the Union of India new states; and
  - the power to establish new states.
    - ✓ The first refers to the admission of states which are already in existence while the second refers to the establishment of states which were not in existence before. Notably, Article 2 relates to the admission or establishment of new states that are not part of the Union of India.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 67.A

- **Hunter Education Commission (1882–83):** Earlier schemes of British had neglected primary and secondary education. In 1882, the government appointed a commission under the chairmanship of **W.W. Hunter** to review the progress of education in the country since the **Despatch of 1854**.
- **The Hunter Commission mostly confined its recommendations to primary and secondary education. The Recommendations of commission are as follows:**
  - Emphasised that state's special care is required for extension and improvement of primary education, and that **primary education should be imparted through vernacular. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - Recommended **transfer of control of primary education to newly set up district and municipal boards. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - Recommended that secondary (high education) should have two divisions:
    - ✓ literary—leading up to university
    - ✓ vocational—for commercial careers school)
  - It **drew attention to inadequate facilities for female education**, especially outside presidency towns and made recommendations for its spread. **There is no recommendation of separate schools for Female education but recommended to improve the facilities. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

- The next two decades saw rapid growth and expansion of secondary and collegiate education with the participation of Indians. Also, more teaching-cum-examining universities were set up like the Punjab University (1882) and the Allahabad University (1887).

#### Q 68.A

- **Types of Urban Governments:**
  - **A notified area committee** is created for the administration of two types of areas – a fast-developing town due to industrialisation, and a town which does not yet fulfil all the conditions necessary for the constitution of a municipality, but which otherwise is considered important by the state government. Since it is established by a notification in the government gazette, it is non-statutory body.
  - Though it functions within the framework of the State Municipal Act, only those provisions of the act apply to it which are notified in the government gazette by which it is created. It may also be entrusted to exercise powers under any other act. **All the members of a notified area committee including the chairman are nominated by the state government. Thus, it is neither an elected body nor a statutory body.**
  - **A town area committee** is set up for the administration of a small town. It is a semi-municipal authority and is entrusted with a limited number of civic functions like drainage, roads, street lighting, and conservancy. **It is created by a separate act of a state legislature.** Its composition, functions and other matters are governed by the act. It may be wholly elected or wholly nominated by the state government or partly elected and partly nominated. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
  - **The township was established by large public enterprises to provide civic amenities to its staff and workers who live in the housing colonies built near the plant.** The enterprise appoints a town administrator to look after the administration of the township. He is assisted by some engineers and other technical and non-technical staff. Thus, the township form of urban government has no elected members. In fact, it is an extension of the bureaucratic structure of the enterprises. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
  - **The port trusts** are established in port areas like Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and so on for two purposes:
    - to manage and protect the ports; and
    - to provide civic amenities.
  - **A port trust is created by an Act of Parliament.** It consists of both elected and nominated members. Its chairman is an official. Its civic functions are more or less similar to those of a municipality. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
  - **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 69.C

- **Viscose Fibre:**
  - **Context:** The Association of Man-made Fibre Industry of India (AMFII) has appealed to the Union Finance Ministry to accept the recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) on the levy of anti-dumping duty (ADD) on imports of Viscose Staple Fibre from Indonesia.
    - ✓ Viscose is a type of rayon. Originally known as artificial silk, in the late 19th century, the term “rayon” came into effect in 1924. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
    - ✓ Viscose Staple Fiber (VSF), is a natural and biodegradable fiber that has characteristics that are similar to cotton.
    - ✓ The name “viscose” is derived from the way this fiber is manufactured; a viscous organic liquid used to make both rayon and cellophane.
    - ✓ Viscose is made from tree wood pulp, like beech, pine, and eucalyptus, but can also be made from bamboo. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
    - ✓ As a manufactured regenerated cellulose fiber, it is neither truly natural (like cotton, wool, or silk) nor truly synthetic (like nylon or polyester) – it falls somewhere in between.
    - ✓ Chemically, viscose resembles cotton, but it can also take on many different qualities depending on how it is manufactured.
    - ✓ It is versatile, Highly absorbent, and Inexpensive fibre.

#### Q 70.A

- Article 293 in the Constitution of India deals with the ‘Borrowing by States’. Article 293(3) of the Constitution requires states to obtain the Centre’s consent in order to borrow in case the state is indebted to the Centre over a previous loan.



- **In practice, the Centre has been exercising this power in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commission. So, statement I is correct.**
- **Currently, every single state is indebted to the Centre and thus, all of them require the Centre's consent in order to borrow. So, statement II is correct.**
- Article 293(4) of the Constitution enables the Centre to impose conditions on State borrowing when it is granting consent for the same under Article 293(3).
- This applies in cases where States are indebted to the Centre. That means, if no outstanding loan towards the Central Government is present, then the State Government can raise the loan without the consent of the Central Government.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 71.B

- **Supreme Court said that all accused have a right to silence, and investigators cannot force them to speak up or admit guilt.**
- The right to silence means that a person cannot be compelled to give evidence against himself, and when he remains silent no adverse inference can be drawn against him.
- In India, Article 20(3) of the Constitution, which comes under the chapter of Fundamental Rights, confers the right against self-incrimination.
- Similarly, Section 161 (2) Section 313 and Section 315 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 also recognize this right to silence.
- **Article 20(3) says that no person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself.**
- The characteristics features of these provisions are:
  - That the Accused is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty,
  - It is the duty of the prosecution to establish guilt, and
  - The accused cannot be forced to give a statement against his will.
  - Protection is limited only to criminal proceedings.
- This right is not available to a person being interrogated under Customs Act, 1962, or Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, since the person is not "accused of an offence" and isn't entitled to a lawyer.
- Under criminal law jurisprudence, it is considered the duty of the prosecution to prove a person guilty beyond reasonable doubt. Until proven otherwise, the accused remains innocent.
- An accused's decision to remain silent can be construed as a negative inference in certain circumstances but it cannot absolve the prosecution from its duty to prove the guilt of that person beyond reasonable doubts, the court reasoned.
- In the USA, the Fifth Amendment relates to the fundamental right against self-incrimination, similar to Article 20(3) of the Indian Constitution. However, American courts have noted that the silence of the accused can be considered only while deciding about the quantum of punishment. The International Covenant and Civil and Political Rights, 1966 to which India is also a party, also recognize right to silence.
- **Therefore, option(b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 72.A

- **Recent context : Google parent company Alphabet and Bharti Airtel are linking up to provide high-speed internet to remote villages in India by using beams of light through a project called Taara.**
- **The project is part of Alphabet's innovation lab called X. Taara project started in 2016 after Google's attempt to provide internet via balloons, under project Loon, ran into problems due to high costs. Hence statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is not correct.**
  - Taara is helping to link up internet services in 13 countries so far including Australia, Kenya and Fiji.
- **Taara's machine is the size of traffic lights that beam the laser carrying the data** – essentially fiber-optic internet without the cables. Partners like Airtel use the machines to build out communications infrastructure in hard-to-reach places.

#### Q 73.A

- **The Code of Gentoo Law :**
  - **It was the first initial attempt in British India to prepare ancient Indian laws. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - It was about the culture and local laws of various parts of Indian subcontinent. It also explained the Hindu law of inheritance (Manusmriti). The Pandits and the Maulvis were associated with judges to understand the civil law of Hindus and Muslims.

- In the early 16th century, **Gentoo** was a term commonly used to distinguish between the local religious groups in India from the Indian Jews and Muslims.
- Till about the 18th century, the native population of India (other than Jews and Muslims) were labelled by the Europeans as Gentoos. That is the reason why the first digest of the **Indian legislation drafted by the British in 1776** for the purpose of administering justice and to adjudicate over civil disputes among the people of India belonging to local religious groups was titled as 'A Code of Gentoo Law'.
- **The Gentoo Code is a legal code translated from Sanskrit into Persian by Brahmin scholars, and then from Persian into English by Nathaniel Brassey Halhed, a British grammarian working for the East India Company.**
- **It was printed privately by the East India Company in London in 1776 under the title A Code of Gentoo Laws or, Ordinations of the Pundits. Warren Hastings was the Governor-General of Bengal in 1772–1785 whereas, Lord Curzon was a Viceroy of India from 1898 till 1905. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- **The translation of Hindu laws were funded and encouraged by Warren Hastings as a method of consolidating company control on the Indian subcontinent.**

#### Q 74.C

- The **Praja Mandal movement** started in India in the **1920s** as a part of the Indian independence struggle. These comprised of **people living in the princely states** who were **subject to the rule of local aristocrats** rather than the British Raj. Such Mandals **campaigned against the feudatory rulers** and sometimes **against the British administration. Hence, Statement I is correct.**
- In **1927**, various **Praja Mandals** were **grouped together** to form the '**All India States' People's Conference**'.
- The **Indian National Congress's (INC) Haripura Session** (51st session) was held in **Haripura village in Surat district, Gujarat, in 1938**. It was presided over by **Subhash Chandra Bose**.
- Significance of the session:
  - In the session, the **National Planning Committee** was set up under Jawahar Lal Nehru.
  - **The Haripura Resolution** demanded **Poorna Swaraj**, including that of the **princely states as well**.
  - With this resolution, the **INC extended its support** to the constructive work of **people in the Princely States** and sought their support for the cause of Indian Independence. **Hence, statement II is not correct.**
- Although the INC did support the Praja Mandals later on, they existed even before the Haripura session.
- **Hence, Statement-I is correct and Statement-II is not correct.**

#### Q 75.A

- The term Union of India constitutes the states which are in a federal relation with the Union. the 'Territory of India' is a wider expression than the 'Union of India' because the latter includes only states while the former includes not only the states but also union territories and territories that may be acquired by the Government of India at any future time.
- Thus, the amendments which include a new state of India would expand the 'Union of India' per se.
- **The 36th Constitutional Amendment Act (1975) was enacted to make Sikkim a full-fledged state of the Indian Union (the 22nd state) and thus expanding the Union of India.**
- **The 100th Constitutional Amendment Act (2015) was enacted to give effect to the acquiring of certain territories by India and the transfer of certain other territories to Bangladesh in pursuance of the agreement and its protocol entered into between the Governments of India and Bangladesh. Under this deal, India transferred 111 enclaves to Bangladesh, while Bangladesh transferred 51 enclaves to India. Thus, it did not expand the Union of India.**
- **The 73rd amendment to the constitution gave constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj but it did not change the federal structure as such and neither it expanded the Union of India. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 76.B

- **Economic Conditions at the beginning of the 18th century:**
  - The basic unit of the Indian economy was still the self-sufficient and self-governing village community which produced almost all for its local needs. Its only link with the state was the payment of land revenue.
  - Town handicrafts in India have reached a high level of development and attracted worldwide markets. The cotton products of Dacca, Ahmedabad, and Masulipatam, the silk fabrics of Murshidabad, Agra,

Lahore, and Gujarat, the fine woolen shawls and carpets of Kashmir, Lahore and Agra, the gold and silver jewelry, metal work, metal utensils, arms, shields found markets both in India and abroad.

- **Banking system**

- The large-scale domestic and foreign trade brought into existence the merchant-capitalist and the development of the banking system. **The emergence of Jagat Seths, Nagar Seths in northern India, and the Chetties in the south with their elaborate banking houses and extensive use of hundies and other banking practices gave great fillip to trade and commerce. Hence option (b) is correct.**
- These developments in the Indian economy in the 17th and 18th centuries gave some indications that some pre-conditions for a rapid growth of capitalism did exist.

#### Q 77.B

- **XPoSat (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite)**

- **Context:** Recently, the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), S Somanath, addressed students and scientists during the 'User Meet of XPoSat' at the ISRO headquarters in Bengaluru.
- He emphasized the importance of effectively utilizing data from science-based space missions and encouraged Indian scientific institutions to identify talented students and motivate them to work with emerging data technologies like XPoSat.

- **What is XPoSat?**

- XPoSat stands for X-ray Polarimeter Satellite.
- It is India's pioneering polarimetry mission **aimed at studying various dynamics of astronomical sources in extreme conditions. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It is only the **world's second polarimetry mission using X-ray** after NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE) that was launched in 2021. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- XPoSat is a collaboration between the **ISRO and the Raman Research Institute (RRI)**, Bengaluru, Karnataka. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- **Scientific Payloads of XPoSat:**
  - ✓ XPoSat will carry two scientific payloads: Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays (POLIX) and X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing (SPECT) in a low Earth orbit.
  - ✓ POLIX payload will enable the measurement of polarimetry parameters such as the degree and angle of polarization in the medium X-ray energy range of 8-30 keV photons originating from astronomical sources.
  - ✓ SPECT payload will provide valuable timing and spectroscopic information within the energy range of 0.8-15 keV of X-ray photons.

#### Q 78.B

- In western India, reformism began in the early nineteenth century in **two different ways.**
  - **Orientalist method:**
    - ✓ One was the **Orientalist method of exploring and translating ancient Sanskrit texts and rediscovering in them the glories of Indian civilisation.**
    - ✓ The most notable scholar-reformers involved in this project were **K.T. Telang, V.N. Mandalik, Professor R.G. Bhandarkar. Hence option (b) is correct.**
  - **Direct method of social reform:**
    - ✓ The other trend was represented by the **more direct method of social reform attacking such institutions as caste system or prohibition of widow remarriage.**
    - ✓ This was undertaken by a number of individuals like **Mehtaji Durgaram Mancharam, Karsondas Mulji, or Dadoba Pandurang**, who were involved in organisations like **Manav Dharma Sabha**, founded in 1844, or the **Paramhansa Mandali, founded in 1849.**
    - ✓ The Paramhansa Mandali organisation followed the iconoclastic radical tradition of the Derozians in Bengal but in order to avoid any frontal confrontation with the wider community, they operated like a secret society.

#### Q 79.B

- **Recent Context:** The updated 'Checklist of Indian Amphibians (2023)' released by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) includes the critically endangered Malabar Tree Toad.
- **About Malabar Tree Toad**
  - Found in **Mollem National Park and the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary. Hence, only two options are correct.**

- Threats: Habitat loss, climate change, and *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, a deadly fungus that has been decimating entire amphibian populations worldwide.
- **IUCN Conservation status: Critically Endangered**
- **Mollem National Park:**
  - It is located in Sanguem taluk in Goa close to the border with Karnataka.
  - It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1969 and renamed Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary.
  - Since then, the national park has been called Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary and Mollem National Park.

#### Q 80.B

- **Recent context:** Forest Department steps up vigil around Mukurthi National Park in Nilgiris to curb poaching.
- **Spread across an area of 78.46 sq.kms., the Mukurthi National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is a part of the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu. Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
  - The park was created with an intent to protect the Nilgiri Tahr, one of the keystone species found commonly in the Nilgiris and was **previously known as the Nilgiri Tahr National Park.**
  - A part of the Nilgiri Biosphere, the Mukurthi National Park preserves species such as the Royal Bengal Tiger and the Asian Elephant, apart from the Nilgiri Tahr.
- **Recent context:** The Report of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR) Water Hole Census has been released and a total of 374 animals from 18 wild species of animals and birds were recorded.
  - **The Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is located in the Sahyadri Ranges of Western Ghats in Maharashtra.** These ranges form a common boundary between Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa, and comprise of rich evergreen, semi-evergreen and moist deciduous forests. **Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**
  - It is the **first Tiger Reserve of Western Maharashtra and the fourth Tiger Reserve of the State spreading over two Protected Areas of Koyana Sanctuary (KWLS) and Chandoli National Park (CNP).**
- **Recent Context :** Eviction drives of illegal encroachments were carried out near the Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary by Assam government.
- **Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary is geographically located on the south bank of the Brahmaputra but under the Sonitpur district in Assam.** It is a part of the Laokhowa-Burachapori eco-system and comprises of a mosaic of wet alluvial grassland, riparian and semi-evergreen forests dotted by wetland and river systems. **Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.**
  - This sanctuary covers an area of 44.06 sq. km. and is home to the Great Indian one-horned rhinoceros, tiger, leopard, wild buffalo, hog deer, wild pig, and elephants.

#### Q 81.B

- **Recent context :** India tops globally in LEED Zero certifications of green building projects.
- **US Green Building Council (USGBC) launched LEED Zero** to address net-zero resources (energy, water, and waste) and net-zero carbon operation in the LEED green building projects. Just like the other LEED rating systems, LEED Zero also has set standards and integral goals. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - The primary concern of LEED Zero is to maintain a balanced energy system. It doesn't only involve mitigating the impact of building on the environment, but it also focuses on taking it to the next level. This path will help buildings to stand out by maintaining a net-zero impact of carbon and basic resources such as water, waste, and energy.
- **India ranks first globally in LEED Zero certified green building projects surpassing the US and China, according to USGBC and GBCI. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - LEED Zero recognises projects that have reached net zero or net positive status in the categories of carbon, energy, water, or waste.
- In India, realty firm DLF and FMCG player ITC are leading in the LEED Zero green certification initiative. The LEED Zero projects, including office spaces, hospitality facilities, retail malls, industrial manufacturing projects, and data centres, serve a mix of sectors.

#### Q 82.B

- **Fumarole is an opening or fissure in the Earth's crust through which steam, gases, and volcanic fluids, including hot water and mineral-laden steam, are released into the atmosphere.**
  - Fumaroles are typically associated with volcanic activity and are often located on or near the slopes of active or dormant volcanoes.



- The heat is derived from the geothermal activity deep within the Earth.
- As the hot volcanic gases cool upon reaching the surface, they often carry dissolved minerals and trace elements. When these minerals precipitate out of the gas and steam, they **can create colorful deposits and mineral formations around the fumarole**. These deposits are often referred to as "fumarolic frostwork."
- Fumaroles can **create acidic conditions** in their immediate vicinity due to the release of sulfur dioxide and other acidic gases. This can lead to the **alteration of nearby rocks and the formation of acid-sulfate minerals**.
- Despite their harsh and extreme conditions, **fumaroles can support unique ecosystems of heat-tolerant microorganisms, including thermophilic bacteria and archaea**. These extremophiles can thrive in the high-temperature, acidic, and mineral-rich environments near fumaroles.
- Fumaroles are often monitored by volcanologists as they can provide valuable insights into the state of a volcano. Changes in gas emissions, temperatures, or the chemistry of fumarolic deposits can be indicators of volcanic activity.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 83.C

- **Recent context:** Elon Musk-owned PayPal launches dollar, treasuries-backed stablecoin PYUSD for its customers.
- **A stablecoin is a cryptocurrency whose value is pegged to the price of another asset, hence the term "stable." For example, if functioning correctly a stablecoin pegged to the U.S. dollar should always be valued at \$1. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - They aim to offer all the benefits of crypto while attempting to avoid rampant volatility.
- Fiat currencies, such as the U.S. dollar or the British pound, don't see this level of price volatility. So another way to think about stablecoins is as a tokenized version of a fiat currency. In theory, a U.S. dollar-based stablecoin is a token that will reside on a blockchain and always trade for one dollar.
- Stablecoins are typically pegged to a currency or a commodity like gold, and they use different mechanisms to maintain their price peg. **The two most common methods are to maintain a pool of reserve assets as collateral or use an algorithmic formula to control the supply of a coin.**
- Collateralized stablecoins maintain a pool of collateral to support the coin's value. Whenever the holder of a stablecoin wishes to cash out their tokens, an equal amount of the collateralizing assets is taken from the reserves.
  - USD Coin (USDC) is a prime example of a collateralized stablecoin.
- **Stablecoins can also be collateralized by other cryptocurrencies. The biggest example in this category is the DAI (DAI) algorithmic stablecoin, which is pegged to the U.S. dollar but is backed by Ethereum and other cryptocurrencies. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Algorithmic stablecoins maintain their price peg via algorithms that control the supply of the token.
- Stablecoins allow investors to move in and out of different cryptocurrencies while staying within the cryptocurrency realm

#### Q 84.B

- **Recent Context:** The government has approved amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act allowing commercial mining of lithium and a few other minerals.
- **What are critical minerals?** Critical minerals are those minerals that are at risk of supply shortage, which may have a larger impact on the economy compared to that of other raw materials.
- **Proposed Amendments:**
  - **Lifting ban:** The amendment will lift the ban on commercial mining of **six critical minerals** which are Lithium, **beryllium**, titanium, niobium, tantalum, and zirconium.
  - **Critical minerals:** The government declared 30 minerals as critical which are:
  - **Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.**
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 85.B

- **Baji Rao I (1720 to 1740):**
  - Baji Rao I, peshwa of the Maratha confederacy from **1720 to 1740** during the reign of Shahu (1708–49). Baji Rao's conquests were one of several contributors to the decay of the Mughal Empire,

especially under **Emperor Muhammad Shah (1719–48)**. **Farrukhsiyar died in 1719 before Baji Rao becoming the Peshwa. Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched.**

- Baji Rao succeeded his father, Balaji Vishvanath Bhat, as peshwa in 1720, establishing hereditary succession for the post.
- His tenure oversaw the expansion in power and influence of the peshwa as well as of the dominion of the Marathas, especially into Malwa (now in Madhya Pradesh) and Gujarat.
- **Balaji Baji Rao (1740 to 1761):**
  - He was **often referred to as Nana Saheb I**. He was **appointed as Peshwa in 1740 upon the death of his father, the Peshwa Bajirao I**.
  - During his tenure, the Chhatrapati (Maratha Emperor) was a mere figurehead. During Balaji Rao's tenure, the Maratha territory reached its zenith. A large part of this expansion, however, was led by the individual chiefs of the Maratha Empire.
  - During Baji Rao's tenure, the Mughals had nominally granted the Malwa to the Marathas, but the control was not actually passed to the Marathas. After becoming Peshwa, Balaji Rao approached the **Mughal emperor Muhammad Shah (1719-48)** through Jai Singh II, and managed to get appointed as the Deputy Governor of Malwa. In return, he pledged faithfulness to the Mughal emperor. **Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Baji Rao II (1795-1818):**
  - He was the 13th and the last Peshwa of the Maratha Confederacy . He governed from 1795 to 1818. **In 1795 Shah Allam II (1759 to 1800) was the Mughal Emperor. Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.**
  - Baji Rao II was installed as a puppet ruler by the Maratha nobles, whose growing power prompted him to flee his capital Poona and sign the Treaty of Bassein (1802) with the British.
  - This resulted in the Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803–1805), in which the British emerged victorious and re-installed him as the titular Peshwa. In 1817, Baji Rao II joined the Third Anglo-Maratha War against the British, after they favoured the Gaekwad nobles in a revenue-sharing dispute.
  - After suffering several battle defeats, the Peshwa surrendered to the British, and agreed to retire in return for an estate at Bithoor and an annual pension.

#### Q 86.C

- **Spheroidal carbonaceous particle (SCP):** It is a component of fly ash and is a by-product of industrial high-temperature combustion of coal and fuel oil. Recently, researchers for the **first time identified SCP in an Antarctic ice core**. The sample dated back to 1936, indicating physical markers of fossil fuel combustion have been trapped in ice layers for decades. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **SCPs have no other anthropogenic or natural sources other than fossil fuel combustion. Thus, they are an unambiguous environmental indicator of industrialisation. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **What is fly ash?**
  - Fly ash is a residue generated in combustion and comprises the fine particles that rise with the flue gases.
  - Fly ash is a **heterogeneous material**.
  - The main chemical components present in fly ash are: Silicon dioxide, Aluminum oxide, Ferric oxide & Calcium oxide (occasionally)
  - Coal-fired power plants are the biggest sources of fly ash, which contains toxic chemicals such as arsenic, barium, cadmium, nickel, and lead, among others.

#### Q 87.A

- **Recent context: At least 19 children have died in a fire in the central Guyanese mining town of Mahdia. Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
  - The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) expressed its solidarity to the victims of the fire.
  - Guyana is a country on South America's North Atlantic coast, is defined by its dense rainforest.
- **Recent context: At least eight people were wounded and scores of buildings were damaged in an overnight Russian air strike on the Dnipropetrovsk region in southeastern Ukraine. Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
  - **Dnipro, formerly Dnipropetrovsk (1926–2016), is Ukraine's fourth-largest city, with about one million inhabitants.**

- **Recent context : A drone attack on Russia's Belgorod region has killed three people.**
  - Belgorod is a city that is the administrative center of Belgorod Oblast, Russia, located on the Seversky Donets River, approximately 40 kilometers north of the border with Ukraine. **Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.**

#### Q 88.C

- While there was agreement among Congressmen on the question of attitude to the War and the resignation of the ministries, sharp differences developed over the question of the immediate starting of a mass satyagraha.
- **Gandhiji and the dominant leadership advanced three broad reasons for not initiating an immediate movement:**
  - First, they felt that since **the cause of the Allies — Britain and France — was just**, they should not be embarrassed in the prosecution of the War. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - Second, the **lack of Hindu-Muslim unity** was a big barrier to the struggle. In the existing atmosphere, any civil disobedience movement could easily degenerate into communal rioting or even civil war. Above all, they felt that there did not exist in the country an atmosphere for an immediate struggle. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - Neither the masses were ready nor was Congress organizationally in a position to launch a struggle. The Congress organization was weak and had been corrupted during 1938-39. There was **indiscipline and lack of cohesion within the Congress ranks**. Under these circumstances, a mass movement would not be able to withstand severe repressive measures by the Government. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- It was, therefore, necessary to carry on intense political work among the people, to prepare them for struggle, to tone up the Congress organization and purge it of weaknesses, to negotiate with authorities till all the possibilities of a negotiated settlement were exhausted and the Government was clearly seen by all to be in the wrong.

#### Q 89.A

- **Sarla Devi Chaudhurani:** She was a prominent **freedom fighter from Bengal as well as Punjab**.
  - She worked as the **editor of the Bengali Journal Bharti**.
  - She was a **niece of Rabindranath Tagore** and had connections with national leaders such as Satyendra Nath Tagore and Chapekar brothers.
  - **Bharat Stree Mahamandal was a women's organisation in India was founded by Sarala Devi Chaudhurani in Prayagraj in 1910. Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
  - She convened the first meeting of the Bharat Stree Mahamandal in Allahabad.
  - Its objectives included promotion of education for women, abolition of the purdah system, and improvement in the socio-economic and political status of woman all over India. **Sarla Devi believed that the man working for women's upliftment lived 'under the shade of Manu'.**
- **Pandita Ramabai Sarasvati (1858 –1922):**
  - She was an Indian social reformer and **was the first woman to be awarded the titles of Pandita as a Sanskrit scholar and Sarasvati after being examined by the faculty of the University of Calcutta.**
  - She was one of the ten women delegates of the Congress session of 1889. During her stay in England in early 1880s she converted to Christianity and with the funds raised she started **Sharada Sadan for child widows**.
  - **Pandita Ramabai Sarasvati founded the Arya Mahila Samaj** to serve the cause of women. **Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**
  - She pleaded for improvement in the educational syllabus of Indian women before the **English Education Commission**, which was referred to Queen Victoria. **This resulted in medical education for women which started in Lady Dufferin College. Later, Ramabai Ranade established a branch of Arya Mahila Samaj in Bombay.**
- **Ramabai Ranade (1862 – 1924):**
  - She was an Indian social worker and one of the first women's rights activists in the early 20th century. At the age of 11, she was married to **Justice Mahadev Govind Ranade**, who was a distinguished Indian scholar and social reformer.
  - Ramabai, soon after her marriage, started to learn reading and writing with strong support and encouragement from Mahadev Govind Ranade. Starting with her native language Marathi, she strove hard to master English.
  - She founded the **Ladies Social Conference (Bharat Mahila Parishad)**, under the parent organisation National Social Conference, in 1904 in Bombay. **Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

#### Q 90.C

- **Recent Context:** From April 1, 2023, the sale of gold jewellery will not be allowed without a **Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) number**.
- **About HUID Number:**
  - HUID is a **unique six-digit alphanumeric code given to every piece of jewellery and artefact at the time of hallmarking. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - The jewellery is stamped with the unique number manually at the Assaying & Hallmarking centre.
- **Why is the hallmarking of gold jewellery important?**
  - **Assurance of Purity:** A **Hallmark is a mark on gold jewellery which is affixed by an entity recognised by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to assure its fineness and purity. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - **High Resale Value:** Since the quality of the jewellery is guaranteed, that piece will fetch a higher price when re-sold.
  - **Easy Loan:** Banks are likely to give loans on better terms if the mortgaged jewellery is hallmarked.
- **The three categories of hallmarked jewellery are:**
  - **22K916 means that it is 22-carat gold and the piece of jewellery has 91.6 percent gold. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - 18K750 means that it is 18-carat gold and the piece of jewellery has 75 percent gold.
  - 14K585 means that it is 14-carat gold and the piece of jewellery has 58.5 percent gold.

#### Q 91.D

- **The National Register is meant to be a list of Indian citizens living in Assam.**
- **The first National Register of Citizens was compiled in 1951, after the Census was completed that year.**
- Since 2015, the state has been in the process of updating the 1951 register. One of the stated aims of the exercise is to identify so-called “illegal immigrants” in the state, many of whom are believed to have poured into Assam after the Bangladesh War of 1971. **It is a unique exercise for the onus to prove citizenship lies with the citizens.** They have to, through a documentary evidence, show how they have come to be citizens of India.
- In 1979, about eight years after the 1971 war, the state saw an anti-foreigners’ agitation. Assamese ethnic nationalists claimed illegal immigrants had entered electoral rolls and were taking away the right of communities defined as indigenous to determine their political future.
- In 1985, the anti-foreigners’ agitation led by the All Assam Students’ Union came to an end with the signing of the **Assam Accord**. Under this accord, those who entered the state between 1966 and 1971 would be deleted from the electoral rolls and lose their voting rights for 10 years, after which their names would be restored to the rolls. **Those who entered on or after March 25, 1971, the eve of the Bangladesh War, would be declared foreigners and deported.**
- **The National Register of Citizens now takes its definition of illegal immigrants from the Assam Accord – anyone who cannot prove that they or their ancestors entered the country before the midnight of March 24, 1971, would be declared a foreigner and face deportation.**
- **Those who do not make it to the final list will have to appear before the Foreigners’ Tribunals of Assam.** Neither the state nor the Centre has clarified what happens to those who lose their cases in the Foreigners’ Tribunals, whether they will be detained, deported or allowed to stay on without the rights and privileges of citizenship. In the past, those deemed to be foreigners have been transferred to detention centres in the state. While the Indian state has declared them foreigners, **there is no repatriation treaty under which they can be deported to Bangladesh.**
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 92.D

- **When there is a lack of quorum of the permanent judges to hold or continue any session of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of India can appoint a judge of a High Court (only a high court judge can be appointed) as an ad hoc judge of the Supreme Court for a temporary period. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **The Chief Justice of India (CJI) can do so only after consultation with the chief justice of the High Court concerned and with the previous consent of the president.**
- The ad-hoc judge so appointed should be **qualified for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.**
- It is the **duty of the ad-hoc judge so appointed to attend the sittings of the Supreme Court, in priority to other duties of his office.** While so attending, he enjoys all the jurisdiction, powers and privileges (and discharges the duties) of a judge of the Supreme Court.



- **A person to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court should have the following qualifications:**
  - He should be a citizen of India
  - He should have been a judge of a High Court (or high courts in succession) for five years, or
  - He should have been an advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years, or
  - He should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president.
- **So, the qualifications of becoming an ad-hoc judge are not the same as that of becoming a supreme court judge under normal circumstances. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

#### Q 93.B

- **Alfonso de Albuquerque** who succeeded **Almeida** as the Portuguese governor in India, was considered the real founder of the Portuguese power in the East, a task he completed before his death.
  - He secured for Portugal the strategic control of the Indian Ocean by establishing bases overlooking all the entrances to the sea.
  - The Portuguese, under Albuquerque bolstered their stranglehold by introducing a **permit system for other ships** and **exercising control over the major ship-building centres in the region.**
  - The non-availability of timber in the Gulf and Red Sea regions for ship-building also helped the Portuguese in their objectives.
  - In 1510 AD, Afonso de Albuquerque captured Goa from the **Sultan of Bijapur, Ismail Adil Shah** with the help of Krishnadeva Raya (ruler of the Vijayanagar empire).
  - The principal port of the Sultan of Bijapur became “the first bit of Indian territory to be under the Europeans since the time of Alexander the Great”.
  - **Another interesting feature of his rule was the abolition of sati.**
  - **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 94.A

- **Recent context:** The African Union suspends Niger until 'the effective restoration of constitutional order. African Union is also now a member of G20.
- **The AU is made up of 55 Member States which represent all the countries on the African continent. AU Member States are divided into five geographic regions. which were defined by the OAU in 1976. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The decision to re-launch Africa's pan-African organisation was the outcome of a consensus by African leaders that in order to realise Africa's potential, there was a need to refocus attention from the fight for decolonisation and ridding the continent of apartheid, which had been the focus of the OAU, towards increased cooperation and integration of African states to drive Africa's growth and economic development.
- **Its headquarters is located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- The work of the AU is implemented through several principal decision making organs:- The Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the Executive Council, the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), Specialised Technical Committees (STCs), the Peace and Security Council and The African Union Commission.
  - The AU structure promotes participation of African citizens and civil society through the Pan-African Parliament and the Economic, Social & Cultural Council (ECOSOCC).
- **As of 2023 Africa has a population of around 1.4 billion. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 95.C

- **The victory of the Labour Party in Britain in the post-war elections had significant implications for India.** Civil liberties were restored, the ban on the Congress was lifted, and elections were declared both at the centre and in the provinces for the winter of 1945–1946.
- The Congress welcomed the opportunity to form ministries in the provinces and to elect representatives to the constitution-making body that would be set up.
- Election meetings soon became huge arenas of political mobilisation. **Except in constituencies where nationalist Muslims were put up, candidates did not really need to canvass for votes or spend money.**
- The election results indicated that people had not only flocked to the meetings but had rallied behind the Congress at the ballot-box too. **The Congress won over 90 percent of the general seats (including 23 of the 36 labour seats) in the provincial elections, while the Muslim League made a similar sweep in the Muslim constituencies.**
- But, perhaps, **the most significant feature of the election campaign was that it sought to mobilise Indians against the British, not merely voters for the elections.** This was evident from the two issues

that were taken up and made the main plank of the election campaign — the repression in 1942 and the Indian National Army trials.

- Hence option (c) is the correct answer.

#### Q 96.B

- In the late 19th century, the British government in India adopted the **Forward Policy towards Afghanistan, 1836**. Through this policy, Lord Auckland aimed to **strengthen the British position in Afghanistan and Central Asia** by establishing a series of **military outposts along the Afghan frontier**. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.
- Lord Lytton was the Governor-General of India from **1876 to 1880**. He believed that the British should pursue an **aggressive policy towards Afghanistan** in order to **counter the perceived Russian threat**; hence was developed the **Policy of Proud Reserve**. It led to the **Second Anglo-Afghan War (1870–80)** wherein Lytton invaded Afghanistan. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.
- Lord Curzon, unlike his predecessors, pursued a **policy of consolidation, strength, and security** for the British-occupied territories in the north-west. He maintained British rule over Chitral and built a road between Peshawar and Chitral, ensuring the safety of the region. Lord Curzon's Afghan strategy was influenced by political, economic, and regional concerns about **Russian expansion in Central Asia** and the **Persian Gulf**. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

#### Q 97.A

- The President can be removed from office by a process of impeachment for ‘violation of the Constitution’. However, the Constitution does not define the meaning of the phrase ‘violation of the Constitution’. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Article 61 contains the procedure for the impeachment process. Article 56 only says that a President may be removed from the house by an impeachment process for violation of the Constitution.
- Either house may prefer the charge of violation of the constitution before the other house which shall then either investigate the charge itself or cause the charge to be investigated.
- But the charge cannot be preferred by a house unless the proposal to prefer such charge is contained in a resolution which has been moved after at least fourteen days’ notice in writing signed by not less than one-fourth of the total number of members of the House has been given of their intention to move the resolution, and Such resolution has been passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of the House. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- When a charge has been so preferred by either House of Parliament, the other House shall investigate the charge or cause the charge to be investigated and the President shall have the right to appear and to be represented at such investigation.
- If as a result of the investigation a resolution is passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of the House by which the charge was investigated or caused to be investigated, declaring that the charge preferred against the President has been sustained, such resolution shall have the effect of removing the President from his office as from the date on which the resolution is so passed

#### Q 98.C

- Originally, appeals against the orders of the Administrative tribunals could be made only in the Supreme Court and not in the high courts. However, in the Chandra Kumar case (1997), the Supreme Court declared this restriction on the jurisdiction of the high courts as unconstitutional, holding that judicial review is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution. It laid down that appeals against the orders of the Central and State Administrative Tribunals shall lie before the division bench of the concerned high court. Consequently, now it is not possible for an aggrieved public servant to approach the Supreme Court directly against an order of the CAT, without first going to the concerned high court.
- In May 2022, the Supreme Court turned down a challenge to the provisions of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Act, 2010, and held that Sections 14 and 22 of the NGT Act did not oust the High Court’s jurisdiction under Articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution. the court noticed that a seven-judge Constitution bench of the court, in L. Chandra Kumar versus Union of India (1997), held that the power of judicial review under Articles 226, 227, and 32 of the Constitution is part of the basic structure of our Constitution, and the same is inviolable.
- It added that nothing contained in the NGT Act either implicitly or explicitly ousts the jurisdiction of the high courts under Articles 226 and 227, and the power of judicial review remains intact and unaffected by the NGT Act.

- In March 2023, the Supreme Court fully restored the jurisdiction of the High Courts to hear petitions challenging judgments and orders passed by the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT), which was restricted due to an earlier decision by a division bench of the Apex Court in 2015. Taking note of the Constitution Bench decisions in L Chandra Kumar (1997) and Rojer Mathew (2019) cases the Supreme Court's larger bench comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Abhay S Oka and BV Nagarathna overruled the earlier decision in Union of India Vs Maj Gen Shri Kant Sharma and has held that the High Courts would have jurisdiction over judgments of the AFT. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

#### Q 99.D

- The question of official excesses during the 1942 Quit India Movement was taken up by Congress leaders soon after release from jail. Glorification of martyrs was one side of the coin, and condemnation of official action was the other.
- However, the issue that most caught the popular imagination was the fate of the members of Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army (INA), who were captured by the British in the eastern theatre of War. An announcement by the Government, limiting trials of the INA personnel to those guilty of brutality or active complicity, was due to be made by the end of August 1945.
- AICC at its first post-War session held in Bombay from 21 to 23 September 1945, adopted a strong resolution declaring its support for the cause.
- The defense of the INA prisoners was taken up by the Congress and Bhulabhaj Desai, Tej Bahadur Sapru, K.N. Katju, Nehru, and Asaf Ali appeared in court at the historic Red Fort trials.
- The Congress organized an INA Relief and Enquiry Committee, which provided small sums of money and food to the men on their release, and attempted, though with marginal success, to secure employment for these men.
- Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

#### Q 100.A

- The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs is chaired by the Union Minister of Defence. It currently has ten Ministers, including those for Defence, Home, Finance, Agriculture, Tribal Affairs, Parliamentary Affairs, and Information and Broadcasting. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- As per the First Schedule to the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961, the following functions have been assigned to the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs:
  - To watch the progress of Government Business in Parliament and to give such directions as may be necessary from time to time, in order to secure smooth and efficient conduct of such business; to scrutinize, and to consider the attitude of the Government on non-official bills and resolutions to be presented to Parliament; to maintain a review from an all-India point of view of legislations undertaken by State legislatures; and to consider proposals to summon or prorogue the Houses of Parliament.
- The government determines the date and duration of parliamentary sessions. The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs takes this decision. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

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