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## ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

### GENERAL STUDIES (P) TEST – 4135 (2024)

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#### Q 1.C

- The chief minister is appointed by the governor. The other ministers are appointed by the governor on the advice of the chief minister. This means that the governor can appoint only those persons as ministers who are recommended by the chief minister.
- However, the Constitution provides for the appointment of tribal welfare ministers in **Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha**. Originally, this provision was applicable to **Bihar**, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.
- The **94th Amendment Act of 2006 freed Bihar from the obligation** of having a tribal welfare minister as there are no Scheduled Areas in Bihar now and the fraction of the population of the Scheduled Tribes is very small. The same Amendment also extended the above provision to the newly formed states of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 2.B

- **Recent context** : In a hearing related to Agnipath scheme, plaintiff (party moving court in a civil action) cited doctrine of promissory estoppel.
- **Promissory estoppel is a concept developed in contractual laws.**
  - It is invoked by a plaintiff to ensure execution of a contract or seek compensation for failure to perform the contract.
- In **Chhaganlal Keshavalal Mehta v. Patel Narandas Haribhai** case (1981), Supreme Court listed out a checklist for when the doctrine can be applied.
- **The Doctrine of Estoppel is a legal principle used to prevent a person from asserting a claim or right that contradicts their previous actions or statements if it would be unfair to allow them to do so. It is based on the concept of equity and fairness in legal proceedings.**
- There are several types of estoppel, but the common thread among them is the idea that a person should not be allowed to act in a way that leads another person to believe certain facts or promises, only to later deny those facts or break those promises to the detriment of the other party.
- **The two main types of estoppel are:**
  - **Promissory Estoppel:** As mentioned earlier, this is when a person makes a promise to another party, and the second party relies on that promise to their detriment. In such cases, the person who made the promise may be stopped from breaking it, even if there is no formal contract.
  - **Equitable Estoppel:** This type of estoppel arises when one person (the "estoppelor") induces another person (the "estoppee") to believe certain facts or to act in a particular way, and the estoppee reasonably relies on that belief or action to their detriment. The estoppelor is then precluded from denying the truth of those facts or from acting inconsistently with the inducement.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 3.A

- **The Speaker will not vote in the first instance but shall have and exercise a casting vote in the case of equality of votes. Hence Statement I is correct.**
- **The absence of a vote in the first instance will make the position of the Speaker impartial as in England, and the casting vote is given to him only to resolve a deadlock. Statement II is correct and is the correct explanation of Statement I.**
- The Speaker will have the final power to maintain order within the House of the People and to interpret its Rules of Procedure.

- In the absence of a quorum, it will be the duty of the Speaker to adjourn the House or to suspend the meeting until there is a quorum.

#### Q 4.A

- The President from time to time summons each House of Parliament to meet. But, the **maximum gap between two sessions of Parliament cannot be more than six months.**
- A **'session' of Parliament is the period spanning between the first sitting of a House and its prorogation** (or dissolution in the case of the Lok Sabha). During a session, the House meets every day to transact business. A session of Parliament consists of many meetings.
- Each meeting of the day consists of two sittings, that is, a morning sitting from 11 am to 1 pm and a post-lunch sitting from 2 pm to 6 pm.
- **A sitting of Parliament can be terminated by adjournment or adjournment sine die or prorogation or dissolution** (in the case of the Lok Sabha).
- **An adjournment suspends the work in a sitting for a specified time, which may be hours, days or weeks.** The presiding officer (Speaker or Chairman) declares the House adjourned sine die when the business of a session is completed. Within the next few days, the **President issues a notification for the prorogation of the session. However, the President can also prorogue the House while in session.**
- **The period spanning between the prorogation of a House and its reassembly in a new session is called 'recess'.**
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 5.A

- **Recent context:** Recently, the British government said that it would provide Ukraine with armour-piercing rounds containing depleted uranium.
- In order to produce fuel for certain types of nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons, uranium has to be "enriched" in the U-235 isotope, which is responsible for nuclear fission.
  - During the enrichment process, the fraction of U-235 is increased from its natural level (0.72% by mass) to between 2% and 94% by mass.
  - **The by-product uranium mixture (after the enriched uranium is removed) has reduced concentrations of U-235 and U-234. This by-product of the enrichment process is known as depleted uranium (DU). Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **In comparison to enriched uranium, depleted uranium is much less radioactive and is incapable of generating a nuclear reaction. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - The official definition of depleted uranium given by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is uranium in which the percentage fraction by weight of U-235 is less than 0.711%.
  - Typically, the percentage concentration by weight of the uranium isotopes in DU used for military purposes is: U-238: 99.8%; U-235: 0.2%; and U-234: 0.001%.
  - However, due to its high density — it's more dense than lead — depleted uranium is widely used in weapons as it can easily penetrate armour plating.
- Apart from the US, Britain, Russia, China, France and Pakistan produce uranium weapons, which are not classified as nuclear weapons, as per the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons.
- Even though depleted uranium munitions aren't considered nuclear weapons, experts suggest that such weapons must be used with caution because they emit low levels of radiation and can cause severe diseases.

#### Q 6.D

- **Indonesia's Mount Merapi**, one of the world's most active volcanoes, erupted late on March 17, 2023 and continued to spew hot ash and other volcanic material.
  - It was Merapi's most powerful eruption since 1930 when about 1,300 people were killed.
- Scientists at the Alaska Volcano Observatory recently warned that it's possible there could be an eruption at Tanaga Volcano after earthquakes were recorded beneath the volcano's summit.
  - **Tanaga volcano is the second largest volcano of the central Aleutians in Alaska, USA.** It is the central and highest of 3 young stratovolcanoes oriented along a roughly E-W line at the NW tip of Tanaga Island.
- One of Russia's most active volcanoes erupted recently shooting a vast cloud of ash far up into the sky and smothering villages in drifts of grey volcanic dust, triggering an aviation warning around Russia's far eastern Kamchatka Peninsula.
  - **Shiveluch is one of the largest and most active volcanoes in the Kamchatka peninsula of Russia having erupted at least 60 times in the past 10,000 years.**
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

### Q 7.D

- The three components of government at the state level are (i) the Minister; (ii) the Secretary; and (iii) the Executive Head (the last one in most cases is called the Director, although other nomenclatures are also used to refer to the executive head). The Minister and the Secretary together constitute the Secretariat, whereas the office of the Executive Head is designated as the Directorate.
- The State Secretariat, as the top layer of the state administration, is primarily meant to assist the state government in policy-making and in discharging its legislative functions.
- The **main functions of the State Secretariat are as follows:**
  - **Assisting the ministers in policy-making**, modifying policies from time to time, and discharging their legislative responsibilities;
  - **Framing draft legislation, and rules and regulations;**
  - Coordinating policies and programs, supervising and controlling their execution, and reviewing of the results; iv)
  - **Budgeting and control of expenditure;**
  - **Maintaining contact with the Government of India** and other state governments
  - Overseeing the smooth and efficient running of the administrative machinery, and initiating measures to develop greater personnel and organizational competence. **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**
- The administrative philosophy to which the secretariat system owes its existence is that policy-making must be kept separate from policy execution.

### Q 8.C

- As per **Article 74** of the Constitution, there shall be a council of ministers with the Prime Minister as the head to aid and advise the President, who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act under the advice of the council of ministers.
- Though the President has no constitutional discretion, he has some situational discretion. In other words, the President can act at his discretion (that is, without the advice of the ministers) under the following situations:
  - **Appointment of Prime Minister when no party has a clear majority in the Lok Sabha or when the Prime Minister in office dies suddenly and there is no obvious successor. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - **Dismissal of the Council of Ministers when it cannot prove the confidence of the Lok Sabha. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - **Dissolution of the Lok Sabha if the council of ministers has lost its majority. Hence statement 3 is correct.**

### Q 9.B

- **Joint sitting is an extraordinary machinery provided by the Constitution to resolve a deadlock between the two Houses over the passage of a bill.**
- A deadlock is deemed to have taken place under any one of the following three situations after a bill has been passed by one House and transmitted to the other House:
  - if the **bill is rejected** by the other House;
  - if the **Houses have finally disagreed as to the amendments to be made** in the bill; or
  - if **more than six months have elapsed from the date of the receipt of the bill by the other House without the bill being passed by it.**
- In the above three situations, the **president can summon both Houses** to meet in a joint sitting for the purpose of deliberating and voting on the bill.
- It must be noted here that the **provision of joint sitting is applicable to ordinary bills or financial bills only and not to money bills or Constitutional amendment bills. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- If the bill (under dispute) has already lapsed due to the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, no joint sitting can be summoned. But, the joint sitting can be held if the Lok Sabha is dissolved after the President has notified his intention to summon such a sitting (as the bill does not lapse in this case).
- After the President notifies his intention to summon a joint sitting of the two Houses, none of the Houses can proceed further with the bill. **The Speaker of Lok Sabha presides over a joint sitting of the two Houses and the Deputy Speaker, in his absence. If the Deputy Speaker is also absent from a joint sitting, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha presides. If he is also absent, such other person as may be determined by the members present at the joint sitting presides over the meeting.**
- The quorum to constitute a joint sitting is one-tenth of the total number of members of the two Houses.

- **The joint sitting is governed by the Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha and not of Rajya Sabha.**
- The Constitution has specified that at a joint sitting, new amendments to the **bill cannot be proposed except in two cases:**
  - those amendments that have caused final disagreement between the Houses; and **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - those amendments that might have become necessary due to the delay in the passage of the bill.
- The joint sitting of the two houses of Parliament has been taken from the Australian Constitution. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

#### Q 10.B

- **Recently**, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) amended Biofuels' Export Policy.
- **DGFT has modified the 2018 notification, allowing export of biofuel from Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Export-Oriented Units (EOUs) for both fuel and non-fuel purposes without any restrictions if biofuel is produced using imported feed stock. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Biofuel imports and exports both require a license. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Biofuel, renewable form of energy, is any hydrocarbon fuel that is produced from organic matter in a short period of time. This is in contrast with fossil fuels.
  - Types of Biofuel: Bio ethanol, Biodiesel, Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG), Bio-hydrogen etc.
- Government policies to promote Biofuels
  - National Policy on Biofuels, 2018 for reaching 20% ethanol-blending and 5% biodiesel-blending by 2030.
  - Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana, 2019.
  - GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) DHAN scheme, 2018.
  - Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) to establish an ecosystem for CBG production.

#### Q 11.B

- **Exceptions to Parliament's territorial jurisdiction:** The Constitution places certain restrictions on the plenary territorial jurisdiction of the Parliament. In other words, the laws of Parliament are not applicable in the following:
  - **Union Territories**
    - ✓ **The President** can make regulations for the peace, progress, and good government of the four Union Territories—the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu.
    - ✓ A regulation so made has the same force and effect as an act of Parliament. It may also repeal or amend any act of Parliament in relation to these union territories.
  - **Scheduled area's in the state**
    - ✓ **The governor** is empowered to direct that an act of Parliament does not apply to a scheduled area in the state or apply with specified modifications and exceptions.
  - **Tribal areas in the state**
    - ✓ **The Governor of Assam** may likewise direct that an act of Parliament does not apply to a tribal area (autonomous district) in the state or apply with specified modifications and exceptions.
    - ✓ **The President** enjoys the same power with respect to tribal areas (autonomous districts) in Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 12.A

- **Recent context: Indian Army is going to conduct PALM 400 attack drone tests in Pokhran. The PALM 400 - acronym for 'Precision Attack Loitering Munition' is a long-range, high-precision loitering munition system.**
- PALM 400 is an armed Remotely Piloted Vehicle (RPV) built by AVision Systems.
  - It is a joint venture between Israeli firm UVision Air Ltd and Hyderabad-based Aditya Precitech Private Ltd.
- It is a high precision loitering system launched from a canister which can loiter for up to 120 minutes.
  - Speed: 50-140 knots (90-260 km per hour), Height: 3,000-4,000 feet above ground.
  - It picks out its target and fires an armorpenetrating projectile from top - where its armor protection is the least.
  - It uses complex navigational techniques that enable it to function even in environments where the GPS has been disabled.

- It can loiter above a target in stealth mode, collect information, and immediately strike at time-sensitive threats.
- It uses electro-optical/infrared stabilized cameras to detect and engage targets both during the day and at night.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

### Q 13.C

- The Vice-President holds office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters his office. However, he can resign from his office at any time by addressing the resignation letter to the President. He can also be removed from the office before completion of his term.
- A formal impeachment is not required for his removal. **He can be removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the Rajya Sabha and agreed to by the Lok Sabha. Hence statement 1 is correct.** This means that this resolution should be passed in the Rajya Sabha by an effective majority and in the Lok Sabha by a simple majority.
- The effective majority in India is only a type of special majority and not a separate one. **Further, this resolution can be introduced only in the Rajya Sabha and not in the Lok Sabha. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **But, no such resolution can be moved unless at least 14 days advance notice has been given. Notably, no ground has been mentioned in the Constitution for his removal. Hence statement 3 is correct.**

### Q 14.A

- **Recently**, Sundarja mango, Manamadurai pottery, Nagri Dubraj rice have received GI tags.
- Geographical Indications (GIs) are one of the forms of intellectual property that authenticate the origins, quality, distinct characteristics, and reputation of a product attributable to a particular geographical region.
- The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 (GI Act) is an Act of the Parliament of India for the protection of geographical indications in India. India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Act to comply with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.
- **Sundarja mango**
  - **The Sundarja mango is found in abundance in Govindgarh town of Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh.** The Sundarja mango has a wide popularity and even a stamp has been issued in the name of it. This mango is called pride of the Vindya and it is fibre free fruit. **Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Basohli Painting' - popular for its miniature art style from Kathua district of Jammu has obtained the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.**
  - Basohli, a simple town in the Jammu region, was the cradle of Pahari paintings. It gave birth to a unique style of miniature paintings that witnessed a fusion of mythology and traditional folk art.
  - **It was under Sangram Pal (1635-1673) and later Kirpal Pal (1678-1693) that Basohli paintings flourished.**
  - Vaishnavism was adopted under Sangram Pal and hence the early paintings, specifically the Rasmanjari series, depict Krishna as the protagonist.
  - The characteristic features of these paintings were the use of bright and bold colours like red, yellow, and blue in the borders, as well as for the generally flat background.
  - **The other distinguishing part was the facial features- a prominent nose and lotus-shaped eyes.**
  - Depiction of flora was not unusual in Basohli paintings. The artists' favourite was the bright red flowers of rhododendron. **Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Chhattisgarh's Nagri Dubraj rice variety got a geographical indication tag.**
  - After Jeeraphool rice in 2019, Dubraj is the second rice brand from Chattisgarh to get the GI tag.
  - The women's self-help group "Maa Durga Swasahayata Samuh" of Nagri in Dhamtari district has been harvesting Dubraj and has applied for the GI tag. **Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

### Q 15.A

- **Operation Interflex is a part of the United Kingdom's (UK) commitment of £2.3 billion for military aid and support to Ukraine.**
- Operation Interflex aims to teach weapon handling, range activity, marksmanship, fieldcraft basics, field tactics, battle casualty drills, counter explosives, the laws of armed conflict, first aid, and cyber security awareness.
- Under it, the UK and other countries including Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Lithuania, and Netherlands are training Ukraine's military.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**



#### Q 16.C

- The Vice-President is elected not directly by the people but by the method of indirect election. He is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the members of both Houses of Parliament.
- **The original Constitution provided that the vice president would be elected by the two Houses of Parliament assembled at a joint meeting.** This cumbersome procedure was done away by the 11th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1961. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **The Election Commission, in consultation with the Central Government, appoints the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, by rotation, as the Returning Officer.** The Commission also decides to appoint Assistant Returning Officers in Parliament House (Lok Sabha) to assist Returning Officers. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 17.A

- After independence, Article 148 of the 1949 Indian Constitution provided for the establishment of a Comptroller and Auditor General to be appointed by the President of India.
- In 1971 the central government enacted the Comptroller and Auditor General (Duties, Powers, and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971. The act made CAG responsible for both accounting and auditing duties for central and state governments.
- Article 148 broadly deals with the CAG appointment, oath and conditions of service.
- Article 149 deals with the Duties and Powers of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.
- Article 150 says that the accounts of the Union and of the States shall be kept in such form as the President may, on the advice of the CAG, prescribe.
- **CAG is appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal and provided with tenure of 6 years or 65 years of age, whichever is earlier. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- CAG can be removed by the President only in accordance with the procedure mentioned in the Constitution which is the manner same as the removal of a Supreme Court Judge.
- **He is ineligible to hold any office, either under the Government of India or of any state, once he retires/resigns as a CAG. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 18.A

- **Exemption of Central Property from State Taxation:**
  - The property of the Centre is exempted from all taxes imposed by a state or any authority within a state like municipalities, district boards, panchayats and so on. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - But, the Parliament is empowered to remove this ban.
  - The corporations or the companies created by the Central government are not immune from state taxation or local taxation. The reason is that a corporation or a company is a separate legal entity.
- **Exemption of State Property or Income from Central Taxation**
  - **The property and income of a state is exempted from Central taxation.** Such income may be derived from sovereign functions or commercial functions.
  - But the Centre can tax the commercial operations of a state if Parliament so provides.
  - Notably, **the property and income of local authorities situated within a state are not exempted from the Central taxation. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - **Similarly, the property or income of corporations and companies owned by a state can be taxed by the Centre.**




#### Q 19.D

- There are a total of 24 department-related standing committees, of which eight are with the Rajya Sabha and the remaining 16 with the Lok Sabha. The eight Rajya Sabha committees consist of 244 members from both Houses, with 78 from Rajya Sabha and 166 from Lok Sabha. The standing committee system was introduced in 1993 with the panels drawing members from all political parties. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Rules relating to the department-related parliamentary standing committees, state that:
  - Each of the Standing Committees shall have the following functions, namely:-
    - ✓ to consider the Demands for Grants of the related Ministries/Departments and report thereon. **The report shall not suggest anything of the nature of cut motions;**
    - ✓ to examine Bills, pertaining to the related Ministries/Departments, referred to the Committee by the Chairman or the Speaker, as the case may be, and report thereon;
    - ✓ to consider the annual reports of the Ministries/Departments and report thereon; and
    - ✓ to consider national basic long-term policy documents presented to the Houses, if referred to the Committee by the Chairman or the Speaker, as the case may be, and report thereon.

- ✓ Provided that the Standing Committees shall not consider matters of the day-to-day administration of the related Ministries/Departments.
- ✓ **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 20.A

- **Recently**, the United Kingdom agreed to join CPTPP. It will become the first new member and the first country in Europe to join the CPTPP.
- **It was signed in March 2018 and came into force in December 2018. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
  - It succeeded the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) after the United States withdrew from the TPP in 2017.
- It is a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed between 11 nations.
- **Member countries: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Peru, Mexico, and New Zealand.**
  - **USA is thus not a member of CPTPP. Hence statement 1 is correct.**

How CPTPP is different from Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)?		
	RCEP	CPTPP
 <b>Members</b>	FTA in 15 countries (largely Asia-Pacific region).	FTA in 11 countries (has countries on either side of the Pacific Ocean).
 <b>Size</b>	Accounts for 31% of global GDP.	Accounts for 13.5% of the global GDP.
 <b>Domain</b>	The requirements in CPTPP are more comprehensive than under the RCEP. For instance, RCEP does not include disciplines on support for state-owned enterprises (SOEs) or provisions on labour and environmental issues. ★	

- **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 21.C

- **Article 252- Parliament's power to legislate on the subject of state list when states make a request: Any Act so passed by Parliament may be amended or repealed by an Act of Parliament passed or adopted in like manner but shall not, as respects any State to which it applies, be amended or repealed by an Act of the Legislature of that State**
  - When the legislatures of **two or more states** pass resolutions requesting the Parliament to enact laws on a matter in the State List, then the Parliament can make laws for regulating that matter.
  - **A law so enacted applies only to those states which have passed the resolutions.** However, any other state may adopt it afterward by passing a resolution to that effect in its legislature. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - Such a law can be **amended or repealed only by the Parliament** and not by the legislatures of the concerned states. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **The effect of passing a resolution:**
  - The effect of passing a resolution under the above provision is that,
    - ✓ The Parliament becomes entitled to legislate with respect to a matter for which it has no power to make a law.
    - ✓ On the other hand, **the state legislature ceases to have the power to make a law with respect to that matter.**
    - ✓ The resolution operates as abdication or surrender of the power of the state legislature with respect to that matter and it is placed entirely in the hands of Parliament which alone can then legislate with respect to it.

- ✓ **Some examples** of laws passed under the above provision are **Prize Competition Act, 1955; Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976; and Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994.**

#### Q 22.B

- **Recent context:** 28 States/UTs have adopted the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) for Land Records and 26 States/UTs have adopted the Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) or Bhu-Aadhar.
- **About National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS)**
  - Application: NGDRS is a common, generic, and configurable application developed for document registration departments across the country.
  - **Initiated by: Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - State-specific: NGDRS facilitates states to create state-specific instances and configure the software as per requirements.
  - Citizen services: Offering a complete user interface for property and document registration, **the application enables citizens to proceed with land buying online. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - Objectives:
    - ✓ Enabling the idea of One Nation One Software
    - ✓ Citizen empowerment by enabling property valuation (including auto calculation of duty) and online document submission
    - ✓ Single platform for all stakeholders in the registration process
- **ULPIN:** ULPIN is part of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) and is a 14-digit identification number accorded to a land parcel.
  - It was developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC).

#### Q 23.A

- **Recently, Belgrade (Serbia) has introduced liquid tree, an urban photo-bioreactor, to combat air pollution.**
- **LIQUID 3 contains water and uses microalgae to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality** by binding carbon dioxide and producing pure oxygen through photosynthesis.
- LIQUID 3 is more efficient than trees, replacing two 10- year-old trees or 200 square meters of lawn.
- A photobioreactor (PBR) can be defined as an enclosed, illuminated culture vessel designed to control biomass production through adjustment of the operating parameters.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 24.C

- Besides the right to address a joint sitting of both Houses at the commencement of the first session, **the President shall also have the right to address either House or their joint sitting, at any time, and to require the attendance of members for this purpose [ Art. 86(1) ].** This right is no doubt borrowed from the English Constitution, but there it is not exercised by the Crown except on ceremonial occasions. **Hence statement 1 is correct. Apart from the right to address, the Indian President shall have the right to send messages to either House of Parliament either in regard to any pending Bill or to other matters, and the House must then consider the message “ with all convenient despatch [ Art. 86(2)]. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The Indian President shall have the power to send messages not only on legislative matters but also otherwise'. Since the head of the Indian Executive is represented in Parliament by his Ministers, the power given to the President to send messages regarding legislation may appear to be superfluous, unless the President has the freedom to send messages differing from the Ministerial policy, in which case again it will open a door for friction between the President and the Cabinet.

#### Q 25.B

- **Recent context:** Bengaluru sees Zero Shadow Day.
- A Zero Shadow Day is a specific day when the Sun is positioned in such a way that an upright object, such as a vertical pole or a person standing, does not cast a visible shadow. This phenomenon occurs in certain geographic locations.
- **For every point on Earth between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, there are two Zero Shadow Days a year because of the tilt of the Earth's axis and its revolution around the Sun.**



- The Earth's axis is tilted at an angle of approximately 23.5 degrees with respect to its orbital plane. This tilt causes the angle of the Sun's rays to change throughout the year as the Earth revolves around the Sun.
- ZSD occurs when the sun's declination (earth's axis results in a daily variation of the angle between the earth-sun line and the earth's equatorial plane) becomes equal to the latitude of the location and the sun's rays will fall exactly vertical relative to an object on the ground leading to no shadow of that object.
- **Delhi is located beyond the Tropic of Cancer at 28 degrees latitude and hence does not experience zero shadow day.**
- **The latitude of Hyderabad is 17.3850° N and it was seen on May 9 at 12.12 p.m. and on August 3, when the shadow of any vertical object will disappear.**
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 26.A

- The Chief Secretary is the chief advisor to the Chief Minister and Secretary to the State Cabinet. S/he is the **head of the General Administration department** whose political head is the Chief Minister herself/himself. The Chief Secretary is also the Head of the Civil Services in the State. S/he is the main channel of communication between the State Government and the Central and other State governments. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **The office of the Chief Secretary is an institution unique to the states;** it is without a parallel in the administrative landscape of the entire country. **The Chief Secretary's office has, for instance, no parallel in the Central Government.** The work s/he performs in relation to the State Government is, at the Union level, shared by three high-ranking functionaries of more or less an equal status, i.e., Cabinet Secretary, Home Secretary and Finance Secretary, This is a vivid reflection on the wide scope of the duties and powers of the Chief Secretary. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 27.A

- Central Vigilance Commission is an apex Indian governmental body created in 1964 to address governmental corruption. In 2003, the Parliament enacted a law conferring statutory status on the CVC.
- The CVC was set up by the Government in February 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by Shri K. Santhanam. In 2003, the Parliament enacted CVC Act conferring statutory status on the CVC. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/Department. It is an independent body which is only responsible to the Parliament. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Its annual report gives the details of the work done by the commission and points to systemic failures which lead to corruption in government departments. **It presents this report annually to the President.** The President then places this report before each House of Parliament. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 28.C

- Article 53 deals with the executive powers of the President of India. The powers of the President are broadly divided into two types, namely, ordinary and emergency powers. **The executive powers of the Union are vested in the President. Article 53 confers all executive powers in him and empowers him to exercise these powers directly by himself or through officers subordinate to him. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Article 75 requires the Prime Minister to communicate to the President regarding all decisions of the Union Council of Ministers.
- **Article 77 holds that all executive powers of the Union government shall be exercised in the name of the President. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The Constitution prescribes an indirect election through an electoral college (composed of the elected members of Parliament and the elected members of the state legislative assemblies) on the basis of proportional representation and by means of a single transferable vote. All doubts and disputes in connection with election of the President are inquired into and decided by the Supreme Court whose decision is final. **Anti-defection law is not applicable in presidential election; thus, electors are not bound to vote along party line.**

**Q 29.B**

- **Solicitor-General is the second highest law officer of the Government of India** after the Attorney General (AG) of India. He/She assists the AG in the fulfillment of his/her official responsibilities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It should be noted here that **only the office of the AG is created by the Constitution**. In other words, Article 76 does **not mention the Solicitor general** and additional solicitor general. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **SJI is appointed by the President** on the recommendations of the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**. The SGI generally has a tenure of 3 years and is eligible for reappointment. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q 30.C**

- Prasar Bharati is a statutory autonomous body established under the Prasar Bharati Act and came into existence on 23.11. 1997. It is the Public Service Broadcaster of the country. The Ministry is responsible for the administration of Prasar Bharati, the broadcasting arm of the Indian Government. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Central Board of Film Certification is the other important statutory body under this ministry being responsible for the regulation of motion pictures broadcast in India.
- Until the Information Technology Rules 2021, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had the power to regulate content in all sectors — TV channels, magazines, newspapers and movies in theatres and on TV, and radio — with the exception of the internet.
- The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, were promulgated in February 2021, and they extended their regulatory powers over internet content, particularly on digital news platforms and Over the Top ("OTT") platforms. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

**Q 31.B**

- The Union executive consists of the President, the Vice President, the Prime Minister, the council of ministers, and the attorney general of India.
- Parliamentary privileges are **special rights, immunities, and exemptions** enjoyed by the two Houses of Parliament, their committees, and their members. The Constitution has also extended parliamentary privileges to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a House of Parliament or any of its committees. **These include the attorney general of India and Union ministers.**
- **Every minister and the attorney general of India** have the right to speak and take part in the proceedings of either House, any joint sitting of both the Houses, and any committee of Parliament of which he is a member, without being entitled to vote. **Hence options 2 and 3 are correct.**
- The **parliamentary privileges do not extend to the President** who is also an integral part of the Parliament. Article 361 of the Constitution provides for privileges for the President. **Hence option 1 is not correct.**

**Q 32.A**

- **Recent context:** International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin for war crimes in Ukraine.
- ICC stated that Putin bears individual criminal responsibility for the abduction and deportation of Ukrainian children since Russia's full-scale invasion began in February last year.
  - **However, ICC has no power to arrest sitting heads of state or bring them to trial. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- War crimes are serious violations of humanitarian laws during a conflict (derived from 1949 Geneva Conventions).
- War crimes include torture, mutilation, corporal punishment, hostage taking and acts of terrorism.

	International Criminal Court (ICC)	International Court of Justice (ICJ)
Genesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established by Rome Statute, it is <b>not part of the UN</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established by United Nations Charter, it is <b>Principal judicial organ of UN.</b></li> </ul>
Subject Matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Trial criminal offenses</b> i.e. genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, crimes of aggression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Settle legal dispute</b> i.e. sovereignty, boundary disputes, maritime disputes, trade, natural resource etc.</li> </ul>
Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals either <b>ratified member of ICC</b> or accept the jurisdiction of ICC.</li> <li><b>India, Russia, US are not members.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only states either member of UN or ICJ or both.</li> <li><b>India is a member.</b></li> </ul>
Jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criminal prosecution of <b>individuals.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Two types of jurisdiction:</b> Legal disputes that are submitted to it by States, Advisory opinion.</li> <li><b>No jurisdiction to try individuals</b> accused of war crimes or crimes against humanity</li> </ul>
Composition of Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Composed of <b>eighteen judges</b> elected to <b>nine year terms</b> and <b>not re-elected</b> for further terms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Composed of <b>fifteen judges</b> elected to <b>nine year terms</b> and <b>may be re-elected</b> for up to two further terms</li> </ul>
Appeal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appeal is instituted by appeal chamber.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>No appeal provision</b> for ICJ.</li> </ul>

- Hence statement 2 is not correct.
- Its Headquarters is located at The Hague in the Netherlands. Hence statement 3 is not correct.

**Q 33.B**

- **Recent context:** Christina Koch, the American astronaut who spent 328 days aloft on her first trip to International Space Station, spoke about the overview effect.
- **The "Overview Effect" is a term used to describe the cognitive shift experienced by astronauts when viewing the Earth from space. This transformative experience often leads to a profound change in perspective, values, and attitudes towards the planet and its inhabitants.**
- It highlights the interconnectedness of humanity and the fragility of the Earth's ecosystem.
- The Overview Effect has been reported by numerous astronauts and is considered an essential aspect of human space exploration.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

**Q 34.A**

- The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is a staff agency meant for providing secretarial assistance and crucial advice to the Prime Minister. The **Prime Minister's Office is headed politically by Prime Minister and administratively by the Principal Secretary.** Additionally, it consists of one or two Additional Secretaries, three to five Joint Secretaries, a number of Directors Deputy Secretaries, and Undersecretaries. There are also other officers like Officers on Special Duty; Private secretaries, and so on. These officers are supported by regular office establishments. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The major functions of PMO are:
  - Acting as the 'think-tank' of the Prime Minister.
  - Faster decision-making: It helps in faster decision-making as it involves experienced and powerful decision-makers. Assisting the Prime Minister in respect of his overall responsibilities as head of the government like Maintaining liaison with central ministries/departments and the state governments.
  - It acts as the residual legatee of the Central Government, that is, it deals with all such subjects which are not allotted to any ministry/department.
  - However, is **not concerned with the responsibilities of the Prime Minister as the chairman of the Union Cabinet.** Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- PMO is an **extra-constitutional body** that has no mention in the Indian Constitution. However, **it was given the status of a department** under the Government of India Allocation of Business Rules, 1961. However, Unlike Ministries/Departments, no administrative or quasi-judicial decisions are generally taken in the Prime Minister's Office which may affect a particular person or class of persons. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- National Authority Chemical Weapons Conventions has been established under the Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000 for implementing the provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, signed on behalf of the Government of India at Paris on the 14th day of January 1993. **NACWC is an office in the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India. Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

**Q 35.D**

- Article 164 states that the **Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the legislative assembly** of the state. This means that all the ministers own joint responsibility to the legislative assembly for all their acts of omission and commission. They work as a team and swim or sink together.
- Article 164 **contains the principle of individual responsibility.** It states that the ministers hold office at the pleasure of the governor. This means that the governor can remove a minister at a time when the council of ministers enjoys the confidence of the legislative assembly.
- Thus, the **Governor cannot dismiss a Council of Ministers at his pleasure on his/her subjective estimate** of the strength of the Chief Minister in the State Assembly at any time because it is for the legislative Assembly to enforce collective responsibility. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- A **person who is not a member of either House of the state legislature** can also be appointed as a minister. But, within six months, he must become a member (either by election or by nomination) of either House of the state legislature, otherwise, he ceases to be a minister. A minister who is a member of one House of the state legislature has the right to speak and take part in the proceedings of the other House. But, **he can vote only in the House of which he is a member. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**



### Q 36.B

- **73rd Amendment Act of 1992** has added a new Part-IX to the Constitution of India. This part is entitled 'The Panchayats' and consists of provisions from **Articles 243 to 243 O**.
- The provisions of this Part are applicable to the Union territories. But, the President may direct that they would apply to a Union territory subject to such exceptions and modifications as he may specify.
- **The act does not apply to the states of Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram** and certain other areas.
- These areas include
  - the scheduled areas and the tribal areas in the states;
  - the hill areas of Manipur for which district councils exist; and
  - the Darjeeling district of West Bengal for which Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council exists.
- However, the **Parliament may extend the provisions of this Part to the scheduled areas and tribal areas** subject to such exceptions and modifications as it may specify. Under this provision, the Parliament enacted the **"Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas Act", 1996, popularly known as the PESA Act or the Extension Act.**
- Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

### Q 37.B

- **Recent context: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) has amended the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules (IT Rules) 2021.**
  - The aim of these amendments is to enforce greater due diligence by online gaming and social media intermediaries in respect of online games & fake or false misleading information related to Government business.
- **Key Features of the Rules on Online Gaming**
  - **Clear definitions:**
    - ✓ **"Online games" mean a game that is offered on the Internet and is accessible by a user through a computer resource or an intermediary. Hence statement 1 is not correct**
    - ✓ **"Online gaming intermediary (OGI)" means any intermediary that enables the users of its computer resource to access one or more online games.**
  - **Role of Intermediaries: To make a reasonable effort to not host, publish or share any online game that can cause the user harm, or that has not been verified as a permissible online game by an online gaming Self-Regulatory Body/Bodies (SRBs) designated by the Central Government.**
    - ✓ The intermediary will also have to ensure that no advertisement or surrogate advertisement or promotion of an online game that is not a permissible online game, is hosted on its platform.
  - **Prohibition: Online games that involve any kind of gambling (including ads) will be prohibited. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - **Additional Obligations on OGI: The amended rules cast additional obligations on OGI in relation to online games involving real money. These include:**
    - ✓ **The displaying of a mark of verification by the self-regulatory body on such games**
    - ✓ Informing their users of the policy for withdrawal or refund of the deposit
    - ✓ Obtaining the KYC details of the users
    - ✓ **Not giving credit or enabling financing by third parties to the users**
  - **Multiple SRBs: The MeiTY may notify multiple SRBs, for the purposes of verifying an Online game as a permissible one. An SRB should fulfil the following criteria:**
    - ✓ **Company registered under Section 8 (Not-for-Profit entity) of the Companies Act 2013.**
    - ✓ Representative of the online gaming industry, promoting online games in a responsible manner.
    - ✓ Incorporates provisions related to grievance redressal, arm's length principle, disclosure and reporting and clear criteria for membership.
  - **Authority of SRBs: The SRB may categorise any Game as a permissible game if it is satisfied that:**
    - ✓ **the online game does not involve wagering on any outcome**
    - ✓ the OGI and the game comply with the rules and the requirements under law for being competent to enter into a contract (currently at 18 years), and the OGI and the game complies with the framework made by the SRB regarding safeguards

### Q 38.B

- The office of 'whip' is mentioned neither in the Constitution of India nor in the Rules of the House nor in a Parliamentary Statute. It is based on the conventions of the parliamentary government. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- Every political party, whether ruling or Opposition has its own whip in the Parliament. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- He is appointed by the political party to serve as an assistant floor leader. He is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the attendance of his party members in large numbers and securing their support in favor of or against a particular issue.
- He regulates and monitors their behavior in the Parliament. The members are supposed to follow the directives given by the whip. Otherwise, disciplinary action can be taken.
- **The Tenth Schedule - popularly known as the Anti-Defection Act - was included in the Constitution via the 52nd Amendment Act, of 1985.**
  - It sets the provisions for disqualification of elected members on the grounds of defection to another political party.
  - 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 in such political party; or
    - ✓ if he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by the whip of his political party without obtaining prior permission of such party and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

#### Q 39.A

- The Constitution does not contain any specific procedure for the selection and appointment of the Prime Minister. Article 75 says only that the Prime Minister shall be appointed by the president. In accordance with the conventions of the parliamentary system of government, the President has to appoint the leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha as the Prime Minister. **In 1980, the Delhi High Court held that the Constitution does not require that a person must prove his majority in the Lok Sabha before he is appointed as the Prime Minister.** The President may first appoint him the Prime Minister and then ask him to prove his majority in the Lok Sabha within a reasonable period. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **The allegations of corruption against a sitting Prime Minister can be inquired by the Lokpal.** The jurisdiction of Lokpal includes the Prime Minister, Ministers, members of Parliament, Groups A, B, C, and D officers, and officials of the Central Government. The jurisdiction of the Lokpal included the Prime Minister except on allegations of corruption relating to international relations, security, public order, atomic energy, and space. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 are made by the President of India under Article 77 of the Constitution for the allocation of business of the Government of India. **The Ministries/Departments of the Government are created by the President** on the advice of the Prime Minister under these Rules. Each of the Ministries is assigned to a Minister by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 40.C

- A bill passed by the Parliament can become an act only if it receives the assent of the President. When such a bill is presented to the President for his assent, he has three alternatives (under Article 111 of the Constitution):
  - He may give his assent to the bill, or
  - He may withhold his assent to the bill, or
  - He may return the bill (if it is not a Money bill) for reconsideration by the Parliament. However, if the bill is passed again by the Parliament with or without amendments and again presented to the President, the President must give his assent to the bill.
- **It should be noted here that the President has no veto power in respect of a constitutional amendment bill. The 24th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1971 made it obligatory for the President to give his assent to a constitutional amendment bill. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976 (enacted by the made the President bound by the advice of the council of ministers headed by the prime minister. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **The 44th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1978 authorized the President to require the council of ministers to reconsider such advice** either generally or otherwise. However, he 'shall' act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration. In other words, the President may return a matter once for reconsideration by his ministers, but the reconsidered advice shall be binding.

#### Q 41.B

- Cabinet Committees are extra-constitutional in emergence. They are not mentioned in the Constitution. However, the Rules of Business provide for their establishment. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- They are of two types- standing and ad-hoc. The former are of permanent nature while the latter are of temporary nature. The ad-hoc committees are constituted from time to time to deal with special problems. They are disbanded after their task is completed. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- They are mostly headed by the Prime Minister. Sometimes other Cabinet members, particularly the Home Minister or the Finance Minister, also act as their Chairman.
- They usually include only Cabinet ministers. However, the non-cabinet ministers are not debarred from their membership. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

#### Q 42.C

- **The GST Council is a constitutional body responsible for making recommendations on issues related to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - As per Article 279A (1) of the amended Constitution, the GST Council was constituted by the President.
  - **Members:**
    - ✓ The members of the Council include the Union Finance Minister (Chairperson), the Union Minister of State (Finance) from the Centre.
    - ✓ Each state can nominate a minister in-charge of finance or taxation or any other minister as a member.
- **Recommendations are not binding:**
  - Last year the Supreme Court in the case *Union of India and Anr versus M/s Mohit Minerals Through Director* ruled that recommendations of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council **only have persuasive value, and cannot be binding on the Centre and states. Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 43.B

##### Committee on Public Undertakings

- This committee was created in **1964 on the recommendation of the Krishna Menon Committee**. The first Estimates Committee in the post-independence era was constituted in 1950 on the recommendation of John Mathai, the then finance minister. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Originally, it had 15 members (10 from the Lok Sabha and 5 from the Rajya Sabha). However, in 1974, its membership was raised to 22 (15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha).
- The members of this committee are elected by the Parliament every year from amongst its own members according to the principle of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote. **Thus, all parties get due representation in it.**
- The term of office of the members is one year. **A minister cannot be elected as a member of the committee.**
- The chairman of the committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst its members who are drawn from the Lok Sabha only. **Thus, the members of the committee who are from the Rajya Sabha cannot be appointed as the chairman. Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 44.A

- **Recent context:** Japan became the latest country to join Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA).
- **MPIA (formed in 2020) is an alternative system for resolving WTO disputes that are appealed by a Member in the absence of a functioning WTO Appellate Body. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - WTO members can resort to MPIA under Article 25 of WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.
- Any member can join MPIA by notifying the Dispute Settlement Body (composed of representatives of all WTO Members).
  - **India not a member yet. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - In a dispute between members, MPIA will supersede the previous appeal processes and also apply to future disputes between members.
- WTO's dispute settlement process functioning is impacted since 2018 in the backdrop of USA blocking appointments to Appellate Body.

- There are two main ways to settle a dispute once a complaint has been filed in WTO:
  - Parties find a mutually agreed solution, particularly during the phase of bilateral consultations.
  - Through adjudication, including the subsequent implementation of the panel and Appellate Body reports.

#### Q 45.C

- The Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business came into force immediately before the commencement of the Constitution of India was modified and adopted by the Speaker of Lok Sabha in the exercise of the powers conferred on the Speaker by Article 118(2) of the Constitution and published under the title “Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House of the People” in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated the 17th April 1952.
- Those Rules were amended by the Speaker from time to time on the **recommendations of the Rules Committee** of the House until September 1954. In September 1954, the Rules Committee decided that their **recommendations should be approved by the House** before amendments were given effect. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **The Speaker is the head of the Lok Sabha** and its representative. S/he is also the ex-officio chairman of some Lok Sabha committees like the Rules Committee, the Business Advisory Committee, and the General Purposes Committee. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

#### Q 46.B

- **Recent context:** IFAD and Japan announced the launch of the Enhanced Linkages between Private Sector and Small-scale Producers initiative (ELPS).
  - Its aim is to make small-scale producers and local food systems around the world more resilient and sustainable together with the enhanced engagement of private sector companies.
- **The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialized agency of the United Nations, was one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference. Hence statements 1 and 3 are correct.**
  - The conference was organized by the United Nations in response to the food crises of the early 1970s, when global food shortages were causing widespread famine and malnutrition, primarily in the Sahelian countries of Africa.
- Its aim is to transform rural economies and food systems by making them more inclusive, productive, resilient and sustainable.
- Its membership is open to any State that is a member of the United Nations, any of its specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency.
  - **India is a member. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- Nearly 100 members voluntarily support the Fund through financial contributions.
- IFAD is headed by a President elected for a four-year term.
- India has received funding from IFAD for projects in rural development, tribal development, women's empowerment and micro-finance.
  - Since 1979, it has financed more than 27 projects.
  - India has also contributed to IFAD resources.

#### Q 47.A

- **Competitive Federalism professes a vertical relationship between the States and the Central government while states compete among themselves. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
- **Cooperative Federalism** signifies a **horizontal relationship between the Centre and the State**. This means the two entities cooperate and tackle shared issues to serve the larger public interest.
- **Cooperative and Competitive Federalism in India:**
  - Cooperative and Competitive Federalism, though seem to be at loggerheads, aims towards the common objective of economic growth and welfare of the nation in an equal and equitable manner.
  - When our Constitution was first created, it only comprised the notion of cooperative federalism through mechanisms like the **Inter-state council, Zonal council, and 7th schedule**.
  - But in the course of time, as **States competed to attract capital and Investment to facilitate** and stimulate economic activity and improve administrative efficiency, the need for Competitive capitalism was founded.
  - It ensures minimum waste and maximum resource usage by stimulating healthy competition among states in creating physical and social infrastructure.
  - **NITI Aayog's Index approach**, whereby it releases sector-specific indices like School Education Quality Index, Sustainable Development Goals Index, State Health Index, India Innovation Index,



Composite Water Management Index, and Export Preparedness Index, has heralded a new wave of healthy competition among states.

**Q 48.D**

- A "double membership" in Indian polity refers to a situation where an individual holds membership in more than one political party or organization simultaneously.
- In some cases, individuals who are found to be holding double membership may be expelled from their political party or organization or may be disqualified from holding public office. This is also known as "dual membership."
- Thus, the **Representation of People Act (1951)** provides for the following:
  - If a person is elected to both Houses of Parliament, he must intimate within 10 days in which House he desires to serve. In default of such intimation, his seat in the Rajya Sabha becomes vacant. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - If a sitting member of one House is also elected to the other House, his seat in the first House becomes vacant.
  - If a person is elected to two seats in a House, he should exercise his option for one. Otherwise, both seats become vacant.
  - Similarly, a person cannot be a member of both the Parliament and the state legislature at the same time. If a person is so elected, his seat in Parliament becomes vacant if he does not resign his seat in the state legislature within 14 days. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**Q 49.C**

- **Article 78** defines the duties of the Prime Minister as respecting the furnishing of information to the President: It shall be the duty of the Prime Minister—
  - to communicate to the President all decisions of the Council of Ministers relating to the administration of the affairs of the Union and proposals for legislation. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - to furnish such information relating to the administration of the affairs of the Union and proposals for legislation as the President may call for. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - if the President so requires, to submit for the consideration of the Council of Ministers any matter on which a decision has been taken by a Minister but which has not been considered by the Council. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q 50.A**

- **Recent context:** European nations participated in Second North Sea Summit in Ostend, Belgium. North Sea Summit aims at making the North Sea the largest powerhouse of Europe by 2050 by taking its offshore wind capacity to 120 GW by 2030 and 300 GW by 2050.
- 7 European Union (EU) countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands), and 2 Non-EU countries Norway and United Kingdom participated in this second summit.
- **At the end of first summit in Denmark in 2022, Belgium, Denmark, Germany and Netherlands signed the Esbjerg Declaration.**
  - **Esbjerg Declaration aimed at making the North Sea into the "Green Power Plant of Europe", an offshore renewable energy system.**
  - Declaration set the targets for offshore wind energy capacity of 150 GW by 2030 and 20 GW green hydrogen production capacity by 2030.
- Wind energy in India
  - India stands 4th globally in wind power capacity as per REN21 Renewables 2022 Global Status Report.
  - As of February 2023, India's total installed wind power capacity is approximately 42 GW.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

**Q 51.A**

- **Recently, NASA launched device called Tropospheric Emissions: Monitoring of Pollution (TEMPO) to monitor air pollution from space.**
- **TEMPO will allow scientists to monitor air pollutants and their emission sources and air quality across greater North America on an hourly basis during daytime.**
- **The TEMPO instrument is a UV-visible spectrometer, and will be the first ever space-based instrument to monitor air pollutants hourly across the North American continent during daytime. It will collect high-resolution measurements of ozone, nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants.**
  - Situated in geostationary orbit 35,786 kilometers above the equator.

- Among the pollutants tracked by TEMPO will be nitrogen dioxide, produced from the combustion of fossil fuels, formaldehyde and ozone.
- It will be able to measure atmospheric pollution down to a spatial resolution of 10 square kilometers or neighborhood level.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 52.B

- **Recent context:** Two massive gravity batteries are nearing completion in the US and China.
- Gravity batteries are an emerging concept in energy storage technology.
- **Gravity batteries, also known as gravitational energy storage systems, are a type of potential energy storage system that store energy in the form of gravitational potential energy.**
  - These systems work by raising heavy objects to a higher elevation when excess energy is available (during periods of low demand or high renewable energy generation).
  - Then, when electricity demand increases or renewable energy supply decreases, the stored potential energy can be released by lowering the heavy objects, converting the potential energy back into electrical energy using generators.
  - **Thus they do not harness energy from gravitational waves. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- There are different designs for gravity batteries, but one common approach involves lifting heavy masses, such as large blocks or containers of materials, using electrical energy when it is abundant. Then, when energy is needed, these heavy masses are lowered, driving generators to produce electricity.
- According to scientists at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), **abandoned mines could provide us a way to store renewable energy by dropping containers of sand or heavy weights down mine shafts. Thus they can be turned into giant gravity batteries. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - They claim that turning decommissioned mines into vast “gravity batteries” could provide up to 70 terawatts of energy storage. This is enough to match the entire world’s daily electricity consumption.

#### Q 53.B

- Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is a decentralized agency of the Government of India.
- It was established in 1965 as the Agricultural Prices Commission and was given its present name in 1985. It is an advisory body, attached to the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The CACP is an expert body that recommends the MSPs of the notified Kharif and Rabi crops to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Commission was established to recommend Minimum Support Prices (MSPs), to motivate cultivators and farmers to adopt the latest technology in order to optimize the use of resources and increase productivity.

#### Q 54.B

- The constitutional position of the council (as compared with the assembly) can be studied from two angles:
  - Spheres where the council is equal to the assembly.
  - Spheres where the council is unequal to assembly.
- **Equal with Assembly:** In the following matters, the powers and status of the council are broadly equal to that of the assembly:
  - **Enlargement of the jurisdiction of the state public service commission. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - Introduction and passage of ordinary bills. However, in case of disagreement between the two Houses, the will of the assembly prevails over that of the council.
  - Approval of ordinances issued by the Governor; etc.
- **Unequal with Assembly:** In the following matters, the powers and status of the council are unequal to that of the assembly:
  - **When an ordinary bill, which has originated in the council and was sent to the assembly, is rejected by the assembly, the bill ends and becomes dead. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - The council does not participate in the election of the president of India and representatives of the state in the Rajya Sabha.

- **The council has no effective say in the ratification of a constitutional amendment bill. In this respect also, the will of the assembly prevails over that of the council. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- A Money Bill can be introduced only in the assembly and not in the council.
- The council cannot amend or reject a money bill. It should return the bill to the assembly within 14 days, either with recommendations or without recommendations; etc.
- From the above, it is clear that the position of the council vis-a-vis the assembly is much weaker than the position of the Rajya Sabha vis-a-vis the Lok Sabha. The Rajya Sabha has equal powers with the Lok Sabha in all spheres except financial matters and with regard to the control over the Government. On the other hand, the council is subordinate to the assembly in all respects.

#### Q 55.A

- The differences between the Public Bill and Private Bill are as stated below:

<i>Public Bill</i>	<i>Private Bill</i>
1. It is introduced in the Parliament by a minister.	It is introduced by any member of Parliament other than a minister.
2. It reflects the policies of the government.	It reflects the stand of the opposition party on a public matter.
3. It has a greater chance to be approved by the Parliament.	It has a lesser chance to be approved by the Parliament.
4. Its rejection by the house amounts to the expression of want of parliamentary confidence in the government and may lead to its resignation.	Its rejection by the house has no implications on the parliamentary confidence in the government or its resignation.
5. Its introduction in the house requires seven days' notice	Its introduction in the house requires one month's notice.
6. It is drafted by the concerned department in consultation with the law department.	Its drafting is the responsibility of the member concerned.

#### Q 56.D

- **Proton therapy is a type of radiation therapy that uses protons rather than x-rays.** It painlessly delivers radiation to treat some types of cancer.
- **In general, proton therapy has fewer side effects than other types of radiation therapy. This is because it can be targeted more directly at the tumor and does less damage to other tissue.**
  - A proton is a positively charged particle. At high energy, protons can destroy cancer cells.
- Proton beam therapy allows doctors to deliver a higher dose of radiation directly to the tumor while sparing surrounding healthy tissues and organs from unnecessary radiation exposure.
  - **This precision helps reduce the risk of damage to nearby healthy tissues and can be particularly beneficial for treating certain types of tumors located near sensitive organs or critical structures.**
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 57.B

- **Recent context:** Researchers just discovered a method of animal reproduction previously unknown to science, reporting that a biological law is being “broken” by a species of ant.
  - The acid-spraying ant has a bizarre form of reproduction unseen until now in the animal kingdom, one that may have allowed it to become one of the world’s worst invasive species, devastating many of the delicate ecosystems it encounters.
- A male yellow crazy ant represents what scientists call a chimera, or a single animal with two sets of genetically distinct cells.
  - **Thus a chimera is an organism whose cells are derived from two or more zygotes**
  - Scientists have found a handful of chimeras in nature, both in humans and other species, sometimes resulting in people or creatures with two different colored eyes.
  - But most chimerism usually stems from rare developmental incidents, such as when one embryo absorbs another in the womb.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

**Q 58.C**

- A proclamation of **National Emergency under Article 352** of the Indian Constitution has drastic and wide-ranging effects on the political system of India. **Articles 358 and 359 describe the effect of a National Emergency on Fundamental Rights.**
- **Article 358** deals with the suspension of the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by **Article 19**, while **Article 359** deals with the suspension of **other Fundamental Rights (except those guaranteed by Articles 20 and 21)**. Hence, **Statement II is not correct.**
- According to Article 358, when a proclamation of national emergency is made, the six Fundamental Rights under Article 19 are automatically suspended. No separate order for their suspension is required.
- However, **The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 restricted the scope of Article 358** as the six Fundamental Rights under Article 19 can be suspended **only when the National Emergency is declared on the ground of war or external aggression and not on the ground of armed rebellion**. Hence, **statement I is correct.**
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

**Q 59.D**

- The **Cabinet Secretariat functions directly under the Prime Minister**. The business allocated to the Cabinet Secretariat under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 includes (i) Secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees; and (ii) Rules of Business. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 and Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 facilitating smooth transaction of business in Ministries/ Departments.
- The administrative head of the Secretariat is the Cabinet Secretary who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board. **The Cabinet Secretary is the head of Civil Services in India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

**Q 60.D**

- **Recent context:** Kochi was the host of international working group meetings of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.
- The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) was established by international convention in 1982 with the objective of conserving Antarctic marine life.
  - This was in response to increasing commercial interest in Antarctic krill resources, a keystone component of the Antarctic ecosystem and a history of over-exploitation of several other marine resources in the Southern Ocean.
- Being responsible for the conservation of Antarctic marine ecosystems, CCAMLR practises an ecosystem-based management approach.
  - This does not exclude harvesting as long as such harvesting is carried out in a sustainable manner and takes account of the effects of fishing on other components of the ecosystem.
- CCAMLR is an international commission with 27 Members, and a further 10 countries have acceded to the Convention. Based on the best available scientific information, the Commission agrees a set of conservation measures that determine the use of marine living resources in the Antarctic.
  - **India is a member of the commission.**
- **There is no such arrangement for the Global Environment Facility as the principal financial arm of the commission.**
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

**Q 61.D**

- **Recently, European Space Agency (ESA) has launched JUICE from Europe's spaceport French Guiana on an eight-year-long voyage to Jupiter and its moons through Ariane-5.**
- Spacecraft will complete fly-bys of Venus, Earth, and the Earth-Moon system to arrive at its destination in 2031.
  - It is the first large-class mission in ESA's Cosmic Vision 2015-2025 programme.
  - For the first time that the ESA has sent a spacecraft beyond the asteroid belt.
  - It is a product of "global" cooperation between 23 countries, academic institutions, and private companies.



- About JUICE Mission
  - Objectives: It will make detailed observations about Jupiter and its three large ocean-bearing moons – Ganymede, Callisto and Europa. ○ It will inspect and analyse the moons' weather, magnetic field, gravitational pull and other elements.
  - Time Period: It will spend at least three years studying the gas giant and its moons.
  - Spacecraft: It has a record 85 square metres of solar panels, which stretch out to the size of a basketball court.
  - It will collect as much energy as possible near Jupiter, where sunlight is 25 times weaker than on Earth.
  - Payload: It includes GALA (GAnymede Laser Altimeter), MAJIS (Moons and Jupiter Imaging Spectrometer), UVS (UV imaging Spectrograph) etc.
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 62.A

- **Consolidated Fund of India (Article 266): It is a fund to which all receipts are credited and all payments are debited; Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - all revenues received by the Government of India;
  - all loans raised by the Government by the issue of treasury bills, loans or ways and means of advances; and
  - all money received by the government in repayment of loans forms the Consolidated Fund of India.
  - All the legally authorised payments on behalf of the Government of India are made out of this fund.
- **No money out of this fund can be appropriated (issued or drawn) except in accordance with parliamentary law. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 63.A

- **Recent Context:** Supreme Court has taken up Maharashtra's plea for a hearing on the border row with Karnataka, the issue that has been simmering since the States Reorganisation Act of 1956.
- **Genesis of the dispute**
  - The erstwhile Bombay Presidency, a multilingual province, included the present-day Karnataka districts of Vijayapura, Belagavi, Dharwad and Uttara-Kannada.
  - In 1948, the Belgaum municipality requested that the district, having a predominantly Marathi-speaking population, be incorporated into the proposed Maharashtra state.
  - However, the States Reorganisation Act of 1956, which divided states on linguistic and administrative lines, made Belgaum and 10 talukas of Bombay State a part of the then Mysore State (which was renamed Karnataka in 1973).
- **Mahajan Commission**
  - **In 1966, the Centre set up the Mahajan Commission to resolve the border dispute in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
  - The Commission recommended that 264 villages be transferred to Maharashtra and that Belagavi (Belgaum) and 247 villages remain with Karnataka.
  - Maharashtra rejected the report, and in 2004, moved the Supreme Court.
  - In 2022, the supreme court has started hearing the issue.
  - Belagavi is currently part of Karnataka.

#### Q 64.C

- For the purpose of holding direct elections to the Lok Sabha, each state is divided into territorial constituencies. In this respect, the Constitution makes the following two provisions:
  - **Each state is allotted a number of seats in the Lok Sabha in such a manner that the ratio between that number and its population is the same for all states.** This provision does not apply to a state having a population of less than six million. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - **Each state is divided into territorial constituencies in such a manner that the ratio between the population of each constituency and the number of seats allotted to it is the same throughout the state. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 65.C

- **Recent context:** Supreme court altered the approach to resolving transfer pricing disputes in India.
- Transfer pricing is an accounting practice that allows for the establishment of prices for the goods and services exchanged between, divisions, subsidiaries or affiliates that are part of the larger enterprise.
- Usually, companies use transfer pricing to reduce the overall tax burden of the parent company.

- This is done by charging a higher price to subsidiaries in high-tax countries (reducing profit) while charging a lower price (increasing profits) for subsidiaries in low-tax countries.
- **About Arm's Length Principle (ALP)**
- ALP was agreed upon by all OECD member countries and adopted as an objective guideline for use by multinational companies and tax administrations in international taxation.
- **It means that the price a company pays to purchase goods or services from a related company entity should be the same as if the two entities were unrelated (known as arm's length price).**
  - There should be no price adjustment or special conditions for the transaction simply because the parties are related legal entities.
- Its objective is to avoid the erosion of the tax base or the transfer of profits to low tax jurisdictions.
- In India, Transfer Pricing and ALP provisions are contained in Chapter X of Income-tax Act, 1961 and arm's length price is determined by the Assessing Officer.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 66.D

- **Territorial limits of the legislative powers**
  - Article 245 of the Constitution defines the territorial limits of the legislative powers vested in the Centre and the states.
  - **Parliament legislative power**
    - ✓ The Parliament can make laws for the **whole or any part of the territory of India.**
    - ✓ The territory of India includes the states, the union territories, and any other area for the time being included in the territory of India.
  - **State legislative power**
    - ✓ A state legislature can make laws for the whole or any part of the state.
    - ✓ The laws made by a state legislature **are not applicable outside the state, except when there is a sufficient nexus between the state and the object.**
  - **Extra-territorial legislative power**
    - ✓ The Parliament **alone** can make 'extra-territorial legislation'.
    - ✓ It implies state legislatures do not have extra-territorial legislation power.
    - ✓ Thus, the laws of the Parliament are also applicable to Indian citizens and their property in any part of the world. **Hence statement I is not correct.**
- **Inconsistency between laws made by Parliament and laws made by the Legislatures of States**
  - Article 254(1) of the constitution which deals with Inconsistency between laws made by Parliament and laws made by the Legislatures of States says that:
    - ✓ with respect to matters enumerated in the Concurrent List, **the law made by Parliament, whether passed before or after the law made by the Legislature of such State, the existing law, shall prevail** and the law made by the Legislature of the State shall, to the extent of the repugnancy, be void. **Hence statement II is correct.**

#### Q 67.B

- **Oath and Affirmation**
  - **Every member of either House of Parliament, before taking his seat in the House, has to make and subscribe to an oath or affirmation given in the third schedule before the President or some person appointed by him for this purpose.** In his oath or affirmation, a member of Parliament swears:
    - ✓ to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India;
    - ✓ to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India; and
    - ✓ to faithfully discharge the duty upon which he is about to enter.
  - **The oath of the president is under Article 60 and not a part of the third schedule. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Unless a member takes the oath, he cannot vote and participate in the proceedings of the House and does not become eligible for parliamentary privileges and immunities.
- **A person is liable to a penalty of ₹500 for each day he sits or votes as a member in a House in the following conditions:**
  - **Before taking and subscribing to the prescribed oath or affirmation; or Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - When he knows that he is not qualified or that he is disqualified for its membership; or
  - When he knows that he is prohibited from sitting or voting in the House by virtue of any parliamentary law.

**Q 68.B**

- **Recently, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) launched the Global Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Infrastructure (GGMI).**
- About GGMI
  - **It aims to provide better ways of measuring planet-warming pollution and help inform policy choices.**
  - The new platform will integrate space-based and surface-based observing systems, and seek to clarify uncertainties about where greenhouse gas emissions end up.
  - Global coordination efforts of the type that is needed for the development of these infrastructure has proved successful in weather prediction and climate monitoring.
    - ✓ It is embodied by WMO's 60-year-old World Weather Watch and its acclaimed Global Atmosphere Watch.
  - The initiative aims to leverage WMO's experience in coordinating global collaboration in weather prediction, climate analysis, and greenhouse gas monitoring.
  - GGMI will build on and expand WMO's longstanding activities in GHG monitoring, implemented as part of the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) and the Integrated Global Greenhouse Gas Information System (IG3IS).
    - ✓ GAW focuses on building a single coordinated global understanding of atmospheric composition, its change, and helps to improve the understanding of interactions between the atmosphere, the oceans and the biosphere.
    - ✓ IG3IS is an observation-based information system for determining trends and distributions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere and the ways in which they are consistent or not with efforts to reduce GHG emissions.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

**Q 69.B**

- **74th Amendment Act of 1992 added a new Part IX-A to the Constitution of India.** This part is entitled '**The Municipalities**' and consists of provisions from **Articles 243-P to 243-ZG**.
- **Article 243V** lays down that all persons who are qualified to be chosen to the State legislature shall be qualified for being a member of a Municipality.
- However, the constitution in the same article specifically provided that persons who have attained the **age of 21 years will be eligible** to be a member of the Municipality. While the constitutional requirement is that for election to the State legislature of a state, a person must have attained the age of 25 years (**Article 173**). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The superintendence, direction, and control of the **preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to the municipalities** shall be vested in the **State Election Commission** appointed under **Article 243 K** of the Indian Constitution. The state legislature may make provisions with respect to all matters relating to elections to the municipalities. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Q 70.D**

- The Finance Ministry consists of five departments, namely,
- **The Department of Economic Affairs**
  - It is the nodal agency of the government to formulate and monitor the country's economic policies and programmes having a bearing on domestic and international aspects of economic management.
  - A principal responsibility of this Department is the **preparation and presentation of the Union Budget** to the Parliament and the budget for the state governments under the President's Rule and union territory administrations. **Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
  - Other functions include formulation and monitoring of macroeconomic policies, including issues relating to fiscal policy and public finance, inflation, public debt management and the functioning of the capital market including stock exchanges; production of banknotes and coins of various denominations, postal stationery, postal stamps; and cadre management, career planning and training of the Indian Economic Service.
- **The Department of Expenditure**
  - It is the nodal Department for overseeing the public financial management system in the central government and matters connected with state finances.
  - It is responsible for the **implementation of the recommendations of the Finance Commission** and Central Pay Commission, monitoring of audit comments/ observations, and preparation of central government accounts. **Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**
  - It further assists central ministries/ departments in controlling the costs and prices of public services, reviewing systems and procedures to optimize outputs and outcomes of public expenditure.

- **The Department of Revenue**
  - It exercises control in respect of revenue matters relating to Direct and Indirect Union taxes through two statutory boards namely, **the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)**.
  - The Department is also entrusted with the administration and enforcement of regulatory measures provided in the enactments concerning Central Sales tax, Stamp duties and other relevant fiscal statutes.
  - Control over **production and disposal of opium** and its products is vested in this Department. **Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **The Department of Financial Services (DFS)**
  - It is mainly responsible for policy issues relating to Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Financial Institutions including their functioning, appointment of Chairman, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officers (MD & CEOs), Executive Directors (EDs), Chairman cum Managing Directors (CMDs), legislative matters, international banking relations. Appointment of Governor/Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India matters relating to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Agriculture Finance Corporation, Co-operative Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), and rural/agriculture Credit.
  - The Department also **administers the financial inclusion programme** of the government, social security schemes, and other targeted schemes aimed at facilitating flow of credit, matters relating to the insurance sector and performance of public sector insurance companies, and administration of various Insurance Acts. Matters relating to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and matters relating to pension reforms including the New Pension System (NPS), etc. **Hence pair 4 is correctly matched.**
- **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management**
  - It was set up as a separate Department in 1999 and was later renamed as Ministry of Disinvestment in 2001. From 2004, the Department of Disinvestment is one of the departments under the Ministry of Finance.
  - The Department of Disinvestment has been renamed as Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) from 2016.
  - The mandate of the Department includes all matters related to management of Central Government investments in equity including disinvestment of equity in Central Public Sector Undertakings. Decisions on the recommendations of administrative ministries, NITI Aayog, etc., for disinvestment including strategic disinvestment.
  - All matters related to Independent External Monitor(s) for disinvestment and public asset management. Financial policy in regard to the utilization of the proceeds of disinvestment channelized into the National Investment Fund.

#### Q 71.A

- Article 75 of the Indian Constitution provides for the appointment, tenure, responsibility, qualification, oath, and salaries and allowances of the ministers. As per Article 75, the Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- The total number of ministers, including the **Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers** shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha. This provision was added by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003.
- The Council of Ministers consists of three categories of ministers, namely, cabinet ministers, ministers of state, and deputy ministers. At the top of all these ministers stands the Prime Minister. Thus, the **Minister of State is a part of the Central Council of Ministers. Hence option 2 is correct.**
- The Cabinet Ministers head the important ministries of the Central government like home, defense, finance, external affairs, and so forth.
- Ministers of State can either be given independent charge of ministries/ departments or can be attached to cabinet ministers. **Hence, option 1 is not correct.**
- As the **Ministers of State are a part of the Central Council of Ministers** and they are **appointed by the President** on the recommendations of the Prime Minister. **Hence, option 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 72.A

- **What is Article 239AA of the Constitution?**
  - Article 239AA is inserted into the Constitution by the 69th Amendment Act, 1991.
  - It conferred special status on Delhi following the recommendations of the **S Balakrishnan Committee** that was set up in 1987 to look into Delhi's demands for statehood. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**



- **Important Provisions of Article 239AA:**
  - According to its provisions, the NCT of Delhi will have an administrator and a Legislative Assembly.
  - Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Legislative Assembly, “shall have the power to make laws for the whole or any part of the NCT **with respect to any of the matters in the State List or Concurrent List** in so far as any such matter is applicable to Union territories,” **except on the subjects of Police, Public order, and Land.**
- **Supreme court observation on Legislative power of NCT**
  - The 2018 ruling said that with the introduction of Article 239AA in the Constitution, Parliament envisaged a “representative form of Government” for Delhi while seeking to provide a directly elected Legislative Assembly with legislative powers over matters within the State List and the Concurrent List, barring those exempted.
  - It also sought to mandate the Lieutenant Governor to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, except when he decides to refer the matter to the President for a final decision.
  - **Taking a closer look at Article 239AA(3), the court said that it revealed Parliament’s power to make laws for Delhi, for matters given in the State and Concurrent List. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - At the same time, the Legislative Assembly of Delhi also has the power to make laws over all those subjects which figure in the Concurrent List and all, but three excluded subjects, in the State List.
- **Supreme court observation on Executive power of NCT**
  - The supreme court clarified that the **Centre has exclusive executive power** with respect to Delhi over its **police, land, and public order.**
  - In respect of other matters, **the executive power is to be exercised by the Government of NCT of Delhi.**
  - This, however, is subject to the proviso to Article 239AA(4) of the Constitution.

#### Q 73.B

- **Recent context:** Indian Coast Guard Region (North East) is conducting fourth edition of Table top exercise (simulated emergency) under Colombo Security Conclave (CSC).
- **CSC was formed in 2011 as a trilateral maritime security grouping of India, Sri Lanka and Maldives.**
  - **Later Mauritius joined as fourth member and Bangladesh & Seychelles participate as observer countries.**
- Conclave underlines regional cooperation and shared security objectives concerning all littoral nations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- It aims to make maritime security, marine pollution response and maritime search & rescue priorities for the region.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 74.D

- **Recently**, the Union Home Ministry has started the process for eviction and sale of enemy properties.
- **Enemy property refers to property or assets held or managed on behalf of an enemy subject or an enemy company. o It also refers to assets left behind by individuals who migrated to Pakistan or China and are no longer citizens of India.**
  - These assets include land, buildings, shares held in companies, jewellery of the citizens of enemy countries.
  - The Central government took over properties of citizens of China (in 1962) and Pakistan (in 1965 and 1971) under the Defence of India Acts.
- To administer these properties, the Enemy Property Act was enacted in 1968.
  - The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2017 had amended the Enemy Property Act, 1968, to bar successors of those who migrated to Pakistan and China during partition from any claim over the properties left behind in India.
  - **The law empowered the Custodian of Enemy Property of India (CEPI) to manage and preserve the enemy properties. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - Enemy properties valued between ₹1 crore and ₹100 crore will be disposed of by the CEPI through an electronic auction or otherwise, as may be decided by the central government and at the rate determined by the Enemy Property Disposal Committee.
- In case of the enemy properties valued below Rs 1 crore, the custodian shall offer for purchase to the occupant first and if offer of purchase is refused by the occupant, then the enemy property shall be disposed of in accordance with the procedure specified.

- CEPI worked under the aegis of Ministry of Home Affairs since 2007.
- According to a Home ministry notification, the guidelines for disposal of the enemy properties have been changed under which the process for eviction of enemy properties now shall be initiated with the help of the District Magistrate or Deputy Commissioner concerned before the sale of properties.
  - There are a total of 12,611 establishments called enemy property, estimated to be worth over ₹1 lakh crore, in the country.
  - Out of the 12,611 properties vested with the Custodian of Enemy Property of India (CEPI), a total of 12,485 were related to Pakistani nationals and 126 to Chinese citizens.
  - The highest number of enemy properties were found in Uttar Pradesh, followed by West Bengal, Delhi.
  - **None of the 12,611 immovable enemy property has been monetised so far by the government. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 75.A

- **Recently**, The Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) concluded with adoption of the ‘Doha Political Declaration’ by the world leaders.
- Political Declaration welcomed Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) that was adopted at first part of Conference, held in 2022 in New York.
- Through the Declaration, representatives recognized that despite some positive results, progress fell short of goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for LDCs for the Decade 2011– 2020.
  - The IPoA recognizes that LDCs represent an enormous human and natural resource potential for world economic growth, welfare and prosperity.
- **About Doha Programme of Action (DPoA)**
  - DPoA manifests a new generation of renewed commitments between the LDCs and their development partners, including the private sector, civil society, and governments at all levels.
  - **It is a 10-year plan (2022-2031) to put world’s 46 most vulnerable countries back on track to achieving the UNmandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**
- There are currently 46 countries (Africa 33, Asia 9, Caribbean 1 and Pacific 3) on the list of LDCs which is reviewed every three years by the Committee for Development (CDP), a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 76.A

- Under **Article 360 of the Indian Constitution**, if the President is satisfied that a situation has arisen whereby the financial stability or credit of India or of any part of the territory thereof is threatened, he may by a Proclamation make a declaration to that effect.
- A proclamation declaring a financial emergency must be approved by both Houses of Parliament **within two months from the date of its issue. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Once approved by both Houses of Parliament, the Financial Emergency continues **indefinitely till it is revoked**. This implies two things:
  - there is no maximum period prescribed for its operation, and
  - repeated parliamentary approval is not required for its continuation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- During Financial Emergency, The President may issue directions for the reduction of salaries and allowances of (a) all or any class of persons serving the Union; and (b) the judges of the Supreme Court and the high courts. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 77.C

- As per Article 75 of the Constitution the Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**
- The ministers shall hold office at the pleasure of the President. As the **ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President they shall be liable to dismissal even when they have the confidence of the Legislature**. But since the Prime Minister’s advice will be available in the matters of dismissing other ministers individually, it may be expected that this power of the President will virtually be a power of the Prime Minister against his colleagues to get rid of the undesirable colleague even when the even where that Minister may still possess the confidence of the majority in the House of the People. Usually, the Prime Minister exercises this power by asking an undesirable colleague to resign.

#### Q 78.A

- **Recent context:** An analysis report of the working of the Seventh Schedule was released by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)
- **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) is an independent body constituted to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, specifically to the Prime Minister. It is not an attached body of the Prime Minister's Office.**
  - **At present, the chairman of EAC-PM is: Dr. Bibek Debroy. Therefore it is not chaired by cabinet secretary. Hence statements 1 and 3 are not correct.**
- The Terms of Reference of EAC-PM include analyzing any issue, economic or otherwise, referred to it by the Prime Minister and advising him thereon, addressing issues of macroeconomic importance and presenting views thereon to the Prime Minister.
- **These could be either suo-motu or on reference from the Prime Minister or anyone else. They also include attending to any other task as may be desired by the Prime Minister from time to time. Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 79.C

- **Power to levy, collect and appropriate a tax:**
  - The Constitution draws a distinction between the power to levy and collect a tax and the power to appropriate the proceeds of the tax so levied and collected.
  - For example, the income-tax is levied and collected by the Centre but its proceeds are distributed between the Centre and the states.
- **Taxes Levied by the Centre but Collected and Appropriated by the States (Article 268):**
  - This category includes the following taxes and duties:
    - ✓ **Stamp duties on bills of exchange, cheques, promissory notes, policies of insurance, transfer of shares and others.**
    - ✓ **Excise duties on medicinal and toilet preparations containing alcohol and narcotics.**
  - In the case of these duties leviable within any Union territory, they are collected by the Government of India. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - In other cases, these duties are collected by the States within which such duties are respectively leviable.
  - **The proceeds of these duties levied within any state do not form a part of the Consolidated Fund of India, but are assigned to that state i.e they become part of Consolidated Fund of respective state government. Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 80.D

- Under **Article 352** of the Indian Constitution, the president can declare an emergency when the **security of India or a part of it is threatened by war, external aggression, or armed rebellion**. This is popularly known as a '**National Emergency**'. However, the Constitution employs the expression '**proclamation of emergency**' to denote an emergency of this type.
- The phrase '**armed rebellion**' was inserted by the **44th Amendment Act of 1978**, replacing the original phrase 'internal disturbance'.
- Other Key provisions of the 44th Amendment Act of 1978:
  - **Fundamental Rights:** The 44th Amendment Act restored the right to property as a legal right, but it was removed as a fundamental right. This meant that property rights were still protected, but they could no longer be enforced through a direct constitutional remedy.
  - **Right to Life:** The amendment added "personal liberty" to Article 21 of the Constitution, making it more comprehensive.
  - **Abolition of Privy Purses:** The amendment abolished the privy purse and special privileges granted to the former princely states after Independence.
  - **Anti-Defection Law:** The Tenth Schedule was added to the Constitution by the 44th Amendment Act, which aimed to curb political defections
- Further, it made President to declare a national emergency only on the written recommendation of the cabinet.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 81.B

- The **term of the Chief Minister is not fixed** and he holds office during the pleasure of the governor. However, this does not mean that the governor can dismiss him at any time. He cannot be dismissed by the governor as long as he enjoys majority support in the legislative assembly. But, if he loses the

confidence of the assembly, he must resign or the governor can dismiss him. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The **salary and allowances of the Chief Minister are determined by the state legislature**. In addition to the salary and allowances, which are payable to a member of the state legislature, he gets a sumptuary allowance, free accommodation, traveling allowance, medical facilities, etc. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Before the Chief Minister enters his office, the governor administers to him the oaths of office and secrecy. In his oath of office, the Chief Minister swears:
  - to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India,
  - **to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India,**
  - to faithfully and conscientiously discharge the duties of his office
  - to do right to all manner of people in accordance with the Constitution and the law, without fear or favor, affection or ill will. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- He advises the governor with regard to the appointment of important officials like the advocate general, chairman and members of the state public service commission, state election commissioner, and so on. However, the **members of the State Public Service Commission** are removed by the President. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

#### Q 82.A

- The **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act** provides for the **reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes** in every panchayat (i.e., at all three levels) **in proportion of their population to the total population in the panchayat area**. Further, the state legislature shall provide for the **reservation of offices of chairperson** in the panchayat at the village or any other level for the SCs and STs.
- It must be noted here that the above provision relating to the reservation of seats in panchayats (both members and chairpersons) for the scheduled castes is **not applicable to the state of Arunachal Pradesh**. This is because the state is **inhabited fully by indigenous tribal people and there are no scheduled castes**. This provision was added later by the **83rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 2000**.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 83.C

- **Question Hour**
  - **The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is slotted for this. During this time, the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers.** The questions are of three kinds, namely, starred, unstarred, and short notice.
    - ✓ A **starred question** (distinguished by an asterisk) requires an oral answer and hence supplementary questions can follow.
    - ✓ An **unstarred question**, on the other hand, requires a written answer and hence, supplementary questions cannot follow.
    - ✓ A **short notice question** is one that is asked by giving a notice of less than ten days. It is answered orally.
    - ✓ In addition to the ministers, the questions can also be asked to the private members. Thus, a question may be addressed to a private member if the subject matter of the question relates to some Bill, resolution, or other matter connected with the business of the House for which that member is responsible. The procedure in regard to such questions is the same as that followed in the case of questions addressed to a minister.
  - **The list of starred, unstarred, short notice questions and questions to private members are printed in green, white, light pink and yellow color, respectively, to distinguish them from one another. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - **The "Question Hour" is not an Indian innovation, it is a common practice present in the parliamentary systems of several other nations such as U.K., Canada, Australia etc. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Zero Hour**
  - Unlike the question hour, the zero hour is **not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure**.
  - **Thus it is an informal device available to the members of the Parliament to raise matters without any prior notice.**
  - **The zero hour starts immediately after the question hour and lasts until the agenda for the day (ie, regular business of the House) is taken up.** In other words, the time gap between the question hour and the agenda is known as zero hour. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**



- It is an **Indian innovation** in the field of parliamentary procedures and has been in existence since 1962.

#### Q 84.B

- **Recently, a National Conference was organized to commemorate the 25th year of enactment of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act or PESA Act, 1996.**
- Article 243M exempts the Fifth Schedule areas from Part IX (Provision of Panchayati Raj) of the Constitution but the Parliament is empowered to extend its provisions to the Scheduled and Tribal Areas by law without it being considered as an amendment to the Constitution.
- Based on the recommendations of the Dileep Singh Bhuria Committee, PESA Act was enacted in 1996 for tribal empowerment and to bring them into the mainstream.
- PESA Act is called a 'Constitution within the Constitution' as it extends the **Part IX of the Constitution to the Fifth Schedule areas of 10 States** under clause (1) of the Article 244 with certain modifications and exceptions. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - Most of the North eastern states under Sixth Schedule Areas (where autonomous councils exist) are not covered by PESA, as these states have their own Autonomous councils for governance.
  - The 10 states: **Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Telangana.**
- Promoting institutions of Local Self Governance and participatory democracy, all the State Panchayati Raj Acts for Fifth Schedule areas have the following salient features:
  - All State Legislation on Panchayats shall be in conformity with the customary law, social and religious practices and traditional management practices of community resources. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - Every village has a separate Gram Sabha consisting of persons whose names are included in the electoral rolls for the Panchayat at the village level.
  - **Every Gram Sabha to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of people, their cultural identity, community resources, and the customary mode of dispute resolution. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - Every panchayat to have a reservation of seats in proportion to the community population (minimum of 50%) with the Chairperson of Panchayats at all levels to be reserved for STs.
  - Roles and Responsibilities of Gram Sabhas: To approve all development works in the village, identify beneficiaries and issue certificates of utilization of funds.

#### Q 85.C

- The advocate general is appointed by the governor. He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of a high court. In other words, he must be a citizen of India and must have held a judicial office for ten years or been an advocate of a high court for ten years.
- The term of office of the advocate general is not fixed by the Constitution. Further, the **Constitution does not contain the procedure and grounds for his removal.** He holds office at the pleasure of the governor. This means that he may be removed by the governor at any time. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The advocate general is appointed by the governor. He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of a high court. In other words, he must be a citizen of India and must have held a **judicial office for ten years or been an advocate of a high court for ten years. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The remuneration of the advocate general is not fixed by the Constitution. He receives such remuneration as the governor may determine. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

#### Q 86.C

- The **office of the Deputy Chief Minister (CM) is not mentioned in the Constitution of India.** Article 163 says that there shall be a Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister as the head to aid and advise the Governor in the exercise of his functions, except in so far as he is required to exercise his functions in his discretion. Unlike the posts of chief minister and cabinet ministers, that of a deputy chief minister is not a constitutional post. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **The post of Deputy CM is equivalent to the rank of a cabinet minister (in the state)** and enjoys the pay and perks that a cabinet minister is entitled to. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The deputy CM does not enjoy any specific financial power. He also holds the same financial powers as other cabinet ministers. Even for his own portfolio, the **Deputy CM has to take approval of the chief minister** for any expenditure over and above the allocated budget. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

### Q 87.C

- **Money Bills:** Article 110 of the Constitution deals with the definition of money bills.
  - It states that a bill is deemed to be a **money bill if it contains ‘only’ provisions dealing with all or any of the following matters:**
    - ✓ The imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax;
    - ✓ The regulation of the borrowing of money by the Union government;
    - ✓ The custody of the Consolidated Fund of India or the contingency fund of India, the payment of moneys into or the withdrawal of money from any such fund;
    - ✓ The appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India;
    - ✓ **Declaration of any expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India or increasing the amount of any such expenditure; Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
    - ✓ The receipt of money on account of the Consolidated Fund of India or the public account of India or the custody or issue of such money, or the audit of the accounts of the Union or of a state; or
    - ✓ Any matter incidental to any of the matters specified above.
  - **However, a bill is not to be deemed to be a money bill by reason only that it provides for:**
    - ✓ **the imposition of fines or other pecuniary penalties, or Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
    - ✓ the demand or payment of fees for licenses or fees for services rendered; or
    - ✓ the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax by any local authority or body for local purposes.
  - If any question arises whether a bill is a money bill or not, the decision of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is final.
  - His decision in this regard cannot be questioned in any court of law or in the either House of Parliament or even the President.
  - When a money bill is transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for recommendation and presented to the president for assent, the Speaker endorses it as a money bill.
  - **Finally, when a money bill is presented to the president, he may either give his assent to the bill or withhold his assent to the bill but cannot return the bill for reconsideration of the Houses. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - Normally, the president gives his assent to a money bill as it is introduced in the Parliament with his prior permission.

### Q 88.C

- **Article 77: Conduct of Business of the Government of India:**
  - **All executive action of the Government of India shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the President. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - Orders and other instruments made and executed in the name of the President shall be authenticated in such manner as may be specified in rules to be made by the President.
  - The President shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business.
- In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (3) of above Article 77 of the Constitution and in supersession of all previous rules and orders on the subject the President has made the Rules for the Allocation of the Business of the Government of India, 1961:
  - The Ministries/Departments of the Government are created by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister under these Rules.
  - The Ministries/Departments of the Government are diminished or merged by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- The Cabinet Secretariat is under the direct charge of the Prime Minister. The administrative head of the Secretariat is the Cabinet Secretary who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board.
- **The business of the Government of India allocated to the Cabinet Secretariat is and, shall always be deemed to have been, allotted to the Prime Minister. Hence statement 2 is correct.**

### Q 89.B

- **Recent context:** A drug-resistant and potentially deadly fungus has been spreading rapidly through U.S. healthcare facilities.
- **The fungus, a type of yeast called Candida auris**, or C. auris, can cause severe illness in people with weakened immune systems. The number of people diagnosed with infections.
- It has been causing severe illness in hospitalized patients and in some patients, this yeast can enter the bloodstream and spread throughout the body, causing serious invasive infections. This yeast often does not respond to commonly used antifungal drugs, making infections difficult to treat. Patients who have

been hospitalized in a healthcare facility a long time, have a central venous catheter, or other lines or tubes entering their body, or have previously received antibiotics or antifungal medications, appear to be at highest risk of infection with this yeast.

- It was first identified in Japan in 2009.
- Symptoms: Fever and chills that don't go away after treatment with antibiotics.
- Mortality rate: Estimated to be between 30-60%.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 90.C

- **Article 243U of the constitution:**
- It provides for a **five-year term of office** for every municipality. However, it can be dissolved before the completion of its term.
- A municipality constituted upon the dissolution of a municipality before the expiration of its duration **shall continue only for the remainder of the period for which the dissolved municipality would have continued** had it not been so dissolved. In other words, a municipality reconstituted after premature dissolution **does not enjoy the full period of five years** but remains in office only for the remainder of the period. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Article 243U** prescribes that before dissolution a **reasonable opportunity of being heard must be given** to the municipality. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as or for being a member of a municipality if he is so disqualified
  - under any law for the time being in force for the purposes of elections to the legislature of the state concerned; or
  - under any law made by the state legislature. Further, all **questions of disqualifications** shall be referred to such **authority as the state legislature determines.**

#### Q 91.A

- 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:
- Disqualification
  - **Members of Political Parties:** A member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified for being a member of the House, (a) if he voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party; or (b) 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. From the above provision, it is clear that a member elected on a party ticket should continue in the party and obey the party directions.
  - **Independent Members:** An independent member of a House (elected without being set up as a candidate by any political party) becomes disqualified to remain a member of the House if he joins any political party after such an election.
  - **Nominated Members:** A nominated member of a House becomes disqualified for being a member of the House if he joins any political party after the expiry of six months from the date on which he takes his seat in the House. This means that he may join any political party within six months of taking his seat in the House without inviting this disqualification. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - **Exceptions:** The above disqualification on the ground of defection does not apply in the following two cases:
    - ✓ If a member goes out of his party as a result of a merger of the party with another party. A merger takes place when two-thirds of the members of the party have agreed to such a merger.
    - ✓ If a member, after being elected as the presiding officer of the House, voluntarily gives up the membership of his party or rejoins it after he ceases to hold that office. This exemption has been provided in view of the dignity and impartiality of this office. It must be noted here that the provision of the Tenth Schedule pertaining to the exemption from disqualification in case of a split by one-third of members of the legislature party has been deleted by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003. It means that the defectors have no more protection on grounds of splits.
  - Any question regarding disqualification arising out of defection is to be decided by the presiding officer of the House. Originally, the act provided that the decision of the presiding officer is final and cannot be questioned in any court. **However, in the Kihoto Hollohan case (1993), the Supreme Court declared this provision as unconstitutional on the ground that it seeks to take away the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and the high courts.** It held that the presiding officer while deciding a question under the Tenth Schedule, functions as a tribunal. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 92.D

- **Seventh Schedule:**
  - The Constitution provides for a three-fold distribution of legislative subjects between the Centre and the states, viz., List-I (the Union List), List-II (the State List) and List-III (the Concurrent List) in the Seventh Schedule:
- **List-I (the Union List):**
  - The Parliament has exclusive powers to make laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the Union List.
  - This list has at **present 100 subjects (originally 97 subjects)** like **defence, banking, foreign affairs, currency, atomic energy, insurance, communication, inter-state trade and commerce, census, audit and so on.**
- **List-II (the State List):**
  - The state legislature has “in normal circumstances” exclusive powers to make laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the State List.
  - This has at **present 61 subjects (originally 62 subjects)** like **public order, police, public health and sanitation, agriculture, prisons, local government, fisheries, markets, theaters, gambling and so on.**
- **List-III (the Concurrent List):**
  - Both, the Parliament and state legislature can make laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the Concurrent List.
  - This list has at **present 52 subjects (originally 47 subjects)** like criminal law and procedure, civil procedure, **marriage** and divorce, **succession**, population control and family planning, electricity, labour welfare, economic and social planning, drugs, newspapers, books and printing press, and others.
  - **The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 transferred five subjects to Concurrent List from State List, that is, (a) Education b) forests, (c) Weights and Measures, (d) protection of wild animals and birds, and (e) administration of justice; constitution and organisation of all courts except the Supreme Court and the high courts. Hence option d is correct.**
- **The power to make laws with respect to residuary subjects (i.e., the matters which are not enumerated in any of the three lists) is vested in the Parliament.**

#### Q 93.B

- Article 356 of the Constitution of India is based on Section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935.
- According to Article 356, President's Rule can be imposed on any state of India on the grounds of the failure of the constitutional machinery.
- The Supreme Court in the *S.R.Bommai vs Union of India* case held that Presidential proclamation under Article 356 is not absolute and the power conferred by Article 356 on the President is conditioned power. The Supreme Court held that the presidential proclamation is not immune from judicial review. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A proclamation of the President's Rule may be revoked by the President at any time by a subsequent proclamation. Such a proclamation does not require parliamentary approval. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Article 356 was used for the first time in 1954. It has also been used in the state of Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU) and then during Vimochana samara to dismiss the democratically elected Communist state government of Kerala on 31 July 1959. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 94.D

- According to the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992, every state shall constitute at the district level, a district planning committee to consolidate the plans prepared by panchayats and municipalities in the district, and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole.
- **The act lays down that four-fifths (not all) of the members of a district planning committee should be elected by the elected members of the district panchayat and municipalities in the district from amongst themselves.**
- The representation of these members in the committee should be **in proportion to the ratio between the rural and urban populations in the district (not equal).** **Hence both statements are not correct.**

#### Q 95.D

- Prime Minister is the real executive authority. The Constitution does not contain any specific procedure for the selection and appointment of the Prime Minister.
- Article 75 says only that the Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President.



- Before the Prime Minister enters upon his office, the President administers to him the oaths of office and secrecy.
- The term of the Prime Minister is not fixed and he holds office during the pleasure of the President. So long as the Prime Minister enjoys the majority in the Lok Sabha, he cannot be dismissed by the President.
- He is the chairman of:
  - NITI Aayog,
  - National Development Council,
  - National Integration Council,
  - Inter-State Council and
  - National Water Resources Council.
- Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

#### Q 96.A

- **Special provision for states**
  - Articles 371 to 371-J in Part XXI of the constitution contain **special provisions for twelve states** which are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Karnataka.
  - **Original constitution did not contain any special provisions for these states.** They have been incorporated by the various subsequent amendments made in the context of reorganisation of the states or conferment of statehood on the Union Territories.
  - **The intention behind them is to meet the aspirations of the people of backward regions of the states or to protect the cultural and economic interests of the tribal people of the states or to deal with the disturbed law and order condition in some parts of the states or to protect the interests of the local people of the states.**
- **Special provision for state and associated article in the constitution**

Article	Associated State	Description
371A	Nagaland	Special provisions with respect to Nagaland, including the formation of a separate regional council and protection of customary law.
371B	Assam	Special provisions with respect to Assam, including legislative assembly composition and regional development grants.
371C	Manipur	Special provisions with respect to Manipur, including the legislative assembly's power to enact certain laws.
371D	Andhra Pradesh	Special provisions with respect to the Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh, including equitable opportunities in public services.
371E	Sikkim	Special provisions with respect to Sikkim, including the formation of a Legislative Council.
371F	Mizoram	Special provisions with respect to Mizoram, including the establishment of a separate regional council.
371G	Arunachal Pradesh	Special provisions with respect to Arunachal Pradesh, including legislative assembly composition and regional development grants.
371H	Goa	Special provisions with respect to Goa, including the formation of a Legislative Assembly.
371I	Maharashtra	Special provisions with respect to Maharashtra, including equitable opportunities in public services.
371J	Karnataka	Special provisions with respect to the Hyderabad-Karnataka region in Karnataka, including reservation in educational institutions.

- Hence option (a) is the correct answer.

#### Q 97.A

- **Recent context:** Recently, the Prime Minister acknowledged Stand-Up India's role in empowering the SC/ST communities, women, and job creation at the completion of 7 years of the Scheme.
- It was launched in 2016 under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

- This scheme has been extended up to 2025.
- **It seeks to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Schedule Tribes (STs) and Women. (Not OBCs). Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- It covers all branches of Scheduled Commercial Banks (bank loans of ₹10- 100 lakh to at least one SC/ST and one-woman borrower per branch).
- **Applicants can draw up to ₹10 lakhs as working capital by an Overdraft. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- The government does not allocate funds for loans under the Stand-Up India Scheme. It can be accessed in three potential ways:
  - Directly at the branch
  - Through Stand-Up India Portal
  - Through the Lead District Manager (LDM)
- **Loans under the scheme is available for only green field project.** Green field signifies, in this context, the first time venture of the beneficiary in the manufacturing or services or trading sector. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - In case of non-individual enterprises, 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either SC/ST and/or Women Entrepreneur.

#### Q 98.C

- **Concept of Doctrine of Territorial Nexus**
  - **According to the Doctrine of territorial nexus, laws enacted by state legislatures apply only within the state and not elsewhere unless there is a proper relationship between the object and the state.**
  - Article 245 of the Indian Constitution serves as the foundation for its power.
  - In this doctrine of territorial nexus, the term "territorial" simply means "related to territory, region, or location," and the term "nexus" simply means "related to people, things, or events."
  - According to the doctrine of territorial nexus, **the Indian parliament has the authority to enact laws pertaining to Indian territory, extraterritorial territory, or causes that have an impact there. Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**
  - **States are subject to the Territorial Nexus Doctrine, which is frequently used in situations involving tax regulations.**
  - According to this idea, it's critical for governments and objects to have a sufficient geographical nexus.
  - States collect taxes on individuals, things, and things located inside their borders, but according to the doctrine of territorial nexus, states are also permitted to charge taxes on territory outside their borders if there is a sufficient and legal nexus. This theory governs taxation on non-Indian citizens.
  - **Example:**
    - ✓ The State of Bihar taxed all the sales of Tata Iron and Steel company inside and outside the state. Since the goods are manufactured in the state of Bihar the Supreme Court felt there is a clear case of territorial nexus between the state and Tata Iron and Steel Company which can be taxed by law.

#### Q 99.B

- **The Doctrine of Colourable Legislation:**
  - The Doctrine of Colourable Legislation is derived from a latin maxim which means "What cannot be done directly, should also not be done indirectly".
  - This doctrine has been used in the cases to **decide questions of capacity/ competency to enact a law. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - It says that when a lawmaking body violates its given power and enact after something in an **indirect way which it can't do in a direct way**, such law will be void.
- **The Doctrine of Pith and substance:**
  - Pith denotes true nature or essence of something and Substance means the most important or essential part of something.
  - This doctrine says that **when there is a question of determining whether a particular law relates to a particular subject the court looks to the substance and true nature of the matter. Hence statement II is correct**
  - The **doctrine pulls out the true nature and character of the matter to bifurcate it into its appropriate list.**

- **Comparison of two Doctrines:**
  - The Doctrine of Colourable Legislation comes to decide whether the authority is having the power to legislate or not and the doctrine of pith and substance comes into application when subject matter between 2 lists seems to be conflicting.
  - **The doctrine of Pith and substance pulls out the true nature and character of the matter to bifurcate it into its appropriate list not the Doctrine of Colourable legislation. Hence statement II is not the correct explanation for statement I.**
  - The Doctrine of Pith and substance is applied when legislation made by of the legislatures is challenged or trespassed by other legislatures and Doctrine of colourable legislation is applied to decide questions of capacity/ competency to enact a law.
- **Hence option b is correct.**

#### Q 100.B

- **Distribution of legislative powers:**
  - The distribution of legislative powers between the Centre and the states is rigid. Consequently, the **Centre cannot delegate its legislative powers to the states** and a single state cannot request the Parliament to make a law on a state subject. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Distribution of executive power with consent:**
  - The distribution of executive power in general follows the distribution of legislative powers. But, such a rigid division in the executive sphere may lead to occasional conflicts between the two.
  - Hence, the Constitution provides for inter-government delegation of executive functions in order to mitigate rigidity and avoid a situation of deadlock.
  - Accordingly, **the President may, with the consent of the state government, entrust to that government any of the executive functions of the Centre.**
  - Conversely, **the governor of a state may, with the consent of the Central government, entrust to that government any of the executive functions of the state. Hence statement 2 is correct. The legislative functions can be delegated by state legislature not the Governor.**
  - This mutual delegation of administrative functions may be conditional or unconditional.
- **Distribution of executive power without consent:**
  - The Constitution also makes a provision for the entrustment of the executive functions of the Centre to a state without the consent of that state. But, in this case, **the delegation is by the Parliament and not by the president.**
  - Notably, **State legislature cannot delegate the executive functions without the consent of the Centre.**

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