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## ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

### GENERAL STUDIES (P) TEST – 4134 (2024)

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#### Q 1.C

- **Article 1 describes India, that is, Bharat as a 'Union of States'. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Also, according to Article 1, the territory of India, and not the Union of India, can be classified into three categories:
  - Territories of the states
  - Union territories
  - Territories that may be acquired by the Government of India at any time.
- **Notably, the 'Territory of India' is a wider expression than the 'Union of India' because the latter includes only states while the former includes not only the states but also union territories and territories that may be acquired by the Government of India at any future time.** The states are members of the federal system and share the distribution of powers with the Centre. The union territories and the acquired territories, on the other hand, are directly administered by the Central government. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Being a sovereign state, India can acquire foreign territories according to the modes recognized by international law, i.e., cession (following treaty, purchase, gift, lease, or plebiscite), occupation (hitherto unoccupied by a recognized ruler), conquest, or subjugation. These territories also come under the classification mentioned above.
- Article 2 empowers the Parliament to 'admit into the Union of India, or establish, new states on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit'. Thus, Article 2 grants two powers to the Parliament:
  - The power to admit into the Union of India new states; and
  - The power to establish new states.
- The first refers to the admission of states which are already in existence, while the second refers to the establishment of states which were not in existence before. Notably, Article 2 relates to the admission or establishment of new states that are not part of the Union of India. Article 3, on the other hand, relates to the formation of or changes in the existing states of the Union of India. In other words, Article 3 deals with the internal re-adjustment inter se of the territories of the constituent states of the Union of India.

#### Q 2.B

- **The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added four new Directive Principles to the original list. They require the State:**
  - **To secure opportunities for the healthy development of children** (Article 39).
  - **To promote equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor** (Article 39 A).
  - To take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries (Article 43 A).
  - To protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wildlife (Article 48 A).
- **The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 added only one more Directive Principle, which requires the State to minimize inequalities in income, status, facilities, and opportunities (Article 38).**
- The 86th Amendment Act of 2002 changed the subject matter of Article 45 and made elementary education a fundamental right under Article 21A. The amended directive requires the State to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years. The 97th Amendment Act of 2011 added a new Directive Principle relating to cooperative societies. It requires the state to promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control, and professional management of cooperative societies (Article 43B).
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

### Q 3.A

- Article 21 declares that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law. **This right is available to both citizens and non-citizens.**
- In the famous **Gopalan case (1950)**, the Supreme Court has taken a narrow interpretation of the Article 21. It held that the protection under Article 21 is available only against arbitrary executive action and not from arbitrary legislative action. This means that the State can deprive the right to life and personal liberty of a person based on a law, it also held that the 'personal liberty' means only liberty relating to the person or body of the individual. This is because of the expression 'procedure established by law' in Article 21.
- In **Maneka case (1978)**, the Supreme Court overruled its judgement in the Gopalan case by taking a wider interpretation of the Article 21. Therefore, it ruled that the right to life and personal liberty of a person can be deprived by a law provided the procedure prescribed by that law is reasonable, fair and just. In other words, it has introduced the American expression 'due process of law'. In effect, the protection under **Article 21 should be available not only against arbitrary executive action but also against arbitrary legislative action. Hence statement 2 is not correct and statement 3 is correct.**
- Award of compensation is an appropriate and effective remedy for redress of an established infringement of a fundamental rights under Article 21 of the Constitution. However in **Vibin P.V. v. State of Kerala**, court clarified that there is **no express provision in the Constitution of India for grant of compensation by the State for the infringement of right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**

### Q 4.C

- Originally, the **strength of the Supreme Court was fixed at eight** (one chief justice and seven other judges). **The Parliament has increased this number** of other judges progressively to ten in 1956, to thirteen in 1960, and seventeen in 1977, twenty-five in 1986, thirty in 2008, and thirty-three in 2019. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- At present, the **Supreme Court consists of thirty-four judges** (one chief justice and thirty three other judges). In 2019, the center notified an increase in the number of Supreme Court judges from thirty-one to thirty-four, including the Chief Justice of India. This followed the enactment of the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2019.**
- **Every high court** (whether exclusive or common) consists of a **chief justice** and such **other judges as the president may, from time to time, deem necessary** to appoint. Thus, the **Constitution does not specify the strength of a high court** and leaves it to the **discretion of the president.** Accordingly, the **President determines the strength of a high court** from time to time depending on its workload. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

### Q 5.C

- A one-party system is a type of political system in which a single political party holds all or a significant majority of the political power. In such a system, the ruling party monopolizes political control, and opposition parties either do not exist or have limited influence.
- **Cuba is a one-party state**, with the Communist Party of Cuba being described as the "superior driving force of the society and the state" in the Constitution of Cuba, and the communist party is the only official political party.
- **China, formally the People's Republic of China, is a one-party state** (Single party system) led by the Chinese Communist Party(CCP).
- **Vietnam is a one-party state**, dominated for decades by the ruling Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV).
- **Argentina is not a one-party state** and multiple parties have membership in the legislature.
- Some key characteristics and features of a one-party system:
  - Opposition parties are either restricted or nonexistent in a one-party system.
  - Power is centralized within the ruling party, with its leadership making key decisions.
  - Ideological conformity is emphasized, and dissent within the party may be discouraged.
  - Propaganda and mass mobilization techniques are often used to maintain support and suppress dissent.
  - Political pluralism and diverse representation are limited in a one-party system.
  - Stability and cohesion are often cited as advantages of one-party systems.
  - One-party systems can vary in their degree of authoritarianism and methods of maintaining power.
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 6.B

- **The Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution are characterised by the following:**
  - Some of them are available only to the citizens while others are available to all persons whether citizens, foreigners or legal persons like corporations or companies.
  - They are not absolute but qualified. The state can impose reasonable restrictions on them. However, whether such restrictions are reasonable or not is to be decided by the courts. Thus, they strike a balance between the rights of the individual and those of the society as a whole, between individual liberty and social control.
  - Most of them are available against the arbitrary action of the State, **with a few exceptions like those against the State's action and against the action of private individuals (Example: Article 15, 17 applicable against private individuals)). When the rights that are available against the State's action only are violated by the private individuals, there are no constitutional remedies but only ordinary legal remedies. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - Some of them are negative in character, that is, place limitations on the authority of the State, while others are positive in nature, conferring certain privileges on the persons.
  - They are justiciable, allowing persons to move the courts for their enforcement, if and when they are violated.
  - They are defended and guaranteed by the Supreme Court. Hence, the aggrieved person can directly go to the Supreme Court, not necessarily by way of appeal against the judgement of the high courts.
  - They are not sacrosanct or permanent. The Parliament can curtail or repeal them but only by a constitutional amendment act and not by an ordinary act. Moreover, this can be done without affecting the 'basic structure' of the Constitution.
  - **Most of them are directly enforceable (self-executory) while a few of them can be enforced on the basis of a law made for giving effect to them.** Such a law can be made only by the Parliament and not by state legislatures so that uniformity throughout the country is maintained (Article 35). **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 7.A

- Article 368 of the Constitution of India provides for an amendment to the Constitution of India.
- A distinctive feature of the Indian Constitution is that it **seeks to impart more flexibility to a written Federal Constitution than the Constitution of the United States. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is **only the amendment of a few of the provisions of the Constitution that requires ratification by the State Legislatures and even the ratification by only ½ of them would suffice (not two-thirds of the states).** While the American Constitution requires ratification by ¾ of the states. Thus, in case of few provisions the Constitution cannot be amended without ratification of half of the states. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The rest of the Constitution may be amended by a special majority of the Union Parliament, ie. a majority of not less than ⅔ of the members of each house present and voting, which again must be the majority of the total membership of the house.
- Some provisions of the Constitution can be amended by a simple majority of the Parliament in the manner of the ordinary legislative process. Notably, these amendments do not come under Article 368.

#### Q 8.C

- The **Fundamental Rights and the Directive Policies of the State Policy** are important features in the Constitution of India. They are enshrined in the **III and IV Parts** respectively of the Constitution.
- The Fundamental Rights restrict the state from encroaching upon the rights of individuals and Directive Policies of the State Policy make it obligatory for the state to introduce measures for carrying out social revolution.
- The Fundamental Rights are divided into six parts in the Indian Constitution – the Right to Equality, the Right to Freedom, the Right against Exploitation, the Right to Freedom of Religion, Cultural and Educational Rights, and the Right to Constitutional Remedies.
- **Before their inclusion in the Constitution of India, the need for providing Fundamental Rights and the state measures for social transformation** were emphasized by the Indian National Congress in several resolutions: Annie Basant's draft of the Commonwealth of India Bill, Nehru Report, Karachi resolution, **Sapru Report of 1945.**
- The **Sapru Report** was of special significance because **apart from the Fundamental Rights and Directive Policy of the State Policy**, it suggested provisions for the **protection of minority rights**. It was also the first to make a distinction between the Fundamental Rights as justiciable and the Directive Policy of the State Policy as non-justiciable rights.

- The original constitution did not provide for the Fundamental Duties of the citizens. These were added during the operation of an internal emergency (1975–77) by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976 on the recommendation of the Swaran Singh Committee.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 9.B

- Theocracy is a form of government in which religious authorities or religious principles hold the ultimate power and authority over the state and its policies.
  - In a theocratic system, religious leaders or a particular religious institution govern the country, and the laws and governance are based on religious doctrines or scriptures.
- **In a theocracy, religious principles often play a significant role in decision-making, legislation, and the interpretation and enforcement of laws. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Theocratic systems can vary in their level of religious influence and the extent to which religious laws are enforced. In some cases, the religious leaders may have absolute authority, while in others, they may share power with other political institutions or figures.
- **In a theocracy, the state actively supports and promotes a particular religion or religious beliefs. The government and its institutions are often closely intertwined with the religious institution or religious authorities. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - In a theocratic system, the state may provide financial support to religious institutions, grant special privileges or exemptions to adherents of the dominant religion, and enforce religious laws or practices.
- In a theocracy, the extent of freedom of religion can vary depending on the specific characteristics and policies of that theocratic government.
  - **In some theocratic systems, the dominant religion may be the only officially recognized or sanctioned religion, and adherents of other religions may face restrictions or limitations on their religious practices. This can result in a lack of religious freedom for individuals who belong to minority religious groups**
  - **Thus freedom of religion is not always guaranteed in theocracy. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 10.A

- The **district judge** is the **highest judicial authority in the district**. He possesses **original and appellate jurisdiction** in both **civil as well as criminal matters**. In other words, the **district judge is also the sessions judge**. When he deals with civil cases, he is known as the District Judge and when he hears criminal cases, he is called the Sessions Judge. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The district judge exercises both judicial and administrative powers. He also has supervisory powers over all the subordinate courts in the district. Appeals against his orders and judgments lie with the High Court.
- The **sessions judge** has the **power to impose any sentence, including life imprisonment and capital punishment** (death sentence). However, a capital punishment passed by him is subject to confirmation by the High Court, whether there is an appeal or not. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 11.B

- The **1st Amendment Act, of 1951** to the Constitution was to deal with the judicial interpretations of fundamental rights and to implement land reforms. Provisions made by the first amendment act:
  - Empowered the state to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and economically backward classes.
  - Provided for the saving of laws providing for the acquisition of estates, etc.
  - Added Ninth Schedule to protect the land reform and other laws included in it from judicial review.
  - Added three more grounds of restrictions on freedom of speech and expression, viz., public order, friendly relations with foreign states, and incitement to an offense. Also, made the restrictions “reasonable” and thus, justiciable in nature.
  - Provided that state trading and nationalization of any trade or business by the state is not to be invalid on the ground of violation of the right to trade or business.
- **The 44th Amendment Act, 1978, made the right to property mere a legal right under Article 300A taking it out of the chapter on fundamental rights. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Fifty-Second Amendment Act, 1985** (popularly known as Anti-Defection Law) Provided for the disqualification of members of Parliament and state legislatures on the ground of defection and added a new Tenth Schedule containing the details in this regard. **But it was the 91st amendment, 2003 that provided that a member of either house of Parliament belonging to any political party who is**



disqualified on the ground of defection shall also be disqualified to be appointed as a minister. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.

- **Seventy-Seventh Amendment Act, 1995** provided for reservation in promotions in government jobs for SCs and STs. This amendment nullified the Supreme Court ruling with regard to reservation in promotions in the famous Mandal case of 1992. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.
- **Ninety-First Amendment Act, 2003** made the following provisions to limit the size of the Council of Ministers, to debar defectors from holding public offices, and to strengthen the anti-defection law. The provisions are as follows:
  - The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Central Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha
  - **The total number of ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a state shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Legislative Assembly of that state. But, the number of ministers, including the Chief Minister, in a state shall not be less than 12. Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched.**

#### Q 12.C

- **Benevolent despotism**, also known as enlightened despotism, is a concept that describes a form of government where a single ruler holds absolute power but exercises it in a way that benefits the people and promotes their well-being.
  - In this system, the ruler is believed to have the knowledge, wisdom, and good intentions to govern and make decisions in the best interests of the populace.
- **Autocracy** is a system of government in which a single individual holds absolute power and authority over the state. In an autocracy, the ruler typically wields unchecked and unrestrained power, making important decisions without significant input or accountability from other individuals or institutions.
  - Autocratic governments can take various forms, such as dictatorships, absolute monarchies, or military juntas.
- **Constitutionalism is a political philosophy and a system of government that places importance on the rule of law, the limitation of governmental powers, and the protection of individual rights and freedoms.**
  - It is based on the idea that a written constitution, which outlines the structure and powers of the government, serves as the supreme law of the land and provides a framework for governance.
- **Plutocracy** is a system of governance in which power is concentrated in the hands of the wealthy or the ruling class based on their economic status and financial influence.
  - In a plutocracy, the wealthiest individuals or corporations exert significant control over political decisions and public policy, often to the detriment of the broader population.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 13.B

- **TARKASH Exercise:**
  - TARKASH, a joint exercise by the **National Security Guard (NSG) and US Special Operations Forces**, included a drill for tackling chemical and biological attacks by terrorists. **Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
  - The exercise for the first time included **“Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) terror response” in its drill.** CBRN weapons have the capability of creating mass casualties and are classified as weapons of mass destruction.
  - This year it is being held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- **Exercise Desert Flag:**
  - Exercise Desert Flag is a multilateral air exercise in which **Air Forces from UAE, France, Kuwait, Australia, UK, Bahrain, Morocco, Spain, Republic of Korea, and USA** would also be participating. **Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
  - The aim of the exercise is to participate in diverse fighter engagements and learn from the best practices of various Air Forces.
- **Exercise Cyclone-I:**
  - The first-ever joint exercise between the special forces of the **Indian Army and the Egyptian Army** named **“Exercise Cyclone-I”** is conducted at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan in January 2023.
  - The exercise aims to bolster defense cooperation between the two nations and focus on sharing professional skills and interoperability of Special Forces in desert terrain while undertaking counter-terrorism, reconnaissance, raids, and other special operations.
  - Exercise “Cyclone - I” is the first exercise of its kind bringing the special forces of both nations on a common platform. **Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.**

#### Q 14.B

- **H.V.R. Iyengar was the Secretary to the Constituent Assembly.** He was among the exceptional members of the Indian Civil Service (ICS). He also served as the sixth Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from 1 March 1957 to 28 February 1962. **Hence, pair 1 is not matched correctly.**
- **Prem Behari Narain Raizada was the calligrapher** of the Indian Constitution. The original constitution was handwritten by him in a flowing italic style. The **calligraphy of the Hindi version of the original constitution was done by Vasant Krishan Vaidya** and elegantly decorated and illuminated by Nand Lal Bose. **Hence pair 2 is matched correctly.**
- **Sir Benegal Narsing Rau (1887-1953)** was appointed as the **constitutional advisor (Legal advisor) to the Constituent Assembly.** He served as an Indian Civil Service officer, a jurist, a diplomat, and a statesman of great repute. He was also India's Representative to the United Nations Security Council between 1950 and 1952. **Hence, pair 3 is matched correctly.**
- The drafting committee of the Constitution was appointed on August 29, 1947, with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as the Chairman. **Surendra Nath Mukherjee was the chief draftsman of the constitution** in the Constituent Assembly. **Hence, pair 4 is not matched correctly.**

#### Q 15.D

- The **independence** of the Judiciary is very essential for the effective discharge of the duties assigned to it. It should be free **from the encroachments, pressures and interferences** of the executive (council of ministers) and the legislature. It should be allowed to do justice without fear or favor.
- The **Constitution has made** certain provisions to safeguard and ensure the **independent and impartial functioning of a high court.** These include- security of tenure, fixed service conditions, expenses charged on the Consolidated fund, etc.
- **Expenses charged on the Consolidated Fund:**
  - **Supreme Court:**
    - ✓ The **salaries, allowances, and Pensions of the judges; the salaries, allowances, and pensions of the staff,** as well as the **administrative expenses** of the Supreme Court, are charged on the consolidated fund of India.
    - ✓ Thus, they are **non-votable by the Parliament** (though they can be discussed by it).
    - ✓ Hence, **options (a) and (b) are correct.**
  - **High Court:**
    - ✓ The **salaries and allowances of the judges, the salaries, allowances and pensions of the staff,** as well as the **administrative expenses of a high court** are **charged on the consolidated fund of the state.** Hence, **option (c) is correct.**
    - ✓ Thus, they are **non-votable by the state legislature** (though they can be discussed by it).
    - ✓ On the other hand, the **pension of a high court judge is charged to the Consolidated Fund of India** and not the state. Hence, **option (d) is not correct.**

#### Q 16.B

- **Libertarianism is a political philosophy that prioritizes individual liberty, limited government intervention, and the protection of individual rights and freedoms.**
  - It holds that individuals should have the freedom to make their own choices and live their lives as they see fit, as long as they do not infringe upon the rights and freedoms of others.
  - **Libertarianism advocates for minimal government involvement in both personal and economic matters.**
- In the realm of personal freedoms, libertarians support civil liberties, such as freedom of speech, religion, and association. They generally oppose laws that restrict personal choices viewing them as infringements on individual autonomy.
- On the economic front, libertarians emphasize free markets and limited government intervention.
  - They argue that voluntary interactions in the marketplace, without excessive regulation or central planning, lead to optimal outcomes and economic prosperity.
  - They advocate for private property rights, free trade, and minimal restrictions on businesses and entrepreneurs.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 17.A

- The Indian Constitution adopts universal adult franchise as a basis of elections to the Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies. Every citizen who is not less than 18 years of age has a right to vote without any discrimination of caste, race, religion, sex, literacy, wealth, and so on. **However, the Constitution**

does not use the word **Universal Adult Franchise**. Article 326 of the Constitution provides that Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States be on the basis of adult suffrage. Hence option 1 is correct.

- **Article 41 of the Constitution under the Directive Principles of State Policy** provides for the **Right to work**, to education, and to public assistance in certain cases. The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness, and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want. Hence option 2 is not correct.
- The term **Union Cabinet** is mentioned in **Article 352 of the Constitution**. Under Article 352, the President can declare a national emergency when the security of India or a part of it is threatened by war or external aggression, or armed rebellion. The President, however, can proclaim a national emergency only after receiving a written recommendation from the Union cabinet. Hence option 3 is not correct.

#### Q 18.B

- **Recent Context:** The apex court directed all states to have a mandatory 1 km ESZ from the demarcated boundaries of every protected forest land, national park, and wildlife sanctuary. It also stated that no new permanent structure or mining will be permitted within the ESZ.
- **What are Eco-sensitive zones (ESZs):**
  - As per the **National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016)**, issued by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, land **within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries is to be notified as eco-fragile zones or Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ)**.
  - Areas beyond 10 km can also be notified by the Union government as ESZs if they hold larger ecologically important “sensitive corridors.”
  - They are **created as “shock absorbers”** for the protected areas, to minimize the negative impact on the “fragile ecosystems” by certain human activities taking place nearby.
  - Furthermore, these areas are meant to act as a transition zone from areas requiring higher protection to those requiring lesser protection.
  - ESZs are not meant to hamper the daily activities of people living in the vicinity, but are meant to guard the protected areas and “refine the environment around them”.
  - **Activities prohibited** are commercial mining, **sawmills, commercial use of wood**, etc., apart from regulated activities like felling of trees. Hence options 3 and 4 are not correct.
  - **Permitted activities** include ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, **rainwater harvesting**, organic farming, the use of renewable energy sources, and the adoption of green technology for all activities. Hence options 1 and 2 are correct.

#### Q 19.B

- **Millet International Initiative for Research and Awareness(MIIRA):**
  - **India** has introduced a draft to launch a global initiative to encourage the consumption and production of millet. The draft of the proposed initiative — MIIRA — was placed during the first Agriculture Deputies Meeting under the **Agriculture Working Group (AWG), G20**. Hence statement 1 is not correct.
- **Objective**
  - **MIIRA will aim to connect millet research organisations across the world while also supporting research on these crops.**
  - This is significant as issues like food security and nutrition are among the key priority areas in the agriculture sector during India’s G20 Presidency.
  - Besides setting up a web platform to connect researchers and holding international research conferences, the plan is also to raise awareness for promoting the consumption of millet.
- **Funding Mechanism:**
  - For MIIRA to take off, India will contribute the “seed money”, while each G20 member will later have to contribute to its budget in the form of a membership fee.
  - **The MIIRA secretariat will be in Delhi, adding that with India being a major producer of millets, this will ensure a flow of investment from the country’s industry and research bodies.** Hence statement 2 is correct.

#### Q 20.B

- The Directive Principles of State Policy are enumerated in Part IV of the Constitution from Articles 36 to 51. The framers of the Constitution borrowed **this idea from the Irish Constitution of 1937**, which had copied it from the Spanish Constitution.

- The Directive Principles resemble the ‘Instrument of Instructions’ enumerated in the Government of India Act of 1935. In the words of Dr B R Ambedkar, ‘the Directive Principles are like the instrument of instructions, which were issued to the Governor-General and to the Governors of the colonies of India by the British Government under the Government of India Act of 1935. **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
- **The Directive Principles are non-justiciable in nature, that is, they are not legally enforceable by the courts for their violation.** Therefore, the government (Central, state and local) cannot be compelled to implement them. Nevertheless, the Constitution (Article 37) itself says that these principles are fundamental in the governance of the country and it shall be the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws.
- The Directive Principles, though non-justiciable in nature, help the courts in examining and determining the constitutional validity of a law. The Supreme Court has ruled many a times that in determining the constitutionality of any law, if a court finds that the law in question seeks to give effect to a Directive Principle, it may consider such law to be ‘reasonable’ in relation to Article 14 (equality before law) or Article 19 (six freedoms) and thus save such law from unconstitutionality.
- **In the Champakam Dorairajan case (1951),** the Supreme Court ruled that in case of any conflict between the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles, the former would prevail. **It declared that the Directive Principles have to conform to and run as subsidiary to the Fundamental Rights. But, it also held that the Fundamental Rights could be amended by the Parliament by enacting constitutional amendment acts.** As a result, the Parliament made the First Amendment Act (1951), the Fourth Amendment Act (1955) and the Seventeenth Amendment Act (1964) to implement some of the Directives.
- The above situation underwent a major change in 1967 following the Supreme Court’s judgement in the Golaknath case (1967). In that case, the Supreme Court ruled that the Parliament cannot take away or abridge any of the Fundamental Rights, which are ‘sacrosanct’ in nature. In other words, the Court held that the Fundamental Rights cannot be amended for the implementation of the Directive Principles.

#### Q 21.B

- India’s real-time retail payment system Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which has allowed for quick digital payments through apps like BharatPe and Paytm, and its equivalent network in **Singapore called PayNow**, were integrated recently to enable faster remittances between the two countries at a competitive rate. **Hence option b is correct.**
- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**
  - Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is India’s mobile-based fast payment system, which facilitates customers to make round-the-clock payments instantly, using a Virtual Payment Address (VPA) created by the customer.
  - It eliminates the risk of sharing bank account details by the remitter. UPI supports both Person-to-Person (P2P) and Person-to-Merchant (P2M) payments and it also enables a user to send or receive money.
- **PayNow**
  - PayNow is a fast payment system in Singapore.
  - It enables peer-to-peer funds transfer service, available to retail customers through participating banks and Non-Bank Financial Institutions (NFI)s in Singapore.
  - It allows users to send and receive instant funds from one bank or e-wallet account to another in Singapore by using just their mobile number, Singapore National Registration Identity Card (NRIC)/Foreign Identification Number (FIN), or VPA.
- **Benefits of UPI-PayNow linkage:**
  - Cross-border retail payments **are generally less transparent and more expensive than domestic transactions.**
  - The UPI-PayNow linkage is a significant milestone in the development of infrastructure for cross-border payments between India and Singapore and closely aligns with the G20’s financial inclusion priorities of **driving faster, cheaper and more transparent cross-border payments.**
  - **It will also help the Indian diaspora in Singapore, especially migrant workers and students, through the instantaneous and low-cost transfer of money from Singapore to India and vice-versa.**
  - Of the total inward remittances to India in 2020-21, **the share of Singapore stood at 5.7 per cent,** according to the RBI Remittance Survey, 2021.



#### Q 22.D

- Federalism is a form of government where the powers are distributed between the central and provincial governments and both have their separate and well-defined areas of authority.
  - Here, the totality of government power is divided and distributed by the national constitution between a central government and those of the individual states. Countries like USA, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, Russia, Brazil, and Argentina have a federal form of government.
- **Features of the federal government**
  - **Division of Powers:** A federal government involves the division of powers between a central or federal government and regional or state governments.
  - **Dual Sovereignty:** In a federal system, both the central/federal government and the regional/state governments possess their own sovereignty within their respective spheres of authority.
  - **Written Constitution:** Federal systems often have a written constitution that serves as the supreme law of the land.
  - **Independent Judiciary:** Federal systems typically have an independent judiciary that interprets and applies the law, resolves disputes between the central and regional governments, and safeguards individual rights and liberties.
  - Bicameral Legislature
  - **Balance of Power:** Federal systems strive to maintain a balance of power between central and regional governments.
- Federal governments are most commonly found in countries with large territories, diverse populations, and a desire to balance regional autonomy with central authority. They are often adopted by countries that aim to accommodate the interests of different regions or states while maintaining national unity.
- The federal system of government can be either parliamentary like India or presidential like USA, Brazil etc.
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 23.C

- **Recent Context:** The Prime Minister unveils the Mascot of the International Museum Expo 2023 - the Chennapatnam-style dancing girl.
- **Channapatna toys** are a particular form of wooden toys (and dolls) that are manufactured in the town of **Channapatna in the Ramanagara district of Karnataka. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - As a result of the popularity of these toys, Channapatna is known as Gombegala Ooru (toy-town) of Karnataka.
  - The artisans still follow the traditional method of making the toys, **using mainly ivory wood for making the toys. Very rarely rosewood and sandalwood are used.** The toys are laced with vegetable dyes and colors devoid of chemicals and hence they are safe for children. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - Channapattana toys hold a **GI tag** under the Handicrafts category.

#### Q 24.B

- **Gross Domestic Climate Risk:**
  - The report is released by **Australia-based Cross Dependency Initiative or XDI**, which is a part of the climate risk group of companies quantifying the costs of climate change.
  - The Gross Domestic Climate Risk analysis **focuses on the extent of capital value at risk from extreme weather and climate change in states, provinces and other territories, represented by vulnerability and exposure of the built environment. Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
  - Built environment refers to aspects of the surroundings that are **built by humans to support human activity like homes and workplaces.**
  - **It covers damage to buildings and properties from extreme weather and climate change such as flooding, forest fires, heat wave and sea level rise.**
  - This is the first time there has been a physical climate risk analysis focused exclusively on the built environment, comparing every state, province and territory in the world.
  - **The report is particularly significant for investors**, as extensive built infrastructure generally overlaps with high levels of economic activity and capital value.
- **Highlights from the report:**
  - “Gross Domestic Climate Risk” assess the physical climate risk in over 2,600 states and provinces around the world in 2050.
  - The more built-up a state, the greater the risk.

- The ranking was derived using modelled projections of damage to buildings and properties from extreme weather conditions such as flooding, forest fires and sea level rise.
- As per the analysis, **80 per cent of the top 50 most at-risk states and provinces in 2050 are in China, the US and India.**
- **After China, India has the highest number of states (nine) in the top 50, which include Bihar (22nd spot), Uttar Pradesh (25), Assam (28), Rajasthan (32), Tamil Nadu (36), Maharashtra (38), Gujarat (48), Punjab (50) and Kerala (52).**

#### Q 25.C

- **Oligarchy is a system of governance in which power and authority are held by a small group of individuals or families.** These individuals typically come from privileged backgrounds, such as wealthy or influential families, and they wield considerable control over political, economic, and social affairs.
  - In an oligarchy, the ruling elite often use their wealth, social status, or military might to maintain their power and influence.
- **Totalitarianism refers to a form of government characterized by centralized and absolute control over all aspects of public and private life.**
  - In a totalitarian system, the ruling party or leader exercises unrestricted power and seeks to dominate and control every aspect of society, including politics, the economy, culture, education, and even personal beliefs.
  - The state exerts extensive control over all aspects of society, including the economy, education, media, and cultural institutions. The government dictates and directs the actions and behavior of individuals and tightly regulates all facets of public and private life.
- **Anarchy refers to a state of society where there is no centralized government or authority.**
  - In an anarchic system, there is an absence of rulers, hierarchies, and institutionalized power structures. The term "anarchy" comes from the Greek word "anarkhia," which means "without rulers."
- **Hence all three pairs are correctly matched and option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 26.C

- **Recent Context: The National Stock Exchange (NSE) in February placed Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports, and Ambuja Cements under the Additional Surveillance Mechanism (ASM).** This means trading in their shares will require a 100% margin, which is aimed at curbing speculation and short selling.
  - The move comes as shares of Adani group companies continue to fall in the wake of accusations of stock manipulation and fraud leveled against the group by New York-based short seller Hindenburg Research.
- **What is an additional surveillance mechanism (ASM)?**
  - An ASM shortlisting signals to investors that the stocks have seen unusual activity.
  - The "shortlisting of securities under ASM is purely on account of market surveillance and **it should not be construed as an adverse action against the concerned company/entity. Hence Statement-II is not correct.**
  - The shortlisting of securities for placing in ASM is based on criteria that are **jointly decided by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and exchanges covering the parameters of "high low variation, client concentration, PE, close to close price variation, market capitalisation, volume variation, delivery percentage, and number of unique PANs.**
  - The ASM was introduced on March 26, 2018, with the intention **to protect investors from market volatility and unusual changes in share price. Hence Statement-I is correct.**

#### Q 27.B

- **Recent Context: Researchers have found the first known "virovore," or organism that eats viruses. Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
  - The organism belongs to a species of Plankton, named **Halteria.**
  - **The Researchers have also reported that Halteria, can grow and divide only when given a virus to eat (virovory).**
  - Every sort of organism that can be discovered in the world feeds on organic matter. But this is most likely a lot more like a complete, unexplored food chain.
  - Scientists found that Halteria - who are microscopic ciliates that populate freshwater throughout the world - can eat huge numbers of **infectious chloroviruses.**
  - **They're made up of nucleic acids, a lot of nitrogen, and phosphorous.**

### Q 28.C

- The **Government of India Act 1935** provided for the establishment of an **All-India Federation consisting of provinces and princely states as units**.
- The Act divided the powers between the Centre and units in terms of three lists—Federal List (for Centre, with 59 items), Provincial List (for provinces, with 54 items) and the Concurrent List (for both, with 36 items). The residuary powers were vested with the Governor General.
- The Federal legislature had exclusive jurisdiction over the federal list while **the provincial legislatures had exclusive jurisdiction over the provincial list. Provincial subjects included Police, Provincial Public Service, Education etc. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It **provided bicameral legislature** at the Central which was to have an upper house (Council of States) and a lower house (Federal Assembly). The legislative powers of the Central and Provincial legislatures were subject to various limitations. Apart from the **Governor-General's power of veto, a bill passed by the Central legislature was also subject to veto by the crown. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **act provided for the adoption of dyarchy at the Centre**. Consequently, the federal subjects were divided into reserved subjects and transferred subjects.
- The **Act discontinued the application of dyarchy introduced at the provincial level** under the act of 1919 as the experiment failed miserably. The distinction between transferred and reserved subjects was removed and the whole administration was entrusted with the ministers responsible to the legislature. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- It is to be noted that the '**Dominion Status**' which was promised by the Simon Commission in 1929, was not conferred by the Government of India Act, 1935.
- **Other important provisions of the Government of India Act, of 1935.:**
  - The act provided for the establishment of a Reserve Bank of India to control the currency and credit of the country.
  - It provided for the establishment of a Federal Court.
  - It provided for the establishment of a Federal Public Service Commission, a Provincial Public Service and Joint Public Service Commission for two or more provinces.
  - It abolished the Council of India, established by the Government of India Act of 1858.

### Q 29.B

- The Fundamental duty 51A (g) states that it is the duty of a citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures.
- The supreme court has held that since the duties are obligatory for a citizen, it would follow that the state should also strive to achieve the same goal. The court may, therefore, issue suitable directions in these matters.
- **The Supreme Court in order to give effect to fundamental duties as enshrined in Article 51A read with Article 21, 47, 48B, adopted the principle of sustainable development as a balancing concept and further held that 'Precautionary Principles' and 'Polluter Pays Principle' as acceptable as part of the law of the country and should be implemented by the court of law. In Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum vs. Union of India (1996), the Court observed that "the Precautionary Principle" and "the Polluter Pays Principle" are essential features of "Sustainable Development."**
- The Supreme Court in Javed v State of Haryana held that the concept of sustainable development which emerges as a fundamental duty from the several clauses of Article 51A dictates the expansion of population being kept within reasonable bounds. The menace of the growing population was judicially noticed and the constitutional validity of legislative means to check the population was upheld in Air India Vs. Nergesh Meerza and Ors. (1981).
- **Also, Article 51A(k) states that it is a fundamental duty of the citizens to provide opportunities for education to his/her child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years.**
- **But the fundamental duties chapter does not have a duty for compulsory voting. Hence, it does not have a direct bearing on the voting percentage during elections. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

### Q 30.D

- **Article 312 provides for the creation of All India services. The creation of All India services does not require a constitutional amendment through a special majority under Article 368. They can be created by a simple majority. Hence, statement I is not correct.**
- The All India services are controlled jointly by the Centre and the states. The ultimate control lies with the Central government while the immediate control vests with the state governments.

- The all-India services violate the principle of federalism under the Constitution by restricting the autonomy and patronage of the states, they are supported on the ground that
  - They help in maintaining a high standard of administration in the Centre as well as in the states;
  - They help to ensure uniformity of the administrative system throughout the country; and
  - **They facilitate liaison, cooperation, coordination and joint action on the issues of common interest between the Centre and the states. Hence statement II is correct.**

#### Q 31.C

- The Indian constitution has a total of 12 schedules. The first schedule contains the list of all the states and Union territories of India. The schedule has been changed many times and some of them have required amendments to the Indian constitution.
- **The 7th Amendment of the Constitution abolished the existing classification of states under the first schedule into four categories i.e., Part A, Part B, Part C, and Part D states, and reorganized them into 14 states and 6 union territories. In effect, the amendment completely revised the first schedule.**
- India acquired Goa, Daman, and Diu three territories from the Portuguese by means of police action in 1961. They were constituted as a union territory by the 12th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1962 by amending the first schedule.
- The 35th Amendment terminated the protectorate status of Sikkim and conferred on it the status of an associate state of the Indian Union. It created a special category of 'associated state'. **But it did not amend the first schedule but created a separate 10th schedule containing the terms of association of Sikkim with India.** The first schedule was amended by the 36th amendment to include Sikkim as a full-fledged state under the Union of India.
- **The 100th Constitutional Amendment Act (2015) was enacted to give effect to the acquiring of certain territories by India and the transfer of certain other territories to Bangladesh in pursuance of the agreement and its protocol entered into between the Governments of India and Bangladesh.** Under this deal, India transferred 111 enclaves to Bangladesh, while Bangladesh transferred 51 enclaves to India. In addition, the deal also involved the transfer of adverse possessions and the demarcation of a 6.1 km undemarcated border stretch. **For these three purposes, the amendment modified the provisions relating to the territories of four states (Assam, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Tripura) in the First Schedule of the Constitution. Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 32.D

- The Constitution of India 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.
- 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 98 subjects (originally 971 subjects) like defence, banking, foreign affairs, **citizenship**, currency, atomic energy, **insurance**, communication, inter-state trade and commerce, **census**, audit, etc.
- 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 59 subjects like public order, police, public health and sanitation, agriculture, prisons, local government, fisheries, markets, theaters, gambling etc.
- 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 473 subjects) like criminal law and procedure, civil procedure, marriage and divorce, 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 organization of all courts except the Supreme Court and the high courts.
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 33.A

- **Recent Context:** The 50th All Manipur Shumang Leela Festival 2021-2022 kicked off in Imphal. **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
- **About Shumang Leela:**
  - 'Shumang' means 'open courtyard' and 'Leela' means play and the literal meaning of Shumang Leela is **"play of the open courtyard"**.



- Shumang Leela is a traditional form of theatre in Manipur where the **roles of women are all played by men, called Nupi Shabis.**
- In the case of women's theatre groups, the roles of men are played by women.
- **Origin:** It started as a comic generally presented before the kings and noblemen, which ultimately developed into the present form of courtyard-enacted play.
- It is believed to be **descended from Lai Haraoba, a ritual of the Meiti Community.**
- **Values that the theatre form shows:** It attempts to preserve and promote humanism, brotherhood, tolerance, confidence, devotion, truth, and justice through its performances.

#### Q 34.B

- **UPNEXT INDIA:**
  - **Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)** along with the other Export Council (EC) members inaugurated the **first edition of UPNEXT India 2023** in the presence of international buyers and exhibitors supported by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry under the **Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme. Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
  - ✓ **Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme** is an Export Promotion Scheme envisaged to act as a catalyst to promote India's exports on a sustained basis. The scheme is formulated on a focus product-focus country approach to evolve specific markets and specific products through market studies/surveys.
  - ✓ **The MAI scheme is administered by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, through the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).**
  - The meet is to be held in Gurugram, NCR - the millennium city of India which is also a large apparel manufacturing hub.
  - This initiative in the form of a series of **Reverse Buyer Seller meetings** under the name of **"UPNEXT INDIA"**.
- **Objectives**
  - Promote Brand India.
  - Enhance bilateral trade between India and Japan.
  - Enhance Japanese investments in the Indian MG sector.
  - Better utilization of the Indo-Japan CEPA agreement.
- **Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)**
  - The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) sponsored by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India was incorporated in 1978 as the nodal agency to promote the export of readymade garments from India.

#### Q 35.B

- One of the controversies about the Preamble is as to whether it is a part of the Constitution or not.
- **In the Berubari Union case (1960),** the Supreme Court said that the Preamble shows the general purposes behind the several provisions in the Constitution, and is thus a key to the minds of the makers of the Constitution. Further, where the terms used in any article are ambiguous or capable of more than one meaning, some assistance at interpretation may be taken from the objectives enshrined in the Preamble. Despite this recognition of the significance of the Preamble, the Supreme Court specifically opined that Preamble is not a part of the Constitution.
- **In the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973),** the Supreme Court rejected the earlier opinion and held that Preamble is a part of the Constitution. It observed that the Preamble is of extreme importance and the Constitution should be read and interpreted in the light of the grand and noble vision expressed in the Preamble.
- **In the LIC of India case (1995)** also, the Supreme Court again held that the Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 36.B

- **Proportional representation (PR) is an electoral system in which the distribution of seats in a legislative body are allocated based on the proportion of votes received by political parties.** It is designed to ensure that the composition of the legislature reflects the overall support for different political groups within the electorate.
- Where majority or plurality systems effectively reward strong parties and penalize weak ones by providing the representation of a whole constituency to a single candidate who may have received fewer than half of the votes cast (as is the case, for example, in the United States),

- Proportional representation ensures minority groups a measure of representation proportionate to their electoral support. Systems of proportional representation have been adopted in many countries, including Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.
- Proportional representation systems often lead to coalition governments, where multiple parties must form alliances to achieve a majority and govern effectively. This can foster compromise and negotiation among parties, as well as encourage consensus-building in policy-making.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 37.A

- Constitution Amendment Bills have to be passed in each House of Parliament by a special majority i.e. by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the House “present and voting”.
- **The expression “total membership” means the total number of members comprising the House irrespective of whether there are vacancies or absentees on any account. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The expression “present and voting”, means members who vote for “ayes” or for “noes”. **Members who are present in the House and vote “abstention” either through the electronic vote recorder or on a voting slip or in any other manner, are not treated as “present and voting”. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Taking a strict interpretation of the Constitutional provision, the special majority prescribed may be required only for voting at the third reading stage, but by way of caution, the requirement of a special majority has been provided for in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

#### Q 38.C

- **Judicial review is the power of the Courts to examine the constitutionality of legislative enactments and executive orders of both the Central and state governments.** On examination, if they are found to be violative of the Constitution (*ultra-vires*), they can be declared illegal, unconstitutional, and invalid (null and void) and cannot be enforced by the Government. E.g., the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, 2014
- Though the phrase ‘Judicial Review’ has nowhere been used in the Constitution, the provisions of several Articles explicitly confer the power of judicial review on the Supreme Court and the High Courts. Some of these provisions include: Article 13, Article 32, Article 131, Article 132, Article 226, etc. **Hence, options (a) and (b) are not correct.**
- The doctrine of judicial review originated and developed in the USA. The American Constitution provides for ‘due process of law’ against the procedure established by law’ of the Indian Constitution. “The due process of law gives the Supreme Court wide scope to grant protection to the rights of its citizens. It can declare laws violative of these rights void not only on substantive grounds of being unlawful, but also on procedural grounds of being unreasonable. **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**
- **Article 31B saves the acts and regulations included in the Ninth Schedule from being challenged** and invalidated on the ground of contravention of any of the Fundamental Rights. However, in a significant judgement delivered in **I.R. Coelho case (2007)**, the Supreme Court ruled that there could not be any blanket immunity from judicial review of laws included in the Ninth Schedule. **Judicial review is a ‘basic feature’ of the constitution** and it could not be taken away by putting a law under the Ninth Schedule. **The laws placed under the Ninth Schedule after April 24, 1973, are open to challenge in court** if they violated Fundamental Rights guaranteed under the Articles 14, 15, 19 and 21 or the ‘basic structure’ of the Constitution. **Hence, option (d) is not correct.**

#### Q 39.C

- **Recent Context:** Recently, for the first time, a mega event celebrating the region — the Kalyana Karnataka Utsav, is being organized by the Government of Karnataka
- **About Monuments at Kalaburagi :**
  - The region was home to the 12th-century social reformer Basavanna, the 14th-century Sufi Khwaja Bandanawaz Gesudaraz, and the 18th-century saint Sharana Basaveshwara.
  - The region, which was ruled by the Mauryas, Rashtrakutas, Chalukyas, Bahmanis, and Nizams, still holds much rich cultural heritage and wonders like Bahmani Fort, Haft Gumbaz, the tomb of Firoz Shah Bahmani.

- **Basavanna**
  - He was a 12th-century philosopher, statesman, Kannada poet, and social reformer during the reign of the **Kalachuri-dynasty king Bijjala I** in Karnataka, India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - He spread social awareness through his poetry, popularly known as **Vachanaas**.
  - Basavanna rejected gender or social discrimination, superstitions, and rituals.
  - He presided over the **Sharana movement** which attracted people from all castes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - He is the first Kannadiga in whose honor a commemorative coin has been minted in recognition of his social reforms.
  - He introduced new public institutions such as the **Anubhava Mantapa**, that welcomed men and women from all socio-economic backgrounds to discuss spiritual and mundane questions of life, in the open. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

#### Q 40.D

- A constitutional monarchy is a form of government in which a monarch, typically a king or queen, serves as the head of state within the framework of a written or unwritten constitution.
  - In a constitutional monarchy, the powers of the monarch are limited by law and the constitution, and they typically act as a ceremonial or symbolic figurehead rather than holding significant political power.
  - The day-to-day governance and decision-making is carried out by an elected government or parliament.
- Some of the popular countries with constitutional monarchies are
  - **Canada**
  - Belgium
  - **Norway**
  - **Thailand**
  - Japan
  - Jordan
  - New Zealand
  - UK
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 41.D

- The Indian Constitution provides **immunity to an accused against self-incrimination** under **Article 20(3)** – ‘**No person accused of an offense shall be compelled to be a witness against himself**’.
- This protection extends to both **oral** and **documentary evidence**, and it is a crucial **safeguard against forced confessions** and the use of **torture** to extract evidence from suspects. However, the right against self-incrimination does **not extend to the compulsory production of material objects**. For example, a person may be **compelled to produce documents, weapons, or other physical evidence** that is relevant to a criminal investigation. The right against self-incrimination also does **not protect a person from providing a thumb impression, specimen signature, blood specimen, or exhibiting the body**. Furthermore, the right against self-incrimination is **limited to criminal proceedings** and does **not apply to civil proceedings** or proceedings that are not of a criminal nature. **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**
- The Supreme Court has made several rulings regarding the admissibility of certain types of evidence and the rights of accused individuals. In 2019, the **Supreme Court** issued a ruling in **Ritesh Sinha versus the State of Uttar Pradesh** that expanded the parameters of handwriting samples to include voice samples. This ruling is significant because it broadened the scope of admissible evidence in criminal cases and could potentially help in identifying culprits who use voice-based communication for criminal activities. However, in **2010**, the Supreme Court held in **Selvi v State of Karnataka** that conducting a narcoanalysis test without the consent of the accused would violate the right against self-incrimination. **Narcoanalysis** involves the administration of a drug to the accused person to elicit information about the case. The Court held that the test is a **form of mental coercion** and violates the right against self-incrimination, which is a fundamental right under the Constitution.
- Regarding **DNA samples**, the Supreme Court has held that obtaining DNA samples from an accused person is permissible. If an accused person refuses to give a DNA sample, the Court can draw adverse inferences against them under **Section 114 of the Evidence Act**. This means that the Court can take the refusal as evidence against the accused and draw negative inferences about their involvement in the crime.

#### Q 42.C

- **Quasicrystal is essentially a crystal-like substance. However, unlike a crystal, in which atoms are arranged in a repeating pattern, a quasicrystal consists of atoms that are arranged in a pattern that doesn't repeat itself regularly.**
  - Since their discovery, quasicrystals have been widely created in labs and known to “**possess novel electrical, photonic, and mechanical properties that aren't found in other materials, making them an attractive prospect for materials scientists.**”
- **They are used in manufacturing non-stick frying pans, needles for acupuncture and surgery, dental instruments and razor blades. Hence all options are correct,**
- **What are the findings of the new study?**
  - **Although quasicrystals can be easily produced, they are rarely found outside of the laboratory. The first one** was identified in a meteorite, found in 2009 near the Khatyrka River in Chukotka, Russia.
  - The second one was discovered in 2021 during the **study of debris from the site of the world's first nuclear explosion**, which took place in 1945 in New Mexico.
  - Scientists suggest that in both instances, for the formations of quasicrystals, materials were subjected to extremely high-pressure and high-temperature shock events.
  - **The latest discovery is only the third time** that scientists have come across a quasicrystal in nature. As per the study, the quasicrystal was created by a lightning strike or a downed power line in a wind-created dune in the Sand Hills of Nebraska.
  - Notably, scientists have been producing them in laboratories for years now, but it's quite rare to discover naturally occurring quasicrystals.

#### Q 43.D

- A referendum is a direct vote in which eligible individuals in a specific jurisdiction are asked to express their opinion or make a decision on a particular issue. It is a form of direct democracy that allows citizens to directly participate in the decision-making process by casting their vote on a specific question or proposal.
  - Referendums can cover a wide range of topics, such as constitutional amendments, changes to existing laws, important policy decisions, or issues of national significance. The purpose of a referendum is to seek the opinion or mandate of the people on a specific matter.
- In independent India, there have been some referendums like
  - In October 1954, Keezhur produced the definitive referendum in favour of the merger of French establishments with India. This formed the basis for a bilateral Treaty of Cession ceding full sovereignty of the territories of Pondicherry, Mahe, Yanam and Karaikal from France to India.
  - In 1967 the Goans voted against merging with Maharashtra and chose to remain a Union Territory in a referendum.
  - **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Indian constitution does not have any specific provision for or against the referendum.**
  - **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 44.B

- **Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program:**
  - India is a top producer of many fruits like banana, mango, pomegranate and papaya, yet its contribution in exports is not up to the mark, sometimes owing to poor quality of the produce.
  - Now, in order to produce **high-quality and disease-free material for horticulture crops**, Finance Minister has announced Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program in 2023 budget. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - The outlay of the new programme will be Rs. 2,200 crore. The programme will be anchored by the **national horticulture board which in turn will set up Clean Plant Centres across the country. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - Currently it is very difficult to get **disease-free and genuine planting materials** for horticultural crops in India. The process of importing plants is very cumbersome, as the imported plants must be kept in quarantine for two years. After the establishment of the Clean Plant Centres, this period will be reduced to six months.
  - The Clean Plant Centres will provide **services of disease diagnostic, therapeutics, multiplying of plants and generation of mother plants.**
  - The clean plant programme will aim to enhance the yield of horticulture crops, dissemination and adoption of climate resilient varieties; protect the ecosystem through proactive virus and disease control measures.



- The **centres will work with the stakeholders so that they adopt clean plant seeds and nurseries.** The national horticulture board may also tie up with the Asian Development Bank for better finance.

#### Q 45.D

- Apart from the Directives included in Part IV, there are some other Directives contained in other Parts of the Constitution. They are:
  - **Claims of SCs and STs to Services:** The claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or a State (Article 335 in Part XVI).
  - **Instruction in mother tongue:** It shall be the endeavour of every state and every local authority within the state to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother-tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups (Article 350-A in Part XVII).
  - **Development of the Hindi Language:** It shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language and to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India (Article 351 in Part XVII).
- The above Directives are also non-justiciable in nature. However, they are also given equal importance and attention by the judiciary on the ground that all parts of the constitution must be read together.
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 46.C

- **Recently Croatia has become the member of schengen area in February, 2023.**
- **What is the Schengen Area?**
  - The Schengen Area is an **area of Europe with no internal border controls. Countries in the Schengen Area have agreed to abolish controls at their shared borders, allowing people to travel freely between member countries.**
  - About 3.5 million people a day cross internal Schengen borders to work, study or visit family and friends.
  - Non-European Union (EU) nationals living in or visiting the EU can also travel check-free through the zone.
  - **Schengen Place: The area is named after a small village in Luxembourg. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - This is where five EU countries – France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg – signed an agreement in 1985 to create the Schengen Area as an intergovernmental project.
- **Members of Schengen Area**
  - **European Union Members:** These are Austria, Belgium, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.
  - **Non- European Union Members but part of Schengen area:** Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland are also Schengen Area members even though they aren't in the EU, as they are part of the European Free Trade Association. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - **European Union members but not part of Schengen area:** EU countries not in the Schengen Area are Bulgaria, Cyprus, Romania and Ireland.

#### Q 47.B

- **Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary:**
  - Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area in the Western Ghats, India, located in Kollam district of Kerala and comes under the control of the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve. **Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
  - The first eco-tourism project in India, Thenmala Eco- tourism Project has been formulated in and around Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary.
  - This Sanctuary derives its name from Chenkuringi (Gluta travancorica), a species endemic to this region.
  - Tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests cover a major area of the sanctuary.
  - Recently, nearly 450 species of birds, odonates, butterflies, arachnids and mammals were documented **during the annual faunal survey held recently in Shendurney wildlife sanctuary.**
- **Bankapura wolf wildlife sanctuary:**
  - Recently, the **Karnataka government** have notified 3 new sanctuaries and one conservation reserve. One among them was Bankapura Wolf Wildlife sanctuary located at Bankapura in Koppal district. **Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**

- It will be a dedicated wolf sanctuary spread across 332.68 hectares of reserve forest.
- The government noted that the undulating terrains, rocky outcrops, scrub-like forests, natural dens, and agglomerations of boulders and stones provide an ideal habitat for the first-of-its-kind sanctuary for Indian grey wolves in Karnataka.
- The sanctuary will also help the conservation of striped hyenas, jackals, foxes and other smaller mammals.
- **Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS):**
  - This Sanctuary is located in the famous Kaimur hills range in the **state of Bihar. Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
  - It is the largest sanctuary in the state and occupies an area of about 1342 km<sup>2</sup>.
  - This sanctuary has ancient cave paintings and the oldest Fossil Park to its acclaim.
  - **Recent Context**
    - ✓ Recently In an attempt to make Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS) tiger-friendly, the Bihar government has decided to conduct animal census there.
    - ✓ Tigers had been found in KWLS, the state's largest sanctuary, some three decades ago but they are not there now.
    - ✓ The big cats from adjoining forests in other states sometimes visit KWLS and the state government wants that they stay there permanently.

#### Q 48.B

- **Recent Context:** Barshashree Buragohain, a 19-year-old college student was arrested in Assam and charged under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.
- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967**
  - It was enacted to provide for more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations, and for dealing with terrorist activities.
  - **Key provisions:**
    - ✓ Both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
    - ✓ It is applicable even if the offense is committed outside India. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
    - ✓ A charge sheet can be filed within a maximum of 180 days after the arrests.
    - ✓ The investigation has to be completed within 90 days and if not, the accused is eligible for default bail.
    - ✓ A Special Court under the UAPA conducts trials.
- **UAPA (Amendment) Act, 2019**
  - Union government may designate an individual or an organization as a terrorist organization if it:
    - commits or participates in acts of terrorism,
    - prepares for terrorism,
    - promotes terrorism, or
    - is otherwise involved in terrorism.
  - **The investigation by the National Investigation Agency (NIA):** Under the provisions of the Act, investigation of cases can be conducted by officers of the rank of DSP or ACP or above. **It additionally empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - **Approval of Director:** General for the seizure of property if the investigation is conducted by an officer of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

#### Q 49.B

- The Constitution as adopted on November 26, 1949, contained a Preamble, 395 Articles and 8 Schedules. **The original Constitution (1950) had seven Fundamental Rights.** But after the passage of the 44th Amendment in 1978, there are now six Fundamental Rights. This Amendment deleted the seventh fundamental right, viz., the right to property (Art. 31) from the list of Fundamental Rights. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **On December 13, 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru moved the historic 'Objectives Resolution' in the Assembly.** It laid down the fundamentals and philosophy of the constitutional structure. This Resolution **was unanimously adopted by the Assembly on January 22, 1947.** It influenced the eventual shaping of the Constitution through all its subsequent stages. Its modified version forms the Preamble of the present Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Though adopted on November 26, 1949, the Constitution commenced on 26th January 1950. On January 24, 1950, the **Constituent Assembly** held its final session. **It, however, did not end, and continued as the provisional parliament** of India from January 26, 1950, till the formation of a new Parliament after the first general elections in 1951–52. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 50.C

- **The Government of India Act of 1858 is also known as the Act for the Good Government of India.** It abolished the rule of the East India Company and transferred the powers of Government, territories and revenues to the British Crown.
- The essential features of the system introduced by the act were:
- It provided that India, henceforth, was to be governed by, and in the name of, Her Majesty. It changed the designation of the Governor-General of India to that of Viceroy of India.
- It ended the system of **double Government by abolishing the Board of Control and Court of Directors. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It created a new office, the **Secretary of State for India**, vested with complete authority and control over Indian administration. The secretary of state was a member of the British Cabinet and was responsible ultimately to the British Parliament. The control of the secretary of the state was absolute. The act vested in him the superintendence, direction and control of all acts. Subject to his ultimate responsibility to the British Parliament, **he wielded the Indian administration through the governor-general as his agent.**
- There was **no separation of the functions, and all the authority of the governance** for the governance of India, civil, and military, executive and legislative was vested in the Governor-General in Council who was responsible to the Secretary of State. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 51.B

- **The term 'justice' in the Preamble embraces three distinct forms– social, economic, and political, secured through various provisions of Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles.**
  - **Social justice** denotes the equal treatment of all citizens without any social distinction based on caste, colour, race, religion, sex and so on. It means the absence of privileges being extended to any particular section of society, and improvement in the conditions of backward classes (SCs, STs and OBCs) and women.
  - **Economic justice** denotes the non-discrimination between people based on economic factors. It involves the elimination of glaring inequalities in wealth, income, and property.
  - **A combination of social justice and economic justice denotes what is known as 'distributive justice'. Hence statement 1 is not correct and statement 2 is correct.**
  - **Political justice** implies that all citizens should have equal political rights, equal access to all political offices, and an equal voice in the government. The ideal of justice–social, economic, and political–has been taken from the Russian Revolution (1917). A combination of social justice and economic justice denotes what is known as 'distributive justice'.

#### Q 52.A

- **Appointment of the High Court (HC) Judges:**
  - The **judges of a high court are appointed by the President (not the governor). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - The chief justice is appointed by the President after consultation with the chief justice of India and the governor of the state concerned.
  - For the appointment of other judges, the chief justice of the concerned high court is also consulted. In the case of a common high court for two or more states, the governors of all the states concerned are consulted by the president.
- **Qualifications of HC Judges**
  - He should be a **citizen of India**. (a) He should have held a **judicial office** in the territory of India for ten years; or (b) He should have been an **advocate of a high court** (or high courts in succession) for ten years.
  - There is **no such provision as "an eminent jurist" for appointment as HC judge. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Removal of HC Judges**
  - A judge of a high court can be removed from his office **by an order of the President.**
  - The President can issue the removal order **only after an address by the Parliament** has been presented to him in the same session for such removal. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
  - The address must be supported by a special majority of each House of Parliament (i.e., a majority of the total membership of that House and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting). The grounds for removal are two-proved misbehavior or incapacity. Thus, a judge of a high court can be removed in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.

#### Q 53.B

- **The Fundamental Duties in the Indian Constitution are inspired by the Constitution of the erstwhile USSR.** Notably, none of the Constitutions of major democratic countries like the USA, Canada, France, Germany, Australia, and so on specifically contain a list of duties of citizens. Japanese Constitution is, perhaps, the only democratic Constitution in the world that contains a list of duties of citizens. The socialist countries, on the contrary, gave equal importance to the fundamental rights and duties of their citizens. Hence, the Constitution of the erstwhile USSR declared that the citizen's exercise of their rights and freedoms was inseparable from the performance of their duties and obligations. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- They help the courts in examining and determining the constitutional validity of a law. **In 1992, the Supreme Court ruled that in determining the constitutionality of any law, if a court finds that the law in question seeks to give effect to a fundamental duty, it may consider such law to be 'reasonable' in relation to Article 14 (equality before law) or Article 19 (six freedoms) and thus save such law from unconstitutionality. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- In *Javed vs state of Haryana*, it has been held that Fundamental Rights must be read in conjunction with the Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties. In *Mohan Kumar Singhania v. Union of India* (1992), Justice Ratnavel Pandian held that the fundamental duties serve as an external aid to the interpretation of statutes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**

#### Q 54.C

- **The 100th Constitutional Amendment Act (2015) was enacted to give effect to the acquiring of certain territories by India and the transfer of certain other territories to Bangladesh in pursuance of the agreement and its protocol entered into between the Governments of India and Bangladesh. Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Under this deal, India transferred 111 enclaves to Bangladesh, while Bangladesh transferred 51 enclaves to India. In addition, the deal also involved the transfer of adverse possessions and the demarcation of a 6.1 km un-demarcated border stretch. For these three purposes, the amendment modified the provisions relating to the territories of four states (Assam, West Bengal, Meghalaya, and Tripura) in the First Schedule of the Constitution.
- **Having said that, the Supreme Court in the Berubari Union held that the power of Parliament to diminish the area of a state (under Article 3) does not cover the cession of Indian territory to a foreign country. Hence, Indian territory can be ceded to a foreign state only by amending the Constitution under Article 368. The agreement between the two countries involved the acquisition and transfer of certain territories by India. Hence, statement II is not correct.**

#### Q 55.B

- The parliamentary system of government in India is largely based on the British parliamentary system. However, it never became a replica of the British system and differs in the following respects.
  - India has a republican system in place of British monarchical system. In other words, the Head of the State in India (that is, President) is elected, while the Head of the State in Britain (that is, King or Queen) enjoys a hereditary position.
  - **The British system is based on the doctrine of the sovereignty of Parliament, while the Parliament is not supreme in India and enjoys limited and restricted powers due to a written Constitution, federal system, judicial review and fundamental rights. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - In Britain, the prime minister should be a member of the Lower House (House of Commons) of the Parliament. In India, the prime minister may be a member of any of the two Houses of Parliament.
  - Usually, the members of Parliament alone are appointed as ministers in Britain. **In India, a person who is not a member of Parliament can also be appointed as minister, but for a maximum period of six months. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - **Britain has the system of legal responsibility of the minister while India has no such system. Unlike in Britain, the ministers in India are not required to countersign the official acts of the Head of the State. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
  - 'Shadow cabinet' is a unique institution of the British cabinet system. It is formed by the opposition party to balance the ruling cabinet and to prepare its members for future ministerial office. There is no such institution in India.



#### Q 56.D

- **Recent Context: India and Italy will be the new co-chairs of the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) for three years from 2024 for the next 3 years. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - Their selection was announced at the second meeting of the GPFI, which concluded in Hyderabad, with support from the whole membership. The meeting is conducted as part of India's G20 presidency.
  - Italy and Russia, are current GPFI co-chairs from the years 2021-2023.
- **The Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI):**
  - **The Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) is an inclusive platform for all G20 countries, interested non-G20 countries, and relevant stakeholders to carry forward work on financial inclusion, including implementation of the G20 Financial Inclusion Action Plan, endorsed at the G20 Summit in Seoul.**
  - Financial inclusion was not only prominently included in the **Leaders' Declaration**, but was also highlighted as an important component under the **Seoul Development Consensus**.
  - It contributes to strengthening coordination and collaboration between various national, regional and international stakeholders and the **main implementing organization of the G20 Financial Inclusion Action Plan**. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

#### Q 57.B

- **Recent Context**
  - NASA is gearing up to launch Israel's very first telescope mission. The Ultraviolet Transient Astronomy Satellite or the ULTRASAT will be launched into a geostationary orbit in early 2026.
- **Ultraviolet Transient Astronomy Satellite (ULTRASAT)**
  - ULTRASAT, an **ultraviolet observatory** with a large field of view, will investigate the secrets of short-duration events in the universe, such as supernova explosions and mergers of neutron stars.
  - It is **Israel's first space telescope mission and launch service is provided by NASA**. Hence option (b) is correct.
- **Features of ULTRASAT:**
- ULTRASAT's wide field of view will allow it to **quickly discover and capture ultraviolet light from sources in the cosmos that change on short timescales**.
- **As NASA's Hubble Space Telescope shows the fading light of a supernova, ULTRASAT will observe not only the late fading but also the early brightening of such cosmic explosions.**

#### Q 58.D

- **W20 (Women 20):**
  - **W20 (Women 20) is an official engagement group under the G20 which was established during the Turkish presidency in 2015. Hence Statement-I is not correct.**
  - **Its primary objective is to ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed into G20 discussions** and translated into the G20 Leaders' Declaration as policies and commitments that foster gender equality and women's economic empowerment. **Hence Statement-II is correct.**
- **W20 India:**
  - W20 India took over the presidency from W20 Indonesia on 12 December 2022. W20, under India's presidency, is focused on actualizing vision of "Women-Led Development".
  - W20, 2023 is focusing on removing barriers to women-led development and ensure an enabling environment and ecosystem for women to realize their full potential, transforming their lives as well as of others.
- **Five Priority areas of W20 India**
  - There are five priority areas of W20 under India's Presidency which include, **Women in Entrepreneurship, Women Leadership at Grassroots, Bridging the Gender Digital Divide, Education & Skill Development and Women & Girls as change makers Climate Resilience Action.**

#### Q 59.D

- **Recent context :** Recently the annual Munich Security conference was held at Munich, Germany. For the first time in 20 years, Russia hasn't been invited to the event, a response to its ongoing invasion of Ukraine.
- **What is the Munich Security Conference?**
  - The Munich Security Conference is an **annual conference on global security issues, which was founded in 1963**. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

- It was founded by a German official and publisher **Ewald-Heinrich von Kleist** at the peak of the Cold War (1947-1991).
- Starting in 1963, the conference **initially only focused on military issues and was mainly attended by western countries** and their high-profile officials, who “came together to display a united front in their struggle with Soviet communism.
- **After the end of the Cold War, the conference expanded its agenda that went beyond defence and security matters to include issues such as climate change and migration. It also started to invite leaders from eastern nations, including Russia, India and China. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 60.C

- **Some federal countries allow for dual citizenship, meaning individuals can hold citizenship of both the federal country and one or more regional jurisdictions. This is often based on specific legal provisions that recognize and permit dual citizenship. For example USA.**
  - In USA, each person is not only a citizen of USA but also of the particular state to which he belongs. Thus, he owes allegiance to both and enjoys dual sets of rights—one set conferred by the national government and another by the state government.
  - This system creates the problem of discrimination, that is, a state may discriminate in favour of its citizens in matters like right to vote, right to hold public offices, right to practice professions and so on.
  - This problem is avoided in the system of single citizenship prevalent in India
- **All federal countries do not have double citizenship. For example, India despite being federal has a single citizenship.**
  - In India, all citizens irrespective of the state in which they are born or reside enjoy the same political and civil rights of citizenship all over the country and no discrimination is made between them
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 61.B

- **The Constitution deals with the citizenship from Articles 5 to 11 under Part II. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- However, it contains neither any permanent nor any elaborate provisions in this regard. **It only identifies the persons who became citizens of India at its commencement (i.e., on January 26, 1950). Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It does not deal with the problem of acquisition or loss of citizenship subsequent to its commencement. It empowers the Parliament to enact a law to provide for such matters and any other matter relating to citizenship. Accordingly, the Parliament has enacted the Citizenship Act (1955), which has been amended from time to time.
- According to the Constitution, the following four categories of persons became the citizens of India at its commencement i.e., on January 26, 1950:
  - A person who had his domicile in India and also fulfilled any one of the three conditions, viz., if he was born in India; or if either of his parents was born in India; or if he has been ordinarily resident in India for five years immediately before the commencement of the Constitution, became a citizen of India.
  - A person who migrated to India from Pakistan became an Indian citizen if he or either of his parents or any of his grandparents was born in undivided India and also fulfilled any one of the two conditions viz., in case he migrated to India before July 19, 1948, he had been ordinarily resident in India since the date of his migration; or in case he migrated to India on or after July 19, 1948, he had been registered as a citizen of India. But, a person could be so registered only if he had been resident in India for six months preceding the date of his application for registration.
  - A person who migrated to Pakistan from India after March 1, 1947, but later returned to India for resettlement could become an Indian citizen. For this, he had to be resident in India for six months preceding the date of his application for registration.
  - A person who, or any of whose parents or grandparents, was born in undivided India but who is ordinarily residing outside India shall become an Indian citizen if he has been registered as a citizen of India by the diplomatic or consular representative of India in the country of his residence, whether before or after the commencement of the Constitution. Thus, this provision covers overseas Indians who may want to acquire Indian citizenship.

### Q 62.C

- **What is the Collective Security Treaty Organisation?**
  - When the Cold War drew to a close in 1991, **the Warsaw Pact**, an alliance of eight socialist states, and the Soviet Union's answer to NATO, dissolved.
  - Less than a year later, **Russia and five of its allies in the Commonwealth of Independent States**, which was nothing but a loose club of post-Soviet countries, signed a new **Collective Security Treaty, which came into force in 1994**.
  - Although it wasn't as powerful as the Warsaw pact, in 2002, as Central Asia loomed larger in geopolitics — America had invaded Afghanistan the previous year — it declared itself the Collective Security Treaty Organisation, a full-blown military alliance.
- **Members:**
  - Today it has six members: **Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan**.
  - **Uzbekistan had quit the alliance in 2012. Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

### Q 63.C

- **The NPR is a register of usual residents of the country. It is mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR.**
- **It includes both Indian citizens as well as a foreign citizen. Hence both statements 1 and 2 are correct.**
- The objective of the NPR is to create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country. The first National Population Register was prepared in 2010 and updating this data was done during 2015 by conducting door to door survey.
- According to the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003, a usual resident is a person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more.
- According to the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, notified on December 10, 2003, a Population Register is 'the register containing details of persons usually residing in a village or rural area or town or ward or demarcated area (demarcated by the Registrar General of Citizen Registration) within a ward in a town or urban area.'
  - Whereas, the 'National Register of Indian Citizens' is a register containing details of Indian Citizens living in India and outside India.

### Q 64.B

- **Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2003**, made provision for acquisition of Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) by the PIOs of 16 specified countries other than Pakistan and Bangladesh. It also omitted all provisions recognizing, or relating to the Commonwealth Citizenship from the Principal Act.
- Later, the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2005**, expanded the scope of grant of OCI for PIOs of all countries except Pakistan and Bangladesh as long as their home countries allow dual citizenship under their local laws. It must be noted here that the OCI is not actually a dual citizenship as the Indian Constitution forbids dual citizenship or dual nationality (Article 9).
- Again, the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2015**, has modified the provisions pertaining to the OCI in the Principal Act. It has introduced a new scheme called "Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder" by merging the PIO card scheme and the OCI card scheme.
- **Conferment of Rights on Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder**
  - An overseas citizen of India cardholder shall be entitled to such rights, as the Central Government may specify in this behalf.
  - An overseas citizen of India cardholder shall not be entitled to the following rights ( which are conferred on a citizen of India).
    - ✓ **He shall not be entitled to the right to equality of opportunity in matters of public employment. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
    - ✓ He shall not be eligible for election as President.
    - ✓ He shall not be eligible for election as Vice-President.
    - ✓ He shall not be eligible for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court.
    - ✓ He shall not be eligible for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.
    - ✓ **He shall not be entitled for registration as a voter. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
    - ✓ **He shall not be eligible for being a member of the House of the People or of the Council of States. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
    - ✓ He shall not be eligible for being a member of the State Legislative Assembly or the State Legislative Council.

#### Q 65.C

- A presidential form of government is a system of governance in which the head of state and the head of government are combined into one person, known as the president.
  - In this form of government, the president is elected by the people or by a representative body for a fixed term and exercises executive powers independently of the legislature.
  - The president serves as both the symbolic leader of the country and the chief executive responsible for the administration of the government.
- **Mexico is a federal presidential representative democratic republic where the president is both head of state and head of government.**
- **Indonesia has a presidential representative democratic republic whereby the President is both head of state and head of government.**
- **Brazil is a democracy with a presidential and federal system of government.**
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 66.D

- The Assam Accord was a Memorandum of Settlement signed by the Governments of India and Assam, and the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) in New Delhi on August 15, 1985.
- The signing of the Accord led to the conclusion of a six-year agitation that was launched by AASU in 1979, demanding the identification and deportation of illegal immigrants.
  - **At the heart of the Accord was the "Foreigners Issue" (Clause 5), and "Safeguards and Economic Development" (Clauses 6 and 7).**
  - **Clause 5**
    - ✓ For purposes of detection and deletion of foreigners, 1.1.1966 shall be the base date and year.
    - ✓ **All persons who came to Assam prior to 1.1.1966, including those amongst them whose name appeared on the electoral rolls used in 1967 elections, shall be regularized and given citizenship eventually. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
    - ✓ Foreigners who came to Assam after 1.1.1966 (inclusive) and up to 24 March, 1971 shall be detected in accordance with the provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Foreigners (Tribunals).
    - ✓ Names of Foreigners so detected will be deleted from the electoral rolls in force. Such persons will be required to register themselves before the Registration Officers of the respective districts in accordance with the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 and the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939.
  - **Clause 6**
    - ✓ Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.
- The Home Ministry was the nodal Ministry for the implementation of the Accord. In 1986, a new Department was set up in the Government of Assam, called "Implementation of Assam Accord Department", to implement the various clauses of the Memorandum of Settlement.
- **Assam Accord was signed during the tenure of Rajiv Gandhi. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 67.D

- **Direct democracy is a system of government where citizens have the power to participate directly in decision-making processes** rather than delegating their authority to elected representatives.
  - In a direct democracy, citizens have the opportunity to vote on laws, policies, and other important matters that affect their community.
- Key features of direct democracy include :
  - **Citizen participation: Direct democracy's primary objective is to enable active involvement of citizens in the decision-making process. Instead of electing representatives to make decisions on their behalf, citizens directly participate in voting and shaping public policy.**
  - Majority rule: In direct democracy, decisions are often determined by a majority vote. Policies and laws are enacted based on the preferences of the majority of participating citizens.
  - Referendums and initiatives: Direct democracies commonly use referendums and initiatives as mechanisms for citizen participation. Referendums allow citizens to vote on specific issues or proposals, while initiatives enable citizens to propose and gather support for new laws or changes to existing laws.



- Transparency and accountability: Direct democracy promotes transparency and accountability in decision-making. Since citizens are directly involved in the process, there is a greater emphasis on open discussions, information sharing, and public scrutiny of proposals and policies.
- Time and resource requirements: Implementing direct democracy can require significant time and resources, as it involves engaging and informing a large number of citizens, organizing voting processes, and managing public deliberation.
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 68.B

- The Supreme Court (under Article 32) and the high courts (under Article 226) can issue the writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and quo-warranto.
- **Habeas Corpus:**
  - It is a Latin term which literally means 'to have the body of'. It is an order issued by the court to a person who has detained another person, to produce the body of the latter before it. The court then examines the cause and legality of detention. It would set the detained person free, if the detention is found to be illegal. Thus, this writ is a bulwark of individual liberty against arbitrary detention.
  - The writ of habeas corpus can be issued against both public authorities as well as private individuals. The writ, on the other hand, is not issued where the (a) detention is lawful, (b) the proceeding is for contempt of a legislature or a court, (c) detention is by a competent court, and (d) detention is outside the jurisdiction of the court.
- **Mandamus:**
  - It literally means 'we command'. It is a command issued by the court to a public official asking him to perform his official duties that he has failed or refused to perform. It can also be issued against any public body, a corporation, an inferior court, a tribunal or government for the same purpose.
  - The writ of mandamus cannot be issued (a) against a private individual or body; (b) to enforce departmental instruction that does not possess statutory force; (c) when the duty is discretionary and not mandatory; (d) to enforce a contractual obligation; (e) against the president of India or the state governors; and (f) against the chief justice of a high court acting in judicial capacity.
- **Prohibition:**
  - Literally, it means 'to forbid'. It is issued by a higher court to a lower court or tribunal to prevent the latter from exceeding its jurisdiction or usurping a jurisdiction that it does not possess. Thus, unlike mandamus that directs activity, the prohibition directs inactivity.
  - The writ of prohibition can be issued only against judicial and quasi-judicial authorities. It is not available against administrative authorities, legislative bodies, and private individuals or bodies.
- **Certiorari:**
  - In the literal sense, it means 'to be certified' or 'to be informed'. It is issued by a higher court to a lower court or tribunal either to transfer a case pending with the latter to itself or to squash the order of the latter in a case. It is issued on the grounds of excess of jurisdiction or lack of jurisdiction or error of law. Thus, unlike prohibition, which is only preventive, certiorari is both preventive as well as curative.
  - Previously, the writ of certiorari could be issued only against judicial and quasi-judicial authorities and not against administrative authorities. However, in 1991, the Supreme Court ruled that the certiorari can be issued even against administrative authorities affecting rights of individuals.
  - Like prohibition, certiorari is also not available against legislative bodies and private individuals or bodies. **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
- **Quo-Warranto:**
  - In the literal sense, it means 'by what authority or warrant'. It is issued by the court to enquire into the legality of claim of a person to a public office. Hence, it prevents illegal usurpation of public office by a person.
  - The writ can be issued only in case of a substantive public office of a permanent character created by a statute or by the Constitution. It cannot be issued in cases of ministerial office or private office.
  - Unlike the other four writs, this can be sought by any interested person and not necessarily by the aggrieved person.

#### Q 69.A

- Like any other part of the Constitution, the Preamble was also enacted by the Constituent Assembly, but, after the rest of the Constitution was already enacted. The reason for inserting the Preamble at the end was to ensure that it was in conformity with the Constitution as adopted by the Constituent Assembly. **Therefore both statements I and II are correct and statement II is the correct explanation for statement I. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

- While forwarding the Preamble for votes, the president of the Constituent Assembly said, 'The question is that Preamble stands part of the Constitution'. The motion was then adopted. Hence, the current opinion held by the Supreme Court that the Preamble is a part of the Constitution, is in consonance with the opinion of the founding fathers of the Constitution.
- However, two things should be noted:
  - The Preamble is neither a source of power to legislature nor a prohibition upon the powers of legislature.
  - It is non-justiciable, that is, its provisions are not enforceable in courts of law.

#### Q 70.C

- The **President can appoint a judge of a high court as acting chief justice of the high court** when:
  - the office of chief justice of the high court is vacant; or
  - the chief justice of the high court is temporarily absent; or
  - the chief justice of the high court is unable to perform the duties of his office.
- The **President can appoint duly qualified persons as Additional judges of a high court** for a temporary period not exceeding two years when:
  - there is a temporary increase in the business of the high court; or
  - there are arrears of work in the high court.
  - **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**
- The **President can also appoint a duly qualified person as an acting judge of a high court** when a judge of that high court (other than the chief justice) is:
  - unable to perform the duties of his office due to absence or any other reason; or
  - appointed to act temporarily as chief justice of that high court.
- At any time, the **chief justice of a high court in a state can request that a retired judge** of that high court or any other high court **act as a judge of the high court** of that state for a temporary period. He can do so only with the previous consent of the President and also of the person to be so appointed. Such a judge is entitled to such allowances as the President may determine. He will also enjoy all the jurisdiction, powers, and privileges of a judge of that high court. But, he will not otherwise be deemed to be a judge of that high court.

#### Q 71.A

- Article 16 provides for equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters of employment or appointment to any office under the State. No citizen can be discriminated against or be ineligible for any employment or office under the State on grounds of only religion, race, caste, sex, **descent**, place of birth or **residence**.
- There are three exceptions to this general rule of equality of opportunity in public employment:
  - **Parliament can prescribe residence** as a condition for certain employment or appointment in a state or union territory or local authority or other authority. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - The State can provide for reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class, Scheduled Class and Scheduled Tribes that is not adequately represented in the state services and also in favour of economically weaker sections.
  - A law can provide that the incumbent of an office related to religious or denominational institution or a member of its governing body should belong to the particular religion or denomination.
- This provision (Article 16) prohibits **discrimination only by the state. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Writ of Mandamus: Reservation and Promotion:**
  - The Articles 16, 16(4A) and 16(4B) of the Constitution of India are enabling provisions. **The Court cannot issue the mandamus to provide reservation or promotion-** Suresh Chand Gautam v. State of Uttar Pradesh. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

#### Q 72.C

- **Recent Context:** Central government has decided to put forth the name of Assam's Charaideo moidams burial sites in addition to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites list for 2023-24. If selected it will be the only cultural heritage site in the North East to get the coveted status
- **What is Charaideo Moidams?**
  - It is also known as the 'Pyramids of Assam' and was the original capital of the Ahom Kings. It contains sacred burial grounds of Ahom kings and queens and is also the place of the ancestral Gods of the Ahoms. **Hence, both statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

- **Che-Rai-Doi:** “Che” means city or town, “Rai” means “to shine” and “Doi” means hill. In short, Charaideo means, **“a shining town situated on a hilltop.”**
- A moidam is a tumulus – a **mound of earth raised over a grave**
- **Charaideo city was built by the Chaolung Sukhapa** in about 1253 CE. **Hence, the statement 3 is correct.**
- Located at around 30 Km from the historical Sivasagar town in Assam at the foothills of Nagaland
- **Features:** It comprises a massive underground vault with one or more chambers having domical superstructure and covered by a heap of earthen mounds and externally it appears a hemispherical mound.
- **About Ahom Kingdom:**
  - It was established in 1228 in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam, the Ahom kingdom retained its sovereignty for 600 years. The Ahoms ruled the land till the province was annexed to British India in 1826 with the signing of the **Treaty of Yandaboo.**
  - **Chaolung Sukapha**, the first King of the Ahom Kingdom, crossed the Patkai mountainous region to reach the Brahmaputra valley and laid the foundations of the Ahom Dynasty.
  - The Ahom state depended upon **forced labor (Called Paiks).**

#### Q 73.D

- **What is norovirus and how common are infections?**
  - Norovirus is not new; it has been circulating among humans for over 50 years and is thought to be one of the primary **causes of gastroenteritis. In simple words, it is a highly contagious virus that causes diarrhea and vomiting. The norovirus can infect and sicken anyone, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Hence Statement-I is not correct.**
  - The virus is estimated to kill 200,000 persons globally every year, **with most deaths occurring among those below the age of five years and those over the age of 65 years.**
  - **Recently in January, the Kerala Health Department confirmed two cases of the gastrointestinal infection Norovirus in class 1 students in Ernakulam district.**
- **Norovirus causes**
  - Direct contact with an infected person, drinking contaminated food or water, or touching contaminated surfaces and then putting your unwashed hands in your mouth are all ways to contract Norovirus.
  - **The virus is capable of surviving low temperatures, and outbreaks tend to be more common during the winter and in colder countries — that is why it is sometimes referred to as “winter vomiting disease”. Hence Statement-II is correct.**
- **Norovirus symptoms**
  - Most common symptoms of norovirus infection are **diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, and stomach discomfort.** Fever, headaches, and body aches are possible side effects.
- **Norovirus transmission prevention**
  - Following a hygienic life style like washing hands often, rinsing fruits and vegetables, cooking shellfish thoroughly, staying at home when sick and for two days after symptoms stop, and avoiding preparing food for others when sick and for two days after symptoms stop can prevent transmission.

#### Q 74.C

- **Gerrymandering, popular in U.S. politics, is the drawing of the boundaries of electoral districts in a way that gives one party an unfair advantage over its rivals.**
  - In other words, gerrymandering can be used by office holders of the party in power to either spread voters from the opposing party across districts or to give a competitive edge to their own candidates.
- Gerrymandering is considered controversial because it can undermine democratic principles by distorting the will of the voters and creating uncompetitive elections.
  - It can result in a disproportionate allocation of political power, favoring one party over others and potentially leading to an unrepresentative government.
- The term Gerrymandering is derived from the name of Governor Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts, whose administration enacted a law in 1812 defining new state senatorial districts.

#### Q 75.A

- **Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)** is a method of non-adversarial dispute resolution.
- Advantages of ADRs in India include: Reduced pendency of cases, an effective, viable, and economic alternative to litigation, creative resolution of disputes, and a speedy process.

- **Types of ADR Mechanisms include:**
  - **Arbitration:** The dispute is submitted to an **arbitral tribunal**, which makes a decision (an "award") on the dispute that is mostly **binding** on the parties. Hence, **pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
  - **Conciliation:** A **non-binding** procedure in which an **impartial third party**, the conciliator, assists the parties to a dispute in reaching a mutually satisfactory agreed settlement of the dispute. **Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
  - **Mediation:** An impartial person called a "**mediator**" **helps** the parties try to reach a **mutually acceptable resolution** of the dispute.
  - **Negotiation:** A **non-binding procedure** in which discussions between the parties are initiated **without** the intervention of **any third party** with the object of arriving at a negotiated settlement to the dispute. **Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.**

#### Q 76.C

- **Recent Context:** The Office of the Registrar-General of India (RGI) is following the set of criteria set out by the Lokur Committee nearly 60 years ago to define any new community as a Scheduled Tribe
- **About Registrar General of India:**
  - Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, founded in 1961 by the Government of India **Ministry of Home Affairs**, for arranging, conducting, and analyzing the results of the demographic surveys of India including the Census of India and Linguistic Survey of India.
  - The Office of the RGI's **nod is mandatory for the inclusion of any community in ST lists**, as per the procedure for scheduling tribes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - Registrar General and ex-Officio Census Commissioner **comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - It is also entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 in the country.
  - It arranges, conducts, and analyses the results of the demographic surveys of India including Census of India and the Linguistic Survey of India.
  - It also **gives estimates on fertility and mortality using the Sample Registration System. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

#### Q 77.D

- **Article 214** of the Constitution of India states that:
  - **There shall be a High Court for each State. Hence Statement-II is correct.**
  - For the purposes of this Constitution, the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to any Province immediately before the commencement of this Constitution shall be deemed to be the High Court for the corresponding State.
- The **Seventh Amendment Act of 1956 authorized the Parliament to establish a common high court** for two or more states or for two or more states and a union territory. **Hence Statement-I is not correct.**
- The territorial jurisdiction of a high court is co-terminus with the territory of a state. Similarly, the territorial jurisdiction of a common high court is co-terminus with the territories of the concerned states and union territories.
- At present, there are 25 high courts in the country. Among the union territories, Delhi has a separate high court, and the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have a common high court.
- The other union territories fall under the jurisdiction of different state high courts. The Parliament can extend the jurisdiction of a high court to any union territory or exclude the jurisdiction of a high court from any union territory.
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 78.D

- **Recent Context:**
  - Recently, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin reached out to his Chinese counterpart via a special crisis line (Hotline), aiming for a quick general-to-general talk. This happened when America shot down a giant Chinese balloon that had crossed the United States.
- **Communication Hotline:**
  - **Hotline is a direct telephone line in constant operational readiness so as to facilitate immediate communication. Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**
  - It provides quick communication link between heads of states, which is designed to reduce the danger of an accident, miscalculation, or surprise attack, and especially an incident that might trigger a nuclear war.



- They establish a secure one-to-one communication link between the designated and equivalent leaderships of **two normally hostile countries with serious military differences**.
- It is rare for friendly countries to have hotline communication though the United States and Britain do have a little-used hotline between the leadership. Another hotline among friends is between India and the United States, agreed upon in 2015 during the visit of Barack Obama to New Delhi.

#### Q 79.B

- The **97th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011** gave constitutional status and protection to cooperative societies.
- In this context, it made the following three changes to the Constitution:
  - It made the right to **form cooperative societies a fundamental right (Article 19) under Part III of the Constitution**.
  - It included a new **Directive Principle of State Policy** on the **promotion of cooperative societies (Article 43-B) under Part IV of the Constitution. Hence option (b) is the correct answer**.
  - It added a new Part IX-B in the Constitution which is entitled "The Co-operative Societies" (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT).
  - The new Part IX-B contains various provisions to ensure that the cooperative societies in the country function in a democratic, professional, autonomous, and economically sound manner. It empowers the Parliament in respect of multi-state cooperative societies and the state legislatures in respect of other cooperative societies to make the appropriate law.
- The Fundamental Duties are provided under part IV-A of the Constitution and this part does not have provisions regarding Co-operative societies.
- Scheduled V provides for the management of scheduled areas and does not have provisions regarding Cooperative societies.

#### Q 80.C

- **World Security Congress of UIC:**
  - **The 18th UIC World Security Congress, jointly organized by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the International Union of Railways (UIC), has adopted the "Jaipur Declaration".**
- **Jaipur Declaration**
  - Jaipur declaration is outlining an **actionable agenda for UIC to explore innovative approaches that can help global Railway organizations achieve their long-term goal of safety and security. Hence option c is correct.**
  - The declaration highlighted the commitment of UIC to work towards providing a more safe and more secure rail network across the globe, by also fully activating the Asia-Pacific, Latin America and African regional assemblies by 2025.
- **About UIC**
  - The UIC (Union International Des Chemins) or International Union of Railways **established in 1922 is headquartered in Paris.**
  - It is the worldwide professional association representing the railway sector for research, development & promotion of rail transport.
  - The Security Platform of UIC is empowered to develop and formulate analysis and policy positions on behalf of the global rail sector in matters relating to security of persons, property and installations.
- **About Railway Protection Force (RPF)**
  - Railway Protection Force (RPF) **is the prime security and law- enforcement organization** in the field of Railway Security in India.
  - **Constituted as a federal Force in the year 1957**, RPF is responsible for security of railway property, passenger and passenger zones.
  - RPF has the distinction of being the federal force of India with the **largest share of women in its ranks.**

#### Q 81.B

- The **Constitution declares Delhi the seat of the Supreme Court.**
- The **Constitution also authorises the chief justice of India (and not the President) to appoint other place or places as seat of the Supreme Court. He can take decision in this regard only with the approval of the president. Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
- This **provision is only optional and not compulsory.**
- It further means that **no court can give any direction** either to the President or to the Chief Justice to **appoint any other place as a seat of the Supreme Court.**
- To date, the **seat of the Supreme Court is only Delhi**, and no other seats have been notified.

### Q 82.B

- Indian Independence Act of 1947 was passed on 18th July 1947. It was based on the Mountbatten Plan (3rd June Plan). The Act provided for the creation of two independent dominions of India and Pakistan with effect from August 15, 1947.
- The most outstanding characteristic of the Indian independence act was that while the **other acts of Parliament** relating to the government of India **sought to lay down a Constitution for the governance of India by the legislative will of the British Parliament, this act of 1947 did not lay down any such Constitution.**
- Between the Interim period of 1947-1950, the government of India functioned as per the provisions of the Government of India Act 1935. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Indian Independence Act of 1947 made the following three changes in the position of the Assembly:
  - The **Assembly was made a fully sovereign body**, which could frame any Constitution it pleased. The act empowered the Assembly to abrogate or alter any law made by the British Parliament in relation to India
  - The **Assembly also became a legislative body**. In other words, two separate functions were assigned to the Assembly, that is, making the Constitution for free India and enacting ordinary laws for the country. These two tasks were to be performed on separate days. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

### Q 83.C

- Written Constitution:
  - A written constitution is a formal document or set of documents that explicitly lays out the fundamental laws and principles of a country. It is typically a single written document or a collection of legal instruments that codify the rules and framework for governance. Written constitutions are often codified in a single document that serves as the supreme law of the land and outlines the rights and responsibilities of the government and its citizens.
- Unwritten Constitution
  - An unwritten constitution refers to a system of governance where the fundamental principles and rules of the government are not codified in a single written document. Instead, the constitution is a combination of various sources, including statutes, court decisions, conventions, traditions, and historical precedents.
- Countries with a written constitution
  - India
  - **USA**
  - **France**
  - Australia
  - Denmark
  - Brazil
  - Germany
- Countries with an unwritten constitution
  - UK
  - **Israel**
  - New Zealand
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

### Q 84.C

- Bills seeking to amend all other provisions of the Constitution including those enumerated in the proviso to Article 368(2) are called by the title 'Constitution Amendment Bills'. These Bills can be introduced in either House of Parliament. **The bill can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member and does not require prior permission of the president.**
- **Constitution Amendment Bills are not treated as Money Bills or Financial Bills. Accordingly, the President's recommendation under articles 117 and 274 of the Constitution with regard to these Bills is not asked for.**
- **In case of any disagreement between the two Houses of Parliament on a Constitution Amendment Bill, there cannot be a joint sitting of the Houses of Parliament on the Bill as Article 368 of the Constitution requires each House to pass the Bill by the prescribed special majority. But the bill can be sent to a joint or select committee of the two houses to consider the clauses.**
- Constitution Amendment Bills passed by Parliament by the prescribed special majority and, where necessary, ratified by the requisite number of State Legislatures are presented to the President under Article 368 of the Constitution under which the President is bound to give assent to such Bills. **The 24th**

**Constitutional Amendment Act of 1971 made it obligatory for the President to give his assent to a Constitutional Amendment Bill.**

**Q 85.A**

- The Constitution does not contain any classification of Directive Principles. However, on the basis of their content and direction, they can be classified into three broad categories, viz, socialistic, Gandhian and liberal-intellectual.
- Gandhian Principles: These principles are based on Gandhian ideology. They represent the programme of reconstruction enunciated by Gandhi during the national movement. In order to fulfil the dreams of Gandhi, some of his ideas were included as Directive Principles. They require the State:
  - To organise village panchayats and endow them with necessary powers and authority to enable them to function as units of self-government (Article 40).
  - To promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operation basis in rural areas (Article 43).
  - To promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of co-operative societies (Article 43B).
  - To promote the educational and economic interests of SCs, STs, and other weaker sections of the society and to protect them from social injustice and exploitation (Article 46).
  - To prohibit the consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs which are injurious to health (Article 47).
  - To prohibit the slaughter of cows, calves and other milch and draught cattle and to improve their breeds (Article 48). **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
- **Equal justice and free legal aid, living wage for the workers and participation of workers in the management of the industries are socialistic principles.**

**Q 86.B**

- **Recent Context:** The Supreme Court has held that the public cannot be given free access to a charge sheet or a final investigation report as it is not a public document.
- **What is Charge Sheet?**
  - In policing on the Indian subcontinent, a chargesheet is prepared after First Information Reports and charges an individual for the crimes specified in those FIR.
  - It shows the names of each person brought into custody the nature of the accusations, and the identity of the accusers.
  - **Comparison between FIR and Charge Sheet:**

**Distinction between FIR Charge sheet**

FIR	Charge sheet
It is preliminary report	It is final report
It is prepared by victim of crime	It is prepared by investigation officer
It is file in police station	It is file in court
It is having purpose of investigation	It is having purpose of trail
It can be with draw in petty offences	It cannot be with draw

**Q 87.C**

- **Quo-Warranto:**
  - In the literal sense, it means 'by what authority or warrant'. **It is issued by the court to enquire into the legality of claim of a person to a public office.** Hence, it prevents illegal usurpation of public office by a person. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - The writ can be issued only in case of a substantive public office of a permanent character created by a statute or by the Constitution. It cannot be issued in cases of ministerial office or private office.
  - Unlike the other writs ( mandamus, prohibition and certiorari), this **can be sought by any interested person and not necessarily by the aggrieved person.** Hence statement 2 is correct.

**Q 88.D**

- **Recent Context:** Amrit Dharohar Scheme was recently announced in the Budget 2023.
  - This scheme will be implemented over the next three years **to encourage optimal use of wetlands, and enhance bio-diversity, carbon stock, eco-tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities.** Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

- **Other Schemes announced:**

- To promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical **PM PRANAM** scheme (PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth) will be launched to incentivize States and Union Territories.
- To facilitate the transition towards a low Carbon Economy under **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, India set a target to reach an annual production of 5 MMT of Green Hydrogen by 2030.
- The establishment of 500 new 'waste to wealth' plants under **GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan)** scheme have been proposed for promoting circular economy in 2023 Budget.

**Q 89.D**

- The Citizenship Act (1955) provides for acquisition and loss of citizenship after the commencement of the Constitution. Originally, the Citizenship Act (1955) also provided for the Commonwealth Citizenship. But, this provision was repealed by the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2003.
- **The Citizenship Act of 1955 prescribes five ways of acquiring citizenship, viz, birth, descent, registration, naturalisation and incorporation of territory.**
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

**Q 90.C**

- **Fundamental Rights available only to citizens of India and not to foreigners:**
  - Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15).
  - Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment (Article 16). Protection of six rights regarding freedom of : (i) speech and expression, (ii) assembly, (iii) association, (iv) movement, (v) residence, and (vi) profession (Article 19).
  - Protection of language, script and culture of minorities (Article 29).
  - **Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions (Article 30).**
- **Fundamental Rights available to both citizens and foreigners (except enemy aliens):**
  - **Equality before law and equal protection of laws (Article 14).**
  - **Protection in respect of conviction for offences (Article 20).**
  - Protection of life and personal liberty (Article 21).
  - **Right to elementary education (Article 21A).**
  - Protection against arrest and detention in certain cases (Article 22).
  - Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour (Article 23).
  - Prohibition of employment of children in factories etc., (Article 24).
  - Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion (Article 25).
  - **Freedom to manage religious affairs (Article 26).**
  - Freedom from payment of taxes for promotion of any religion (Article 27).
  - Freedom from attending religious instruction or worship in certain educational institutions (Article 28).
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

**Q 91.C**

- The Indian Councils Act of 1861 made the beginning of the representative institutions by associating Indians with the law-making process. It, thus, provided that the Viceroy should nominate some Indians as non-official members of his expanded council. In 1862, **Lord Canning, the then Viceroy, nominated three Indians to his legislative council—the Raja of Benaras, the Maharaja of Patiala, and Sir Dinkar Rao. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The act also empowered the Viceroy to issue ordinances, without the concurrence of the legislative council, during an emergency. It also gave recognition to the 'portfolio' system, introduced by Lord Canning in 1859.
- **Indian Councils Act of 1909 and not the Indian Councils Act of 1861** provided (for the first time) for the association of Indians with the executive councils of the Viceroy and Governors. Satyendra Prasad Sinha became the first Indian to join the Viceroy's executive council. He was appointed as the Law Member. **Hence statement II is not correct.**
- Other provisions of the act were:
  - It introduced the concept of a 'separate electorate' for Muslims. Under this, the Muslim members were to be elected only by Muslim voters.
  - It retained the official majority in the Central legislative council but allowed the provincial legislative councils to have the nonofficial majority.



#### Q 92.B

- The Constitution of India has opted for the British Parliamentary System of Government rather than the American Presidential System of Government.
- **The features of parliamentary government in India are:**
  - **Presence of nominal and real executives;** Majority party rule, Collective responsibility of the executive to the legislature, Membership of the ministers in the legislature, Leadership of the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister, **Dissolution of the lower House** (Lok Sabha or Assembly). **Hence options 2 and 3 are correct.**
- There are some fundamental differences between the two. For example, the **Indian Parliament is not a sovereign body** like the British Parliament. Further, the Indian State has an elected head (republic) while the British State has a hereditary head (monarchy). **Hence option 1 is not correct.**
- Further, unlike the principle of judicial supremacy with that of the American Supreme Court, the **scope of judicial review of the power of the Supreme Court in India is narrower than that of what exists in the US.**

#### Q 93.A

- **Recent Context:** As a part of its series of sensitization programs that are aimed at promoting the export of millets and its value-added products, APEDA organized a Virtual-Buyer Seller Meet to harness export opportunities in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
  - It also launched e-Catalogue for the UAE which contains information on various Indian Millets and the range of their value-added products available for export, list of active exporters, start-ups and importer/retail chain/hypermarkets, etc.
- **Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA):**
  - APEDA was established under the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act** passed by the Parliament in 1985.
  - It is Headquartered in New Delhi and functions **under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.** **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **Functions**
  - **Promotion of export-oriented production and development of the Scheduled products;** These products include Fruits, vegetables, Meat products, Honey, chocolate pickles, Guar gum etc **except, marine products. Marine products are dealt with by a separate statutory body under Commerce Ministry which is the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA). Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - Registration of persons as exporters of the scheduled products;
  - Fixing of standards and specifications for scheduled products for the purpose of exports;
  - Improving of packaging of the scheduled products;
  - Improving of marketing of the scheduled products outside India;
  - Training in various aspects of the industries connected with the scheduled products;
  - It also functions as the Secretariat to the National Accreditation Board (NAB) for the implementation of accreditation of the Certification Bodies under
  - National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) for Organic exports.

#### Q 94.B

- Citizenship has been defined as full and equal membership of a political community. In the contemporary world, states provide a collective political identity to their members as well as certain rights.
- Citizenship comes with certain rights, but it also entails various duties and responsibilities. The specific duties of citizenship can vary depending on the country and its laws, but here are some common duties that citizens are expected to fulfill:
  - Obeying Laws
  - **Paying Taxes**
  - Jury Duty
  - Voting
  - **Defending the Country**
  - Participating in Community Life
  - Respecting the Rights of Others
  - Staying Informed and Engaged
  - Environmental Responsibility
- **Owning property is not generally considered the duty of a citizen to be fulfilled.**
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 95.C

- The **Directive Principles of State Policy** are enumerated in **Part IV** of the Constitution from Articles 36 to 51. The framers of the Constitution borrowed this idea from the Irish Constitution of 1937, which had copied it from the Spanish Constitution. **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar described these principles as ‘novel features’ of the Indian Constitution.** The Directive Principles along with the Fundamental Rights contain the philosophy of the Constitution and is the soul of the Constitution.
- **Article 32 confers the right to remedies** for the enforcement of the fundamental rights of an aggrieved citizen. **Dr. Ambedkar called Article 32 the most important article of the Constitution**—‘an Article without which this constitution would be a nullity. It is the very soul of the Constitution and the very heart of it’.
- With respect to emergency provisions, **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar observed in the Constituent Assembly that the Constitution of India can be both unitary as well as federal according to the requirements of time and circumstances.** In normal times, it is framed to work as a federal system. But in times of Emergency, it is so designed as to make it work as though it was a unitary system.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 96.D

- The Citizenship Act (1955) prescribes three ways of losing citizenship whether acquired under the Act or prior to it under the Constitution, viz, renunciation, termination and deprivation.
- By Deprivation
  - It is a compulsory termination of Indian citizenship by the Central government, if:
    - ✓ the citizen has obtained the citizenship by fraud
    - ✓ **the citizen has shown disloyalty to the Constitution of India**
    - ✓ the citizen has unlawfully traded or communicated with the enemy during a war
    - ✓ **the citizen has, within five years after registration or naturalisation, been imprisoned in any country for two years**
    - ✓ **and the citizen has been ordinarily resident out of India for seven years continuously.**
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 97.B

- **Recent Context:** Even as the Supreme Court has called for reforming death penalty sentencing, trial courts awarded 165 death sentences in 2022, the highest in over two decades, according to the Annual Death Penalty Report, 2022. The report will be released on Monday by Project 39A
- **Project 39A**
  - It is **a criminal reforms advocacy group with the National Law University, Delhi. Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
  - It is inspired by Article 39-A of the Indian Constitution, a provision that furthers the intertwined values of equal justice and equal opportunity by removing economic and social barriers
  - Project 39A aims to trigger new conversations on legal aid, torture, forensics, mental health in prisons, and the death penalty, using empirical research to re-examine practices and policies in the criminal justice system.

#### Q 98.A

- In order to maintain their **authority, dignity and honour**, the **Supreme court and the High Courts of India are vested with the “Power to Punish for their Contempt”.**
- These contempts are of two types-
  - **Civil contempt-** It means **wilful disobedience to any judgement, order, writ** or other process of a court or **wilful breach of an undertaking** given to a court. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - **Criminal contempt-** It implies to the publication of any matter or doing an act which—
    - ✓ scandalises or lowers the authority of a court; or
    - ✓ prejudices or interferes with the due course of a judicial proceeding; or
    - ✓ **interferes or obstructs the administration of justice** in any other manner.
- However, innocent publication and distribution of some matter, fair and accurate report of judicial proceedings, fair and reasonable criticism of judicial acts and comment on the administrative side of the judiciary do not amount to contempt of court.
- **The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971**, lays down the law on contempt of court. Section 15 of the legislation describes the procedure on how a case for contempt of court can be initiated. In the case of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General or the Solicitor General, and in the case of High Courts, the Advocate General, may bring in a motion before the court for initiating a case of criminal contempt.

However, if the motion is brought by any other person, the consent in writing of the Attorney General or the Advocate General is required. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

- **The AG's consent is mandatory when a private citizen wants to initiate a case of contempt of court against a person.** Before such a plea can be filed, the Attorney General must sign off on the complaint, determining if it requires the attention of the court at all. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 99.D

- In October 1953, the Government of India was forced to create the first linguistic state, known as Andhra State, by separating the Telugu-speaking areas from the Madras state. This followed a prolonged popular agitation and the death of Potti Sriramulu, a Congressperson of standing, after a 56-day hunger strike for the cause.
- The creation of the Andhra state intensified the demand from other regions for the creation of states on a linguistic basis. This forced the Government of India to appoint (in December 1953) a three-member States Reorganisation Commission under the chairmanship of Fazl Ali to re-examine the whole question. Its other two members were K.M. Panikkar and H.N. Kunzru.
- **It submitted its report in September 1955 and broadly accepted language as the basis of the reorganization of states. But, it rejected the theory of 'one language-one state'. Its view was that the unity of India should be regarded as the primary consideration in any redrawing of the country's political units. Hence, statement I is not correct and statement II is correct.**

#### Q 100.B

- The Constituent Assembly of India was formed in December 1946 having 389 representatives and later this number was reduced to 299. **Out of these 299 members, 15 members were women.**
- The women members of the Constituent Assembly were **Ammu Swaminathan**, Dakshayani Velayudhan, **Begum Aizaz Rasul**, Durgabai Deshmukh, **Hansa Mehta**, Kamla Chaudhary, Leela Roy, Malati Choudhury, Purnima Banerjee, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Renuka Ray, Sarojini Naidu, **Sucheta Kriplani**, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit and **Annie Mascarene**.
- **Begum Aizaz Rasul was the only Muslim woman** member of the Constituent Assembly.
- **Dakshayani Velayudhan was the first and only Dalit woman** to be elected to the constituent assembly in 1946.
- Annie Mascarene was born into a Latin Catholic family in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. She was the first woman to be part of the Travancore State Congress Working Committee.
- Sucheta Kriplani sang Vande Mataram in the Independence Session of the Constituent Assembly. She was also India's first woman Chief Minister.
- Thus, **Usha Mehta and Captain Lakshmi Sahgal were not members of the assembly.** Lakshmi Sahgal was the daughter of Ammu Swaminathan and she lead the Rani Jhansi regiment in the Indian National Army under Subhash Chandra Bose.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**