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1. Consider the following statements and mark the correct ones:

1. If a sitting Rajya Sabha member contests and wins a Lok Sabha election, his/her seat in the Upper House becomes automatically vacant on the date he/she is declared elected to Lok Sabha
2. If a sitting Lok Sabha member contests and wins a Rajya Sabha election, he/she has to notify the a Rajya Sabha election, he/she has to notify the ECI in writing within 10 days the choice between the two seats

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- With regard to the Houses of Parliament, if a person is elected simultaneously to both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, and if he has not yet taken his seat in either House, he can choose, within 10 days from the later of the dates on which he is chosen to those Houses, the House of which he would like to be a member, failing which his seat in Rajya Sabha will fall vacant at the end of this period. [Article 101(1) of the Constitution read with Section 68(1) of The Representation of the with Section 68(1) of The Representation of the People Act, 1951
- No such option is, however, available to a person who is already a member of one House and has contested the election for membership of the other House. So, if sitting Rajya Sabha member contests and wins a Lok Sabha election, his seat in the Upper House becomes automatically vacant on the date he is declared elected to Lok Sabha to Rajya Sabha. The same applies to a Lok Sabha member who contests an election.

2. The global report, titled Women in Business and Management: The business case for change, was released by which of the following organisations?

- A. UNDP
B. WEF
C. IMF
D. ILO

Answer: D

Explanation

The International Labour Organization (ILO) recently released its second global report, titled Women in Business and Management: The business case for change. Its key findings included:

- A critical mass of 30 per cent women is need by the enterprises in order to reap the benefits of gender diversity.

- Almost half of the surveyed enterprises reported women holding less than 30 per cent of entry- level management positions.
 - ✓ In 60 per cent of companies, fewer than 30 per cent of senior
 - ✓ In 60 per cent of companies, fewer than 30 per cent of senior managers and top executives are women.
- Across the world, men are still more likely to participate in the labour market than women. The average global labour force participation rate of women in 2018 stood at 48.5 per cent, while that of men was 75 per cent. This equates to a 26.5 percentage point gender gap in labour force participation.
- Just for Asia and the Pacific, the average female labour force participation rate has declined from 52.9 in 1991 to 45.3 per cent in 2018, dropping by 7.6 percentage points

3. Which of the following is correct about the Charter Act of 1833?

1. Governor General in Council was given the power to legislate for the whole of the British territories in India
2. The Act added law member to the Executive council of the Governor General who had no council of the Governor General who had no vote.

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- By the Act of 1833, the Governor General in Council were given the power to legislate for the whole of the British territories in India. These laws were applicable to all persons, British or Indian foreigners or others and to the servants of the Company.
- They were enforceable by all courts in India.
- They were enforceable by all courts in India. The Act added one more member to the Executive council of the Governor General, the Law Member, whose work was fully legislative. He had no vote in the Council and he was to attend meetings, on invitation.
- But he practically became a regular member of the council. Lord Macaulay, the Law member, influenced the educational policy of the government for a number of years.

4. Which of the following is correct about the High Courts in India?

1. The original Constitution authorised the Parliament to establish a common high court for two or more states
2. The writ jurisdiction of High Courts is more expansive than that of Supreme Courts in India

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Constitution of India provides for a high court for each state, but the Seventh Amendment Act of 1956 authorised the Parliament to establish a common high court for two or more states or for two or more states and a union territory. The territorial jurisdiction of a high court is co-terminus with the territory of a state.
- The writ jurisdiction of High Courts is co-terminus with the Supreme Court and in fact extends beyond with the Supreme Court and in fact extends beyond fundamental rights to include ordinary legal right as well. The 42nd amendment tried to erode the same but was restored by the 44th amendment. In the Chandra Kumar case (1997), High Court's this power was included in the Basic structure.

5. Which of the following is correct with regard to the Rights of Persons With Disabilities Act, 2016?

1. Attack Victims have been included for the first time within the provisions of disability
2. Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 14 years shall have the right to free education
3. Reservation in vacancies in government establishments has been increased by 1% for certain persons with benchmark disability

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- Disability has been defined based on an evolving and dynamic concept. The types of disabilities have been increased from existing 7 to 21 and the Central Government will have the power to add more types of disabilities.
- Speech and Language Disability and Specific Learning Disability have been added for the first time. Acid Attack Victims have been included. Dwarfism, muscular dystrophy have has been indicated as separate class of specified disability. The New categories of disabilities also specified disability. The New categories of disabilities also included three blood disorders, Thalassemia, Hemophilia and Sickle Cell disease.

- Reservation in vacancies in government establishments has been increased from 3% to 4% for certain persons or class of persons with benchmark disability. Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 years shall have the right to free education.

6. Which of the following is true in context of the Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013?

1. It covers only organised, both private and public though
2. It includes all women regardless of position and their age

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- As per the Sexual Harassment at Workplace act, the definition of "aggrieved woman", who will get protection under the Act is extremely wide to cover all women, irrespective of her age or employment status, whether in the organised or unorganised sectors, public or private and covers clients, customers and domestic workers as well.
- An employer has been defined as any person who is responsible for management, supervision, and control of the workplace and includes persons who formulate and administer policies of such an organisation under Section 2(g).
- While the "workplace" in the Vishaka Guidelines is confined to the traditional office set-up where there is a clear employer-employee relationship, the Act goes much further to include organisations, department, office, branch unit etc. in the public and private sector, organized and unorganized, hospitals, nursing homes, educational institutions, sports institutes, stadiums, sports complex and any place visited by the employee during the course of employment including the transportation. Even non-traditional workplaces which involve tele-commuting will get covered under this law.

7. Which of the following is responsible for the creation of ministries/departments in India?

- A. Prime Minister's Office
B. Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs
C. President
D. Parliament

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 is made by the President of India under Article 77 of the Constitution for the allocation of business of the Government of India.

- The Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are created by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister under these Rules. The business of the Government of India is transacted in the ministries/departments, secretariats and offices (referred to as "Department") as per the distribution of subjects specified in these Rules. Each of the Ministry(ies) will be assigned to a Minister by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. Each department will be generally under the charge of a Secretary to assist the Minister on policy matters and general administration.

8. The strength of a High Court is determined by

- A. Chief Justice of the High Court
- B. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- C. President of India
- D. Parliament of India

Answer: C

Explanation

The Constitution does not specify the strength of a high court and leaves it to the discretion of the president. Accordingly, the President determines the strength of a High Court from time to time depending upon its workload. 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.

9. Which of the following is/are true with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir under the provisions given in Article 370?

- 1. Article 1 is not applicable to the state of Jammu and Kashmir
- 2. The Union of India has no power to declare Financial Emergency under Article 370 in the state
- 3. Part IV (Directive Principles of the State Policy) and Part IVA (Fundamental Duties) of the Constitution are not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir.
- 4. In addition to other fundamental rights, Articles 19(1)(f) and 31(2) of the Constitution are still applicable to Jammu and Kashmir

- A. 2 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- Matters related to Defense, Foreign relations, Communication and Finance of Jammu and Kashmir is under jurisdiction of Constitution of India. Union Legislature has very limited jurisdiction in case of Jammu and Kashmir in comparison with other states.

- ✓ Jurisdiction of Parliament - Under Part XXI of the Constitution of India, which deals with "Temporary, Transitional and Special provisions", the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been accorded special status under Article 370.
- ✓ Even though included in 1st Schedule as 15th state, all the provisions of the Constitution which are applicable to other states are not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. Government of India can declare emergency in Jammu and Kashmir and impose Governor's rule under certain conditions. Emergency Provisions. The Union of India has no power to declare Financial Emergency under Article 370 in the state. The Union can declare emergency in the state only in case of War or External Aggression.
- No proclamation of emergency made on the grounds of internal disturbance or imminent danger thereof shall have effect in relation to the state unless (a) it is made at the request or with the concurrence of the government of the state; or (b) where it has not been so made, it is applied subsequently by the President to that state at the request or with the concurrence of the government of that state. In December 1964, Articles 356 and 357 were extended to the state.
- ✓ Fundamental Duties, Directive Principles and Fundamental Rights- Part IV (Directive Principles of the State Policy) and Part IVA (Fundamental Duties) of the Constitution are not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ In addition to other fundamental rights, Articles 19(1)(f) and 31(2) of the Constitution are still applicable to Jammu and Kashmir; hence the Fundamental Right to property is still guaranteed in this state. It is the only state which does not have to give a detailed record on the money flowing in the state and where it is used and how.
- In the Indian Constitutional history only one Fundamental Right has been added so far and that is Right to Education. This right too has not been extended to Jammu and Kashmir.

10. The Union Executive consists of which of the following-

1. President
2. Vice President
3. CAG
4. Attorney General of India
5. Council of Ministers

- A. 1, 2 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- C. 1 and 5 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

Articles 52 to 78 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the Union executive.

The Union executive consists of the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister, the council of ministers and the attorney general of India.

Please note that there is no CAG here.

11. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. There is a Panel of 10 Chairpersons in case the office of both Speaker and Deputy Speaker falls vacant in Lok Sabha
2. The Speaker resigns from his Office by submitting his resignation to the Deputy submitting his resignation to the Deputy Speaker.

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

When the Offices of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker fall vacant, the duties of the Office of the Speaker are performed by such Member of the Lok Sabha as the President may appoint for the purpose. The person so appointed is the purpose. The person so appointed is known as the Speaker pro tem. In case of resignation, Speaker submits his resignation to Deputy Speaker while the Deputy Speaker submits it to the Speaker.

12. Which of the following is correct about clause 6 of the Assam Accord?

- A. Promote speedy all round economic development of Assam, so as to improve the standard of living of the people
- B. Government will arrange for the issue of citizenship certificates in future only by the authorities of the Central Government
- C. Safeguards shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people
- D. 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

Answer: C

Explanation

- Clause 6 of the Assam Accord provides for 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 Union Cabinet in January approved the setting up of a High Level Committee for implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord and measures envisaged in the Memorandum of Settlement, 2003 and other issues related to Bodo community.

- The Committee shall examine the effectiveness of actions since 1985 to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.
- The Committee 1985 to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord. The Committee will hold discussions with all stakeholders and assess the required quantum of reservation of seats in Assam Legislative Assembly and local bodies for Assamese people.
- The Committee will also assess the requirement of measures to be taken to protect Assamese and other indigenous languages of Assam, quantum of reservation in employment under Government of Assam and other measures to protect, preserve and promote cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of Assamese people.

13. Which of the following are to be considered as amendments of the Constitution under Article 368?

1. Laws made for admission or establishment of new states
2. Cessation of Indian territory to a foreign state
3. Settlement of boundary dispute between India and another country
4. Change in representation of states in the Rajya Sabha

- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 2 and 4 only
D. 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: C

Explanation

- Constitution (Article 4) itself declares that laws made for admission or establishment of new states (under Article 2) and formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states (under Articles 3) are not to be considered as amendments of the Constitution under Article 368. Change in representation of seats of states in Rajya Sabha requires both an amendment and ratification by half the states as provided under Article 368.
- The Supreme Court in the Berubari Union case held that the power of Parliament to diminish the area of a state (under Article 3) does not cover Parliament to diminish the area of a state (under Article 3) does not cover cession of Indian territory to a foreign country. Hence, Indian territory can be ceded to a foreign state only by amending the Constitution under Article 368.
- However, the Supreme Court in 1969 ruled that, settlement of a boundary dispute between India and another country does not require a constitutional amendment. It can be done by executive action as it does not involve cession of Indian territory to a foreign country

14. Which of the following statements are correct about Metropolitan areas?

1. Metropolitan areas have a population of ten lakhs or more
2. They comprise of one or more districts, consisting of two or more municipalities but no Panchayats

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- Indian census considers an area as urban only if it fulfills the following criteria:
 - ✓ The population of the settlement should be 5000 or more
 - ✓ Density of atleast 400 persons per sq.km
 - ✓ Atleast 75% of the male workers engaged in non agricultural occupations
- By the 74th Amendment Act, 1992, Article
- By the 74th Amendment Act, 1992, Article 243P (c) of the Constitution defines metropolitan areas' as those having —population of ten lakhs [a million] or more, comprised in one or more districts and consisting of two or more municipalities/panchayats/other contiguous areas, specified by the governor through public notification to be a metropolitan area

15. Which of the statements are correct about elections to Rajya Sabha?

1. Elections to Rajya Sabha are held through proportional representation with single transferable vote
2. When casual vacancies, each vacancy from a state is filled by a separate election

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- Indirect elections are held to fill seats in Rajya Sabha through proportional representation via Single Transferable Vote. A single election for a number of seats in a state is held when these MPs have completed their Rajya Sabha terms. When a seat falls vacant in circumstances such as now (casual vacancies), each vacancy is filled by a separate election.
- In its press note announcing the separate vacancies, the Election Commission said this is —in conformity with provisions of Sections 147 to 151 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and has been Representation of the People Act, 1951 and has been consistent practice of the Commission in such cases. It also referred to two Delhi High Court rulings in favour of separate elections, in 1994 and 2009.

- The cases cited by the EC were A K Walia vs Union of India & Others, and Satya Pal Malik vs EC. The High Court upheld the EC decision in both. In the former case in 1994, the court dismissed a petition by a Congress MLA from Delhi who had argued that if one election was held for three seats, the possibility could not be ruled out that the result could be different from the outcome from three different elections.

16. Consider the following statements with regard to legislators:

Assertion: Legislators are not full time employees and can be practicing advocates

Reason: Legislators are not deemed to be public servants

- A. If both statements are correct and the reasoning is the reason for the assertion
- B. If both statements are correct but the reasoning is not the reason for the assertion
- C. If the assertion statement is correct but the reasoning statement is not
- D. If the assertion statement is incorrect but the reasoning statement is correct

Answer: C

Explanation

- Stating that legislators are not —full time salaried employees, the Supreme Court ruled that advocates who become lawmakers can continue their legal practice as there are no such restrictions under the Advocates Act, 1961.
- The legislators are deemed to be public servants, but their status issue generis and certainly not one of a full time salaried employee of any person, government, firm, corporation or concern as such, said the court. It ruled that legislators, being elected people's representatives, occupy a seat in Parliament/ Legislative Assembly/ Legislative Council as members, but are not full time salaried employees as such.

17. What do you understand by the concept of data localisation?

- A. It requires the data to be completely collected from the country concerned and put to use for country's welfare.
- B. It requires data about a nation's citizens or residents be collected, processed, and/or stored inside the country, often before being transferred internationally.
- C. It requires international data to be deposited in the country that the MNCs are entering for business.
- D. It requires data collected internationally to be regionally distributed as per the needs of the local area and population.

Answer: B

Explanation

- Data localization or data residency law requires data about a nation's citizens or residents be collected, processed, and/or stored inside the country, often before being transferred internationally,

and usually transferred only after meeting local privacy or data protection laws, such as giving the user notice of how the information will be used and obtaining their consent.

- The new law in India requires payments companies to store all information about transactions involving Indians solely on computers in the country.
- The law and the hubbub over it are part of a debate over a concept known as data localization, in which a country places restrictions on data as a way to gain better control over it and potentially curb the power of international companies. In India the B.N. Srikrishna committee recommended the same which is the basis for India's work in progress data protection Bill.
- The Reserve Bank of India on 26th June 2019 said all data related to payments must be stored only in India and data processed abroad will have to be brought back to the country within 24 hours.

18. The Umesh Sinha Committee was constituted for what purpose?

- A. To study the use and feasibility of lateral entry in civil services
- B. Suggest changes to Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act) in view of social media expansion
- C. Suggest further reforms in the structure of GST and distribution of funds
- D. Review AFSPA

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Election Commission of India on 11 January 2018 constituted a 14 member committee to suggest changes to Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act) in view of social media expansion chaired by Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Umesh Sinha.
- The committee will comprise of nine officers of Election Commission, one nominated member each from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), Law Ministry, IT Ministry, National Broadcasters Association and Press Council of India.
- It will study the impact of new media and social media during the —silence period, the 48 hours period prior to elections and its implication in view of Section 126 of the RP Act.
- After a thorough study, it will suggest modifications to the election law and model code of conduct.
- It will examine the difficulties faced in regulating media platforms during the prohibitory 48 hours in a multi-phase election.

19. What was the main issue of concern for the T.K. Vishwanathan Committee?

- A. To deal with cyber crimes especially online hate speech
- B. To suggest measures to strengthen banks and reduce NPAs
- C. To deal with electoral reforms
- D. To suggest measures to improve quality of primary education

Answer: A

Explanation

An expert committee headed by former Lok Sabha secretary general TK Viswanathan to deal with cyber crimes especially online hate speech recommended appointing cybercrime coordinators in all states and establishing cybercrime cells in each district. The committee was formed after Supreme Court struck down Section 66 A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000.

20. Which of the following committees does not concern itself with the issue of lateral entry?

- A. Alagh Committee
- B. Hota Committee
- C. Surendranath Committee
- D. Jeevan Reddy Committee

Answer: D

Explanation

- Jeevan Reddy Committee Report deals with Armed Forces (Special Powers) Acts (AFSPA). The committee had recommended repealing the AFSPA. All the other committees are concerned with the issue of lateral entry. After inducting 9 private sector specialists as joint secretaries, the
- Narendra Modi government is mulling to rope in subject experts from the private sector at the Deputy Secretary (DS) and Director levels as well.
- The move is aimed at boosting efficiency and bring more expertise into various government departments. Officials in Department of Personnel & Training have been asked to prepare a proposal for inducting 400 domain experts to fill DS/Director posts. Government has been rooting for lateral entry to bridge the acute talent shortfall at the top of policy making. Officials at DoPT have also been asked to frame a process for recruitment and evaluation of private sector employees into central administration

21. Which of the following committees were constituted for the purpose of jail reforms?

1. Mulla Committee
2. Krishna Iyer Committee
3. A.J. Paulraj Committee
4. Amitava Roy Committee

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- With regard to the Houses of Parliament, if a person is elected simultaneously to both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, and if he has not yet taken his seat in either House, he can choose, within 10 days from the later of the dates on which he is chosen to those Houses, the House of which he would like to be a member, failing which his seat in Rajya Sabha will fall vacant at the end of this period. [Article 101(1) of the Constitution read with Section 68(1) of The Representation of the People Act, 1951]
- No such option is, however, available to a person who is already a member of one House and has contested the election for membership of the other House. So, if sitting Rajya Sabha member contests and wins a Lok Sabha election, his seat in the Upper House becomes automatically vacant on the date he is declared elected to Lok Sabha to Rajya Sabha. The same applies to a Lok Sabha member who contests an election.

22. Which of the following statements are true?

1. The Bru tribe are Scheduled Tribes of Tripura
2. A majority of the Bru belong to the Vaishnav sect of Hinduism
3. Reang is a sub-clan among the Bru

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) recently released its second global report, titled Women in Business and Management: The business case for change. Its key findings included:
- A critical mass of 30 per cent women is needed by the enterprises in order to reap the benefits of gender diversity.
- Almost half of the surveyed enterprises reported women holding less than 30 per cent of entry-level management positions.
- In 60 per cent of companies, fewer than 30 per cent of senior managers and top executives are women.
- Across the world, men are still more likely to participate in the labour market than women. The average global labour force participation rate of women in 2018 stood at 48.5 per cent, while that of men was 75 per cent. This equates to a 26.5 percentage point gender gap in labour force participation.

- Just for Asia and the Pacific, the average female labour force participation rate has declined from 52.9 in 1991 to 45.3 per cent in 2018, dropping by 7.6 percentage points.

23. What all powers do being a Court of Record entail for the higher Judiciary in India?

1. power to punish for its own contempt
2. perpetual memory and testimony
3. power to punish for the contempt of the courts and tribunals subordinate to it
4. power to determine the question of its own jurisdiction

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- By the Act of 1833, the Governor General in Council were given the power to legislate for the whole of the British territories in India. These laws were applicable to all persons, British or Indian foreigners or others and to the servants of the Company.
- They were enforceable by all courts in India.
- They were enforceable by all courts in India. The Act added one more member to the Executive council of the Governor General, the Law Member, whose work was fully legislative. He had no vote in the Council and he was to attend meetings, on invitation. But he practically became a regular member of the council. Lord Macaulay, the Law member, influenced the educational policy of the government for a number of years.

24. Which of the following is correct about the High Courts in India?

1. The original Constitution authorised the Parliament to establish a common high court for two or more states
2. The writ jurisdiction of High Courts is more expansive than that of Supreme Courts in India

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Constitution of India provides for a high court for each state, but the Seventh Amendment Act of 1956 authorised the Parliament to establish a common high court for two or more states or for two or more states and a union territory. The territorial jurisdiction of a high court is co- terminus with the territory of a state.
- The writ jurisdiction of High Courts is co-terminus with the Supreme Court and in fact extends beyond with the Supreme Court and in fact extends beyond fundamental rights to include ordinary legal right as well. The 42nd amendment tried to erode the same but was restored by the 44th amendment. In the Chandra Kumar case (1997), High Court's this power was included in the Basic structure.

25. Which of the following is correct with regard to the 'Rights of Persons With Disabilities Act, 2016'?

1. Attack Victims have been included for the first time within the provisions of disability
2. Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 14 years shall have the right to free education
3. Reservation in vacancies in government establishments has been increased by 1% for certain persons with benchmark disability

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- Disability has been defined based on an evolving and dynamic concept. The types of disabilities have been increased from existing 7 to 21 and the Central Government will have the power to add more types of disabilities.
- Speech and Language Disability and Specific Learning Disability have been added for the first time. Acid Attack Victims have been included. Dwarfism, muscular dystrophy have has been indicated as separate class of specified disability. The New categories of disabilities also specified disability. The New categories of disabilities also included three blood disorders, Thalassemia, Hemophilia and Sickle Cell disease.
- Reservation in vacancies in government establishments has been increased from 3% to 4% for certain persons or class of persons with benchmark disability. Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 years shall have the right to free education.

26. The PM-AASHA Scheme seeks to provide for:

1. Increase in MSP for oilseeds and pulses

2. Pilot participation of private sector in procurement operation
3. The Price Deficiency Payment sub-scheme under AASHA does not involve physical under AASHA does not involve physical procurement
4. Amitava Roy Committee

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1,2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

Answer: C

Explanation

- Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce not increasing it.
- The new Umbrella Scheme includes the mechanism of ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers and is comprised of
- Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS) Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS)
- Under Price Deficiency Payment Scheme this scheme (PDPS), it is proposed to cover all oilseeds for which MSP is notified. In this direct payment of the difference between the MSP and the selling/modal price will be made to pre-registered farmers selling his produce in the notified market yard through a transparent auction process. All payment will be done directly into registered bank account of the farmer. This scheme does not involve any physical procurement of crops.

27. Which of the following is true about Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN)?

1. It will be will be the master list of all indigenous inhabitants of the state
2. No fresh indigenous inhabitant certificates will be issued except to all newborn babies in the state

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- Nagaland government has decided to set up a Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN) with the aim of preventing fake indigenous in habitants certificates.

- The RIIN will be the master list of all indigenous inhabitants of the state based on an extensive survey. It will involve official records of indigenous residents from rural and (urban) wards and would be prepared under the supervision of the district administration. the supervision of the district administration.
- Once the RIIN is finalised, no fresh indigenous inhabitant certificates will be issued except to newborn babies born to the indigenous inhabitants of Nagaland
- The process will be conducted across Nagaland and will be done as part of the online system of Inner Line Permit (ILP), which is already in force in Nagaland.

28. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The power to issue writs by High Courts is a discretionary power
2. The writ of prohibition can be issued only against judicial, quasi-judicial and administrative authorities

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- Article 226 (discretionary unlike Supreme Court) provides High Courts with Writ Jurisdiction as well. The writ jurisdiction of High Courts is wider in scope than that of the Supreme Court.
- The High Courts are authorised under Article 226 to issue directions, orders, or writs to any person or authority, including any government to enforce fundamental rights and any government to enforce fundamental rights and for any other purpose.
- 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. It is only issues when there is error of jurisdiction and not error of law.

29. What are the major benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)?

1. The scheme is for the welfare of senior citizens
2. Scheme provides an assured return of 8% p.a. payable monthly for entire lifetime
3. It is not exempt from service tax/GST.
4. The scheme also allows for premature exit for the treatment of any critical/terminal illness of self or spouse

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only

- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1 and 4 only

Answer: D

Explanation

Following are the major benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana(PMVVY):

- Scheme provides an assured return of 8% p.a. payable monthly (equivalent to 8.30% p.a. effective) for 10 years.
- Pension is payable at the end of each period, during the policy term of 10 years, as per the frequency of monthly/quarterly/half-yearly/yearly as chosen by the pensioner at the time of purchase.
- The scheme is exempted from Service Tax/GST. On survival of the pensioner to the end of the policy term of 10 years, Purchase
- On survival of the pensioner to the end of the policy term of 10 years, Purchase price along with final pension installment shall be payable.
- Loan upto 75% of Purchase Price shall be allowed after 3 policy years (to meet the liquidity needs). Loan interest shall be recovered from the pension installments and loan to be recovered from claim proceeds.
- The scheme also allows for premature exit for the treatment of any critical/terminal illness of self or spouse. On such premature exit, 98% of the Purchase Price shall be refunded.

30. Who compiles the National Index on Performance of Health Outcomes?

- A. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- B. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- C. Medical Council of India
- D. NITI Aayog

Answer: D

Explanation

- It is compiled by NITI Aayog with technical assistance from World Bank.
- It will help rank the states on the basis of their performance on measurable health parameters.
- It comprises of a set of indicators grouped into relevant domains and sub-domains such as Health outcomes, Governance & Information and Key inputs/ processes.
- The maximum weightage is awarded to measurable Health outcomes.
- Indicators have been selected based on their continuous availability of the data.

31. Operation Thirst has been launched by which of the following?

- A. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- B. Jal Shakti Ministry
- C. Ministry of Agriculture
- D. Ministry of Railways

Answer: D

Explanation

To curb the menace of unauthorized PDW (PACKAGED DRINKING WATER) in Railway premises, an all India drive named Operation Thirst was launched on 08th & 09th July 2019 under the Ministry of Railways.

32. Which of the following is correct about the 15th Finance Commission?

1. Its terms of Reference include a provision for rewarding states which were successful in eliminating or reducing expenditure incurred on populist schemes
2. Its terms of Reference includes examining whether a separate mechanism for funding of defence and internal security ought to be set up

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV-FC or 15-FC) is an Indian Finance Commission constituted in November 2017 and is to give recommendations for devolution of taxes and other fiscal matters for five fiscal years, commencing 1 April 2020. The commission's chairman is N. K. Singh.
- The 15th Finance Commission would need to define populism, as, the commission's terms of reference (ToR) had a provision for rewarding states which were successful in eliminating or reducing expenditure incurred on populist schemes.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the proposed amendment to enable Fifteenth Finance Commission to address serious concerns regarding the allocation of adequate, secure and non-lapsable funds for defence and internal security of India.
- The amendment provides that Fifteenth Finance Commission shall also examine whether a separate mechanism for funding of defence and internal security ought to be set up and if so how such a mechanism could be operationalized.

33. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. NIA is an executive body to counter terrorism in the country
2. NIA can at present look into cases of counterfeit currency and cyber-terrorism
3. Offences under purview of NIA are called scheduled offences

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. All of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Lok Sabha passed the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019. NIA is a central agency established by the Indian Government to combat terror in India. It acts as the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency.
- The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states.
- The Agency came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 in the aftermath of the Mumbai Terror Attacks. One of the changes under amendment bill, 2019 is the type of offences that the NIA can investigate and prosecute.
- Under the existing Act, the NIA can investigate offences under Acts such as the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967. The latest amendments will enable the NIA to additionally investigate offences related to human trafficking, counterfeit currency, manufacture or sale of prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism, and offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.

34. Swadhar Greh Scheme is under which of the following Ministries?

- A. Ministry of External Affairs
B. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
C. Ministry of Women and Child Development
D. Ministry of Culture

Answer: C

Explanation

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the Swadhar Greh Scheme for rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances. The scheme covers women who are deserted and without any social and economic support, women victims of domestic violence, family tension and natural disaster

35. Which of the following is correct about Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana?

1. It has been launched for people rendered unemployed due to natural disasters or other such extraordinary reasons
2. It provides relief to the extent of 25% of the average per day earning during the previous four contribution periods to be paid up to maximum 90 days of unemployment once in lifetime of the person

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Employees "State Insurance Corporation has launched a scheme named „Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana" (ABVKY) which, in case the Insured Person (IP) is rendered unemployed, provides relief to the extent of 25% of the average per day earning during the previous four contribution periods (total earning during the four contribution period/730) to be paid up to maximum 90 days of unemployment once in lifetime of the IP on submission of claim in form of an Affidavit.
- The Scheme has been made effective from 01-07-2018. The scheme is implemented on pilot basis for a period of two years initially.

36. Chairman of NHRC is appointed by a six member committee headed by the Prime Minister. Which of the following is not one of the member of it?

- A. Speaker of Lok Sabha
- B. Deputy Chairman of Rajya Chairman
- C. Minister for Child and Women Development
- D. Leader of Opposition in both the houses

Answer: C

Explanation

- Instead of him, it is the Home Minister. Constitution of NHRC The Commission consists of a Chairperson, four full-time Members and four deemed Members.
- The Chairperson and members of the NHRC are appointed by the President of India, on the recommendation of a committee consisting of:
 - ✓ The Prime Minister (chairperson) The Home Minister The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha (House of the People)

- ✓ The Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha (Council of States) The Speaker of the Lok Sabha (House of the People) The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Council of States)

37. Which of the following is not the compulsory provision of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act?

- A. State Election Commission
- B. State Finance Commission
- C. Reservation at all levels to women
- D. Reservation of seats for backward classes

Answer: D

Explanation

We are talking about backward classes not SC, STs. Compulsory Provisions

1. Organization of Gram Sabha in a village or group of villages
2. Establishment of panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels
3. Direct elections to all seats in panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels
4. Indirect elections to the post of chairperson of panchayats at the intermediate and district levels
5. 21 years to be the minimum age for contesting elections to panchayats
6. Reservation of seats (both members and chairpersons) for SCs and STs in panchayats at all the three levels
7. Reservation of one-third seats (both members and chairpersons) for women in panchayats at all the three levels
8. Fixing tenure of five years for panchayats at all levels and holding fresh elections within six months in the event of supersession of any panchayat
9. Establishment of a State Election Commission for conducting elections to the panchayats
10. Constitution of a State Finance Commission after every five years to review the financial position of the panchayats

38. Ex Post facto law, which imposes penalty retrospectively, is prohibited in India, on.

1. Civil Laws
2. Criminal Laws

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- Article 20 (1) in The Constitution Of India 1949 No person shall be convicted of any offence except for violation of the law in force at the time of the commission of the act charged as an offence, nor be subjected to a penalty greater than that which might have been inflicted under the law in force at the time of the commission of the offence Civil laws can have retrospective effect.
- E.g. The Enemy Property Act passed by the government recently is applicable in retrospect.

39. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The constitution provides for a Chief Election Commissioner and 2 election commissioners
2. The conditions of service and tenure of office of the election commissioners are determined by the Parliament

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation

Article 324 of the Constitution has made the following provisions with regard to the composition of election commission - The Election Commission shall consist of the chief election commissioner and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the president may from time to time fix. The conditions of service and tenure of office of the election commissioners and the regional commissioners shall be determined by the president.

40. Which of the following is correct with regard to curative petition in India?

1. The concept was evolved by the Supreme Court of India in 2002 and is not mentioned in the Constitution
2. There is a time limit of 3 years for filing Curative petition

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- The concept of Curative petition was evolved by the Supreme Court of India in the matter of Rupa Ashok Hurra vs. Ashok Hurra and Anr. (2002) where the question was whether an aggrieved person is entitled to any relief against the final judgement/order of the Supreme Court, after dismissal of a review petition.
- The Supreme Court in the said case held that in order to prevent abuse of its process and to cure gross miscarriage of justice, it may reconsider its judgements in exercise of its inherent powers.
- For this purpose, the court has devised what has been termed as a "curative" petition. In the Curative petition, the petitioner is required to aver specifically that the grounds mentioned therein had been taken in the review petition filed earlier and that it was dismissed by circulation. This has to be certified by a senior advocate.
- The Curative petition is then circulated to the three senior most judges and the judges who delivered the impugned judgement, if available. No time limit is given for filing Curative petition

41. Which of the following is true with regard to Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019?

1. The Bill makes declaration of talaq a cognizable offence
2. The Bill makes talaq a non-bailable offence
3. Only the concerned woman's complaint leads to arrest

Which of the following is/are correct in this context?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2019, makes declaration of talaq a cognizable offence, attracting up to three year's imprisonment with a fine.
- A cognizable offence is one for which a police officer may arrest an accused person without warrant. The offence will be cognizable only if information relating to the offence is given by:
 1. the married woman (against whom talaq has been declared), or
 2. any person related to her by blood or marriage.
- The Bill provides that the Magistrate may grant bail to the accused. The bail may be granted only after hearing the woman (against whom talaq has been pronounced), and if the Magistrate is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for granting bail.

42. Which of the following changes are envisaged by the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019 to the RTI Act 2005?

1. It reduces the term of office for the CIC and the ICs from 5 to 3 years
2. The Bill states that central and state CIC and ICs will be determined by the central government

Which of the following is/are correct in this context?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- Under the RTI Act, 2005 Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs) are appointed at the national and state level to implement the provisions of the Act. The Act states that the CIC and other ICs (appointed at the central and state level) will hold office for a term of five years. The Bill removes this provision and states that the central government will notify the term of office for the CIC and the ICs.
- The 2005 Act states that the salary of the CIC and ICs (at the central level) will be equivalent to the salary paid to the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, respectively. Similarly, the salary of the CIC and ICs (at the state level) will be equivalent to the salary paid to the Election Commissioners and the Chief Secretary to the state government, respectively.
- The Bill seeks to amend these provisions to state that the salaries, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of the central and state CIC and ICs will be determined by the central government.

43. Which of the following statements are correct about the National Medical Commission Bill, 2019?

1. It seeks to replace election with a nominated body NMC
2. It creates Ethics and Medical Registration Board as the highest appellate body for grievances of medical practitioners

Which of the following is/are correct in this context?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Bill replaces the MCI with the NMC, whose members will be nominated. The NMC will consist of 25 members, including:
 - ✓ Director Generals of the Directorate General of Health Services and the Indian Council of Medical Research
 - ✓ Director of any of the AIIMS,
 - ✓ five members (part-time) to be elected by the registered medical practitioners, and (iv) six members appointed on rotational basis from amongst the nominees of the states in the Medical Advisory Council.
- The State Medical Council will receive complaints relating to professional or ethical misconduct against a registered medical practitioner. If the medical practitioner is aggrieved of a decision of the State Medical Council, he may appeal to the Ethics and Medical Registration Board. If the medical practitioner is aggrieved of the decision of the Board, he can approach the NMC to appeal against the decision.

44. Which of the following may be regarded as necessary characteristics of Secularism?

1. Preventing inter-religion domination
2. Preventing intra-religion domination
3. Separation of religion and State

Which of the following is/are correct in this context?

- A. 1 only
- B. 3 only
- C. Both 1 and 3
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- Secularism is first and foremost a doctrine that opposes all such forms of inter-religious domination. It takes another conspicuous form, namely, intra-religious domination.
- As secularism is opposed to all forms of institutionalised religious domination, it challenges not merely interreligious but also intra-religious domination such as prevention of caste discrimination in Hinduism.
- To be truly secular, a state must not only refuse to be theocratic but also have no formal, legal alliance with any religion.
- The separation of religion-state is, however, a necessary but not a sufficient ingredient of a secular state. A secular state must be committed to principles and goals which are at least partly derived from non-religious sources.

45. Which of the following civil-political rights are available to both friendly aliens and citizens in India?

1. Right against discrimination on ground of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth
2. Right to freedom of speech and expression
3. Right to elementary education
4. Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour

Which of the following is/are correct in this context?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 3 and 4 only

Answer: D

Explanation

The Constitution confers the following rights and privileges on the citizens of India (and denies the same to aliens):

1. Right against discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15).
2. Right to equality of opportunity in the matter of public employment (Article 16).
3. Right to freedom of speech and expression, assembly, association, movement, residence and profession (Article 19).
4. Cultural and educational rights (Articles 29 and 30).

46. Which of the following is true with regard to Consumer Protection Bill?

1. The Bill creates a Central Consumer Protection Authority which relies on police to investigate into violation and defective products
2. The Bill creates three tiered Consumer Dispute Redressal Commissions with appeals from National CRDC going to Supreme Court

Which of the following is/are correct in this context?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- The central government will set up a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers. It will regulate matters related to violation of consumer rights, unfair trade practices, and misleading advertisements.
- The CCPA will have an investigation wing, headed by a Director-General, which may conduct inquiry or investigation into such violations.
- The Bill also envisages simplified dispute resolution process, has provision for Mediation and e-filing of cases.
- The Consumer will be able to file cases in the nearest commission under the jurisdiction of which he resides.
- Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions (CDRCs) will be set up at the district, state, and national levels. A consumer can file a complaint with CDRCs in relation to:
 - ✓ unfair or restrictive trade practices;
 - ✓ defective goods or services;
 - ✓ over charging or deceptive charging; and
 - ✓ the offering of goods or services for sale which may be hazardous to life and safety.
- Complaints against an unfair contract can be filed with only the State and National. Appeals from a District CDRC will be heard by the State CDRC.
- Appeals from the State CDRC will be heard by the National CDRC. Final appeal will lie before the Supreme Court.

47. Which of the following is correct about the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Amendment Bill, 2019?

1. The Bill creates advisory councils to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir
2. The Bill provides a legislative council only for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir with a limit on its size that is 1/3rd of the assembly

Which of the following is/are correct in this context?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- The central government will appoint Advisory Committees, for various purposes, including:

- ✓ distribution of assets and liabilities of corporations of the state of Jammu and Kashmir between the two Union Territories,
- ✓ issues related to the generation and supply of electricity and water, and
- ✓ issues related to the Jammu and Kashmir State Financial Corporation. These Committees must submit their reports within six months to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, who must act on these recommendations within 30 days.
- The Legislative Council of the state of Jammu and Kashmir will be abolished. Upon dissolution, all Bills pending in the Council will lapse.

48. The National Digital Health Blueprint has been prepared by which of the following?

- A. Health Ministry
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. UNICEF
- D. WHO

Answer: A

Explanation

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare released the National Digital Health Blueprint (NDHB) report in the public domain for inputs.
- The vision of NDHB is to create a National Digital Health Eco-system that supports Universal Health Coverage in an efficient, accessible, inclusive, affordable, timely and safe manner, through provision of a wide-range of data, information and infrastructure services, duly leveraging open, interoperable, standards-based digital systems, and ensuring the security, confidentiality and privacy of health related personal information.

49. Which of the following is correct about the Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL)?

1. It is made up of participation of three Central Public Sector Enterprises namely, National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Ltd.(HCL) and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd. (MECL)
2. The equity participation between NALCO, HCL and MECL is in the ratio of 40:30:30

Which of the following is/are correct in this context?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- A joint venture company namely Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) is to be set up with the participation of three Central Public Sector Enterprises namely, National Aluminium Company Ltd.(NALCO), Hindustan Copper Ltd.
- (HCL) and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd. (MECL). The new company will help in building partnerships with other mineral rich countries like Australia and those in Africa and South America, where Indian expertise in exploration and mineral processing will be mutually beneficial bringing about new economic opportunities.
- The equity participation between NALCO, HCL and MECL is in the ratio of 40:30:30.

50. Which of the following are incorrect about India and British models of political system?

1. The British system is based on the doctrine of the sovereignty of Parliament unlike India
2. In both India and Britain, the PM may belong to either House of the Parliament

Which of the following is/are correct in this context?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

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. 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.

51. Which of the following is true with regard to Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019?

1. The Bill seeks to establish an independent body called the Arbitration Council of India.
2. The Bill designates only Supreme Court as arbitral institutions, which parties can approach for the appointment of arbitrators
3. The Amendment Act puts a time restriction of 12 months for international commercial arbitrations.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only

D. All of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- Arbitration Council of India: The Amendment Act seeks to establish an independent body called the Arbitration Council of India (ACI) for the promotion of arbitration, mediation, conciliation and other alternative dispute redressal mechanisms. Its functions include:
 1. framing policies for grading arbitral institutions and accrediting arbitrators,
 2. making policies for the establishment, operation and maintenance of uniform professional standards for all alternate dispute redressal matters, and
 3. maintaining a depository of arbitral awards (judgments) made in India and abroad.
- Under the Amendment Act, the Supreme Court and High Courts may now designate arbitral institutions, which parties can approach for the appointment of arbitrators. For international commercial arbitration, appointments will be made by the institution designated by the Supreme Court. For domestic arbitration, appointments will be made by the institution designated by the concerned High Court.
- Under the 1996 Act, arbitral tribunals are required to make their award within a period of 12 months for all arbitration proceedings. The 2019 Amendment seeks to remove this time restriction for international commercial arbitrations. It adds that tribunals must endeavour to dispose off international arbitration matters within 12 months.

52. Which of the following is correct about the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019?

1. The Act defines golden hour as the time period of up to two hours following a traumatic injury, during which the likelihood of preventing death through prompt medical care is the highest.
2. The Amendment provides for a National Road Safety Board to be created by Parliament as a statutory body.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Motor Vehicles Amendment Act 2019 defines golden hour as the time period of up to one hour following a traumatic injury, during which the likelihood of preventing death through prompt medical care is the highest.
- The central government will develop a scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims during golden hour.

- The Act provides for a National Road Safety Board, to be created by the central government through a notification.
- The Board will advise the central and state governments on all aspects of road safety and traffic management including:
 1. standards of motor vehicles,
 2. registration and licensing of vehicles,
 3. standards for road safety, and
 4. promotion of new vehicle technology.

53. The Rashtriya Poshan Abhiyaan to address malnutrition challenges is held under which of the following?

- A. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- B. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, food and Public Distribution
- C. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- D. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Answer: C

Explanation

- Under Poshan Abhiyaan, this September is being celebrated as the Poshan Maah across country to address the malnutritional challenges. Rastriya Poshan Maah or National Nutrition Month is being launched across the country with Women & Child Development as the nodal Department.
- The month-long intensive event plans to bring about convergence amongst various ministries/ departments to rally people's opinion and participation to reduce and finally eliminate malnutrition from the country.
- This year Poshan Maah focuses on five critical components -First 1000 days of the Child, Anaemia, Diarrhoea, Hand Wash & Sanitation and Poshtik Aahar (wholesome meal with diet diversity)', called Paanch Sutras'.

54. Which of the following is correct about the Indian Skill Development Services?

1. It is a Group A' service under the Central government selected for the first time in 2019
2. The ISDS cadre is selected through a Skills Services examination conducted by the UPSC

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- The fresh batch of the newest central government services, the Indian Skill Development Services commenced their training program at the Administrative Training Institute (ATI), Mysuru in September 2019. This service has been specially created for the Training Directorate of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and is a Group A' service. These is the first batch which is joining the ISDS cadre from the Indian Engineering Service Examination conducted by UPSC.
- The induction of young talent as ISDS officers is one of the special initiatives taken by the MSDE and the government as a whole, to significantly strengthen the skill development eco-system in the country. This is the first batch from Indian Engineering Services to be included in MSDE.

55. Which of the following are correct about the Law Commission Report on Miscarriage of Justice?

1. The LCI recommended wrongful conviction to be the standard of miscarriage of justice.
2. LCI recommended both monetary and non-monetary compensation for the victims.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- In a 2017 case, the Delhi High Court specifically called for the Law Commission of India to undertake a comprehensive examination of issue of relief and rehabilitation to victims of wrongful prosecution, and incarceration.
- The LCI elaborates in the report that miscarriage of justice is what arises from misconception of law, irregularity of procedure, neglect of proper precaution leading to apparent harshness of treatment or some underserved hardship to individuals.
- The LCI writes that in the Indian context, the standard of wrongful prosecution should be the most effective for identifying the cases of miscarriage of justice as it directly targets procedural and other police and prosecutorial misconducts, which appears to be one of the primary sources of factual errors that results in innocent people being held guilty of offences they did not commit.

56. Which of the following is true with regard to drone laws in India?

1. The guidelines are made by the Ministry of Home Affairs for the regulation of drones in India.
2. The drones are designated into categories as per their weight into Nano, Micro and Small and above.
3. All categories of drones require a Unique Identification Number and Unique Operators' Permit to be flown.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. All 2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation

- The general guidelines regarding drones in India are issued by the civil aviation regulator, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- DGCA has identified multiple categories of drones, which can be broadly classified as Nano (weighing up to 250 g), Micro (more than 250 g but less than 2 kg) and Small and above (weighing 2 kg or more). Every drone that is bigger than a Nano must obtain a unique identification number (UIN) from the aviation regulator (similar to the registration number for a car).
- Nano' drones will be able to operate freely, without any registration or permit, but their operations will be restricted to 50 ft above the ground, and to uncontrolled airspaces and enclosed premises.
- All categories of drones must be flown in the visual line of sight, and only during daytime. The regulator listed 12 categories of 'no-drone zones'.

57. Which of the following is correct about the Jammu and Kashmir's Public Safety Act?

1. It allows for preventive detention law through an administrative order passed either by Divisional Commissioner or the District Magistrate.
2. The detainee under the PSA needs to be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours of the detention

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978 is a preventive detention law, under which a person is taken into custody to prevent him or her from acting in any manner that is prejudicial to the security of the state or the maintenance of the public order||. It is very similar to the National Security Act that is used by other state governments for preventive detention.
- It comes into force by an administrative order passed either by Divisional Commissioner or the District Magistrate, and not by an detention order by police based on specific allegations or for specific violation of laws.

- A person who is detained under the PSA need not be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours of the detention.
- The detained person does not have the right to move a bail application before a criminal court, and cannot engage any lawyer to represent him or her before the detaining authority. Detention can be up to two years.

58. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The origin of the Indian railway budget was the result of a report by British politician William Ackworth in 1924.
2. While the Union budget is a Constitutional requirement, there is no such necessity attached with the Railways budget.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both of the above
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- The origin of the railway budget goes back to a report by British politician William Ackworth in 1924.
- He recommended a separate railway budget, given that most of the infrastructure spending by the British government went towards building railway lines. While the Union budget is a Constitutional requirement and is presented under Article 112 of the Indian Constitution, which mandates an annual financial statement, the Constitution does not talk about the railway budget in particular

59. Which of the following are not true about Sugamaya Pustakalaya?

1. It is an online library that makes accessible content available to print-disabled people.
2. It has been created by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in collaboration with member organizations of Daisy Forum of India and powered by TCS Access.
3. The online library integrates libraries across India and the globe across diverse subjects and languages.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- Sugamaya Pustakalaya is an online library that makes accessible content available to print-disabled people.
- The library houses publications across diverse subjects and languages and multiple accessible formats. It has been created by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with member organizations of Daisy Forum of India and powered by TCS Access.
- Books are available in Accessible formats for people with visual impairment and other print disabilities.
- Over 2 lakhs books in diverse languages. Integrating libraries across India and the Globe, including the largest international library, Book share are available.

60. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The calling attention motion is an Indian innovation in the parliamentary procedure
 2. The use of adjournment motion is available only to Lok Sabha and not Rajya Sabha
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- Like the zero hour, calling attention motion is also an Indian innovation in the parliamentary procedure and has been in existence since 1954. It is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure. It is Rule 197 in Lok Sabha and Rule 180 in Rajya Sabha.
- Adjournment Motion is introduced in the Parliament to draw attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance, and needs the support of 50 members to be admitted. As it interrupts the normal business of the House, it is regarded as an extraordinary device.
- It involves an element of censure against the government and hence Rajya Sabha is not permitted to make use of this device. The discussion on an adjournment motion should last for not less than two hours and thirty minutes.

61. Which of the following is true with regard to All India Survey on Higher Education 2018-19?

1. The Survey was conducted under the premise of NITI Aayog
2. The Survey Covered all Higher education institutions including those offering Diplomas

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only

- C. 1 and 2 only
D. All

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Union Ministry for Human Resource Development has released AISHE (2018-19). The MHRD collects online information on Universities, Colleges and other Higher Educational Institutions under the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), with its first publication in 2011.
- The survey covers all institutes of higher education in India, and the institutes are categorised in 3 broad categories such as College, University and Stand-alone institutes (offering Paramedical, Diploma, Hotel Management and Catering courses).
- As per the report, UP and Karnataka have more female enrolment in higher education. Also, the ratio of male students is higher than females on every level except certificate, Post Graduate and M.Phil. The higher rate of male enrolment than female enrolment is witnessed at all levels in many states.

62. Which of the following is correct about the National Education Alliance for Technology (NEAT)?

1. It is a PPP Scheme under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
2. It promotes use of technology for better learning outcomes in school education.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- Ministry of Human Resource Development has announced a new PPP Scheme, National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) for using technology for better learning outcomes in Higher Education.
- The objective is to use Artificial Intelligence to make learning more personalised and customised as per the requirements of the learner. This requires development of technologies in Adaptive Learning to address the diversity of learners.

63. Which of the following statements are correct about the Emergency Response Support System?

1. The ERSS is one of the key projects of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs under Nirbhaya Fund.
2. It provides a single emergency number (112), computer aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distressed person.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both of the above
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah launched three citizen centric services of the Chandigarh Police on 20th September including the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS - Dial 112), E-Beat Book System and the E-Saathi App.
- ERSS is one of the key projects of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs under Nirbhaya Fund. It has been designed to play a pivotal role in mitigation or preventing escalation of crime, especially against women and children.
- ERSS provides a single emergency number (112), computer aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distress. Citizens can send their emergency information through call, sms, email and through the 112 India mobile app

64. Which of the following are not true about Zonal Councils?

1. All Zonal and North Eastern Councils were set up under the aegis of the State Reorganisation Act 1956.
2. The Prime Minister is the de-facto Chairman of the Zonal Councils.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- The idea of creation of Zonal Councils was mooted by the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1956 when during the course of debate on the report of the States Reorganisation Commission, he suggested that the States proposed to be reorganised may be grouped into four or five zones having an Advisory Council 'to develop the habit of cooperative working among these States. In the light of the vision of Pandit Nehru, five Zonal Councils were set up vide Part-III of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.
- The North Eastern States i.e.
 - ✓ Assam
 - ✓ Arunachal Pradesh

✓ Manipur

✓ Tripura

✓ Mizoram

✓ Meghalaya and

✓ Nagaland are not included in the Zonal Councils and their special problems are looked after by the North Eastern Council, set up under the North Eastern Council Act, 1972.

- The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of each of these Councils. The Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone act as Vice-Chairman of the Zonal Council for that zone by rotation, each holding office for a period of one year at a time.

65. Which of the following statements are correct about Delimitation Commission?

1. The Delimitation Commission of India is a statutory body.
2. Its orders have the force of law and cannot be challenged in any Court.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Delimitation Commission of India is a statutory (and not a constitutional) body. It is established by the Central Government under the provisions of a law enacted by the Parliament. Its function is to demarcate the boundaries of the Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in the country.
- The Commission is a powerful body. Its orders have the force of law and cannot be challenged in any Court. They (orders) come into force on a date specified by the President of India. They are laid before the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assembly concerned. But, modifications are not permissible therein by them.

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2. The Prime Minister is the de-facto Chairman of the Zonal Councils.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- The idea of creation of Zonal Councils was mooted by the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1956 when during the course of debate on the report of the States Reorganisation Commission, he suggested that the States proposed to be reorganised may be grouped into four or five zones having an Advisory Council 'to develop the habit of cooperative working' among these States.
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 1. Assam
 2. Arunachal Pradesh

3. Manipur

4. Tripura

5. Mizoram

6. Meghalaya and

7. Nagaland are not included in the Zonal Councils and their special problems are looked after by the North Eastern Council, set up under the North Eastern Council Act, 1972.

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Explanation

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71. Which of the following release the Global Competitiveness Index Report?

- A. International Monetary Fund
- B. World Economic Forum
- C. World Bank
- D. United Nations Development Programme

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Global Competitiveness Index (GCI), which was launched in 1979 by World Economic Forum, maps the competitiveness landscape of 141 economies through 103 indicators organised into 12 pillars.
- Singapore has become the world's most competitive economy in 2019, pushing the U.S. to the second place. Hong Kong SAR is ranked 3rd, Netherlands is 4th and Switzerland is ranked 5th.
- India, which was ranked 58th in the annual Global Competitiveness Index compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF), is among the worst-performing BRICS nations along with Brazil (ranked even lower than India at 71st this year).

72. Which of the following are features of a federal polity?

1. Written Constitution
2. Integrated Judiciary
3. Rigid Constitution
4. Bicameral Legislature

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1, 3 and 4
- B. 1, 2 and 3
- C. 1 and 4
- D. All of the above

Answer: A

Explanation: The following are regarded as features of a federal polity:

- Dual Government (that is, national government and regional government); Written, supreme and rigid Constitution; Independent judiciary; division of powers; bicameral legislature

73. Which of the following are impacts of a National emergency on centre-state relations?

1. During a national emergency, the executive power of the Centre extends to directing any state regarding the manner in which its executive power is to be exercised
2. Parliament becomes empowered to make laws on any subject mentioned in the State List as the state's legislature is suspended
3. The laws made by Parliament on the state subjects during a National Emergency become inoperative a year after the emergency has ceased to operate

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. 1 and 2
- C. 1 and 3

D. All of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- During a national emergency, the executive power of the Centre extends to directing any state regarding the manner in which its executive power is to be exercised. In normal times, the Centre can give executive directions to a state only on certain specified matters.
- During a national emergency, the Parliament becomes empowered to make laws on any subject mentioned in the State List. Although the legislative power of a state legislature is not suspended, it becomes subject to the overriding power of the Parliament.
- The laws made by Parliament on the state subjects during a National Emergency become inoperative six months after the emergency has ceased to operate

74. Which of the following is correct about the Youth Co: Lab launched to encourage youth entrepreneurship and innovation?

1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in collaboration with UNDP
2. It is targeting youth in the age group of 18-29 years of age working on projects on SDGs

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- In a latest initiative to recognize young people as critical drivers of sustainable development, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India on Friday launched Youth Co:Lab which aims at accelerating social entrepreneurship and innovation in young India from 18-29 years of age.
- AIM and UNDP, as part of UNSDF signed between NITI Aayog and UN India, are collaborating to spread awareness about different issues pertaining to youth, the future of work and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through Youth Co:Lab.
- The first phase of Youth Co:Lab will focus on six SDGs: SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

75. Which of the following committees were constituted for the purpose of jail reforms?

1. Mulla Committee

2. Krishna Iyer Committee
3. AJ Paulraj Committee
4. Amitava Roy Committee

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 4
- C. 1, 2 and 4
- D. All of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Supreme Court in 2018 constituted a three-member committee, headed by its former judge Justice Amitava Roy, to look into jail reforms across the country and suggest measures to deal with them.
- A bench headed by Justice Madan B Lokur said the panel will look into various matters including overcrowding in prisons and the issues concerning women prisoners.
- The bench was hearing a matter relating to inhuman conditions in 1,382 prisons across India.
- But this is not the first time that such a body is being set up, examples being the Justice A.N. Mulla committee and the Justice Krishna Iyer committee on women prisoners (both in the 1980s).

76. Fundamental Duties, enshrined in Indian constitution are inspired by the constitution of

- A. Japan
- B. USA
- C. Canada
- D. Erstwhile USSR

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Fundamental Duties of citizens were added to the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment in 1976, upon the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee that was constituted by the government earlier that year.
- Fundamental duties are **applicable only to citizens** and not to the aliens.
- India borrowed the concept of Fundamental Duties from erstwhile **USSR**.
- The inclusion of Fundamental Duties brought our Constitution in line with article 29 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with provisions in several modern Constitutions of other countries

77. Constituent Assembly was constituted in 1946 according to

- A. Wavell Plan
- B. Cabinet Mission Plan
- C. August Offer
- D. Cripps Plan

Answer: B

Explanation: The Constituent Assembly was constituted in November 1946 under the scheme formulated by the Cabinet Mission Plan.

- The total strength of the Constituent Assembly was to be 389.
- Of these, 296 seats were to be allotted to British India and 93 seats to the Princely States.
- Out of 296 seats allotted to the British India, 292 members were to be drawn from the eleven governors' provinces and four from the four chief commissioners' provinces, one from each.
- Each province and princely state (or group of states in case of small states) were to be allotted seats in proportion to their respective population.
- Seats allocated to each British province were to be divided among the three principal communities—Muslims, Sikhs and general (all except Muslims and Sikhs), in proportion to their population.
- The representatives of each community were to be elected by members of that community in the provincial legislative assembly
- The representatives of princely states were to be nominated by the heads of the princely states.

78. There are various ways of acquiring citizenship of India. Choose the correct statement(s).

1. A person who is born in India automatically acquires Indian citizenship
2. If India incorporates a foreign territory in herself, persons living in that territory become citizens of India automatically

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation: As per the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955

By Birth

- A person born in India on or after 26th January 1950 but before 1st July, 1987 is citizen of India by birth irrespective of the nationality of his parents.

- A person born in India on or after 1st July, 1987 but before 3rd December, 2004 is considered citizen of India by birth if either of his parents is a citizen of India at the time of his birth.
- A person born in India on or after 3rd December, 2004 is considered citizen of India by birth **if both the parents are citizens of India or one of the parents is a citizen of India and the other is not an illegal migrant** at the time of his birth.
- If any foreign territory becomes a part of India, the Government of India specifies the persons who among the people of the territory shall be the citizens of India.

79. Which kind of 'liberty', does, Preamble of constitution of India, not, explicitly mention?

- A. Thought
- B. Faith
- C. Practice
- D. Worship

Answer: C

Explanation: Preamble

- "We, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN **SOCIALIST SECULAR** DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:
- JUSTICE, Social, Economic and Political;
- LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;
- EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all;
- FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity **and integrity** of the Nation;
- IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION".
- LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship

80. The six rights under Article 19 are available to

1. Citizens
2. Foreigners
3. Shareholders of a company
4. Corporations

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1 and 2 only

Answer: A

Explanation: Article 19 guarantees to all citizens the six rights. These are:

1. Right to freedom of speech and expression.
 2. Right to assemble peaceably and without arms.
 3. Right to form associations or unions or co-operative societies.
 4. Right to move freely throughout the territory of India.
 5. Right to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India.
 6. Right to practice any profession or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.
- A seventh right, the right to acquire, hold and dispose of property was deleted by the 44th Amendment Act of 1978.
 - These six rights are **protected against only state action and not private individuals**.
 - Moreover, these rights are **available only to the citizens and to shareholders of a company but not to foreigners or legal persons like companies or corporations, etc.**
 - The **State can impose 'reasonable' restrictions on the enjoyment of these six rights only on the grounds mentioned in the Article 19 itself and not on any other grounds.**

81. Which of the following is correct in context of composition of Electoral College of Vice President?

- A. Elected Members of Parliament
- B. All Members of Parliament
- C. All members of Rajya Sabha
- D. Elected MPs and MLAs

Answer: A

Explanation: The Electoral College for Vice President is composed of all MPs- elected and nominated. MLAs don't participate in this election.

82. The Whatsapp spyware that recently compromised privacy of 121 individuals in India is associated with which country as the site of its developer?

- A. China
- B. Pakistan
- C. Russia
- D. Israel

Answer: D

Explanation

- Pegasus spyware, which was used to target human rights activists, lawyers and journalists in India and around the world, has been in focus as details of the attack have emerged over the last few days.

- The tool in question was able to hack into any phone simply through a missed call predominantly via Whats App, giving the attackers unfettered access to the device, including location data, emails, passwords and even the ability to turn on its mic and camera.
- Face book-owned messaging company has filed a lawsuit against NSO Group, an Israeli spyware developer that sells Pegasus.

83. Which of the following is correct about the National Health Stack?

1. It has been unveiled by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
2. It will serve work as a single source of health data for the nation

Select the correct option

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- Unveiled by the NITI Aayog last year, NHS is digital infrastructure built with the aim of making the health insurance system more transparent and robust, while factoring in the uniqueness of India's health sector, and the political realities of federalism.
- There are five components of NHS:
 - ✓ An electronic national health registry that would serve as a single source of health data for the nation; a coverage and claims platform that would serve as the building blocks for large health protection schemes, allow for the horizontal and vertical expansion of schemes like Ayushman Bharat by states, and enable a robust system of fraud detection;
 - ✓ a federated personal health records (PHR) framework that would serve the twin purposes of access to their own health data by patients, and the availability of health data for medical research, which is critical for advancing the understanding of human health; a national health analytics platform that would provide a holistic view combining information on multiple health initiatives, and feed into smart policymaking, for instance, through improved predictive analytics;
 - ✓ and other horizontal components including a unique digital health ID, health data dictionaries and supply chain management for drugs, payment gateways, etc., shared across all health programmes.

84. The regions of which of the following North Eastern States are seen as a part of Greater Nagaland?

1. Manipur
2. Mizoram
3. Arunachal Pradesh
4. Assam

Select the correct option

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer: D

Explanation

- Nagas are spread over Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur in India besides in parts of Myanmar. Ethnicity and tribal politics are deeply rooted in the region which have in some ways complicated the political and social life of people at large.
- The Naga peace talks reached their deadline on October 31st which a plan for a framework for building peace in the region.
- The Nagas are not a single tribe, but an ethnic community that comprises several tribes who live in the state of Nagaland and its neighbourhood.
- One key demand of Naga groups has been a Greater Nagalim that would cover not only the state of Nagaland but parts of neighbouring states, and even of Myanmar.

85. Which of the following is correct about the Joint Committee on Office of Profit?

1. It consists of 15 members.
2. Its according to the principle of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote
3. It has duration of one year

Select the correct option

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Joint Committee on Office of Profit is constituted in pursuance of a Government motion adopted by Lok Sabha and concurred in by Rajya Sabha. It consists of 15 members. Ten members are elected from Lok Sabha and five members from Rajya Sabha, who are elected from amongst the members of the respective Houses according to the principle of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote.
- The Committee is constituted for the duration of each Lok Sabha.

- The main functions of the Committee are to examine the composition and character of the Committees appointed by the Central and State Governments and to recommend what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament under article 102 of the Constitution.
- The Reports of the Committee are presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha.

86. Which of the following cases made the decision of Presiding officer regarding disqualification on ground of defection subject to judicial review?

- A. S.R. Bommai case
- B. Kihoto Hollohan case
- C. Raj Narain case
- D. Ravi Naik case

Answer: B

Explanation: The anti-defection law as made by the 52nd amendment in 1985 initially stated that the decision of the Presiding Officer is not subject to judicial review. This condition was struck down by the Supreme Court in (Kihoto Hallahan case) 1992, thereby allowing appeals against the Presiding Officer's decision in the High Court and Supreme Court

87. Consider the following statements about Digilocker:

1. It is linked to the Aadhar number of the user.
2. The e-Sign facility is also provided under it and it can be used to digitally sign e- documents.
3. Digital Locker has an initial storage of 100MB in the first phase.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

Answer: C

Explanation: Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is incorrect. DigiLocker offers a dedicated personal storage space, linked to each resident's Aadhaar number.

- DigiLocker can be used to securely store e-documents as well as store Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) link of e-documents issued by various issuer departments.
- The e-Sign facility provided as part of DigiLocker system can be used to digitally sign e-documents.
- The DigiLocker can be accessible via web portal or mobile application. Digital Locker will have an initial storage of 10MB in the first phase. It is expected to be stretched to 1 GB in its next version.

88. Which of the following statements is correct about the seat of the Supreme Court?

- A. Constitution has left it up to the Chief Justice of India to decide.
- B. Constitution has left it up to the President to decide.
- C. Constitution has left it up to the Parliament to decide.
- D. Constitution has declared Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court.

Answer: D

Explanation: The Constitution declares Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court. But, it also authorises the chief justice of India 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. This provision is only optional and not compulsory. This 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.

89. The judiciary is empowered to issue various writs. Consider the following statements in this regard and mark the correct ones

- 1. Supreme Court has original jurisdiction to issue writs for the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights.
- 2. Writ jurisdiction of high court is wider than that of the Supreme Court.

Select the correct option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both of the above
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Supreme Court is empowered to issue writs including habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo-warranto and certiorari for the enforcement of the fundamental rights of an aggrieved citizen. In this regard, the Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in the sense that an aggrieved citizen can directly go to the Supreme Court, not necessarily by way of appeal. However, the writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is not exclusive.
- The Supreme Court can issue writs only for the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights and not for other purposes. The high court, on the other hand, can issue writs not only for the enforcement of the fundamental rights but also for other purposes. It means that the writ jurisdiction of the high court is wider than that of the Supreme Court.

90. Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi judicial body. Which of the following statements are correct about it.

- 1. It is constituted by the President every fifth year and it consists of total of 5 members.

2. The chairman should be an ex Chief Justice of India.
3. Recommendations made by the Commission are only of advisory nature and not binding on the government.

Choose the correct option

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

Answer: C

Explanation: Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Statement 2 is incorrect. Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi judicial body. It is constituted by the President every fifth year and it consists of total of 5 members. The chairman should be a person having experience in public affairs and the four other members should be selected from amongst the following:

1. A judge of high court or one qualified to be appointed as one.
2. A person who has specialised knowledge of finance and accounts of the government.
3. A person who has wide experience in financial matters and in administration.
4. A person who has special knowledge of economics.

The recommendations made by the Finance Commission are only of advisory nature and hence, not binding on the government. It is up to the Union government to implement its recommendations on granting money to the states.

91. Who has released the report 'Health Systems for a New India:

Building Blocks—Potential Pathways to Reforms'?

- A. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- B. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Answer: C

Explanation

- NITI Aayog released the report on 'Health Systems for a New India: Building Blocks—Potential Pathways to Reforms'. Officials from NITI Aayog, policymakers, and representatives from national and international academia and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation were also present for the event.
- Over the last few years, India has embarked on a journey towards providing improved access to high-quality, affordable healthcare for the most unreached and vulnerable population of the country. Many indicators, however, continue to show significant scope for improvement. The report is based on the

data collected and provided by ACCESS Health International for the public sector and by PWC India for private sector.

- By placing health at the centre-stage of the policy narrative, this report charts a clear roadmap for the complete transformation of India's health system. It focuses on breaking silos in the health space and removing fragmentation between various initiatives, ensuring greater convergence between ministries as well as the Centre and states, as already initiated under Ayushman Bharat.
- The report identified 5 focus areas of future health system, deliver on unfinished Public health agenda, change health financing away from out of pocket so spend into large insurers, integrate service delivery vertically and horizontally, empower citizens to become better buyers of health, harness the power of digital health.

92.The Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh has been launched by?

- A. Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare
- B. Ministry of Food Processing
- C. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- D. NITI Aayog

Answer: C

Explanation: The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh along with Bill and Melinda Gates foundation have launched the Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (BPKK) which will be a repository of diverse crops across 128 agro-climatic zones in India for better nutritional outcomes.

93.Which of the following members participate in the election process of the President?

1. The nominated members of both of Houses of Parliament.
2. The elected members of the state legislative councils.
3. The elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.

Select the correct option

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 3 only

Answer: B

Explanation: The President is elected not directly by the people but by members of Electoral College consisting of:

1. the elected members of both the Houses of Parliament;
2. the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states; and

3. the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.

Thus, the nominated members of both of Houses of Parliament, the nominated members of the state legislative assemblies, the members (both elected and nominated) of the state legislative councils (in case of the bicameral legislature) and the nominated members of the Legislative Assemblies of Delhi and Puducherry do not participate in the election of the President.

94. Consider the following statements about the Vice President of India

1. Oath is administered by the President.
2. He can resign by addressing the resignation letter to the Chief Justice of India.
3. He can be removed by a resolution passed by the Rajya Sabha which requires a special majority.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- Statement 1 is correct. Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. Oath to the Vice-President is administered by the President or some person appointed in that behalf by him.
- He can resign by addressing the resignation letter to the President and not to the Chief Justice of India. He can be removed by a resolution of the Rajya Sabha passed by an absolute majority (ie, a majority of the total members of the House) and agreed to by the Lok Sabha. But, no such resolution can be moved unless at least 14 days' advance notice has been given. Notably, no ground has been mentioned in the Constitution for his removal.

95. Article 123 of the Constitution describes the ordinance making powers of the President. Consider the following statements regarding the same

1. The President's satisfaction is justiciable on the ground of malafide.
2. The maximum life of an ordinance can be six months in case of non-approval by the Parliament.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- Only Statement 1 is correct. Statement 2 is incorrect.
- The President can make an ordinance only when he is satisfied that the circumstances exist that render it necessary for him to take immediate action. The Supreme Court has held that the President's satisfaction can be questioned in a court on the ground of malafide. Thus, the President's satisfaction is justiciable on the ground of malafide.
- The maximum life of an ordinance can be six months and six weeks in case of non approval by the Parliament. Six months being the maximum gap between the two sessions of Parliament and six weeks are given to the house to pass the ordinance after it is summoned.

96. Which of the following is/are correct about Cabinet Committees?

1. They are extra-constitutional bodies
2. They are provided in the Rules of Business
3. They are set up by the PM and non-Cabinet ministers are debarred from their membership

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 Only
- B. 1 and 2 Only
- C. 1 and 3 Only
- D. All of the Above

Answer: B

Explanation: The following are the features of Cabinet Committees:

- They are extra-constitutional in emergence. In other words, they are not mentioned in the Constitution. However, the Rules of Business provide for their establishment.
- They are of two types—standing and Ad hoc. The former are of a permanent nature while the latter are of a temporary nature. The ad hoc committees are constituted from time to time to deal with special problems. They are disbanded after their task is completed.
- They are set up by the Prime Minister according to the exigencies of the time and requirements of the situation. Hence, their number, nomenclature, and composition vary from time to time.
- Their membership varies from three to eight. They usually include only Cabinet Ministers. However, the non-cabinet Ministers are not debarred from their membership.
- They not only include the Ministers in charge of subjects covered by them but also include other senior Ministers.
- They are mostly headed by the Prime Minister. Sometimes other Cabinet Ministers, particularly the Home Minister or the Finance Minister, also acts as their Chairman. But, in case the Prime Minister is a member of a committee, he invariably presides over it.

- They not only sort out issues and formulate proposals for the consideration of the Cabinet, but also take decisions. However, the Cabinet can review their decisions.
- They are an organizational device to reduce the enormous workload of the Cabinet. They also facilitate in-depth examination of policy issues and effective coordination. They are based on the principles of division of labour and effective delegation.

97. Article 137 of the Indian Constitution provides for which of the following?

- A. Special Leave to Petition
- B. Review Jurisdiction of Supreme Court
- C. Original Jurisdiction of Supreme Court
- D. Judicial Review

Answer: B

Explanation

- Article 137 of the Constitution of India, 1950, provides that subject to provisions of any law and rules made under Article 145, the Supreme Court has the power to review any judgment pronounced or order made by it.
- Under Supreme Court Rules, 1966 such a petition is to be filed within thirty days from the date of judgment or order and as far as practicable; it is to be circulated, without oral arguments, to the same Bench of Judges who delivered the judgment or order sought to be reviewed.
- The word "Review" in legal parlance connotes a judicial re-examination of the case. Therefore, in order to rectify an error and prevent the gross miscarriage of justice, a provision for review has been laid down.
- Maulana Syed Ashhad Rashidi, a legal heir of original Ayodhya land dispute litigant, filed a review petition in the Supreme Court against its ruling in favour of the Ram temple at the disputed site

98. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the International UDAN Scheme?

1. The Scheme seeks to connect smaller Indian cities with their counter-parts in the rest of the world
2. Unlike the domestic Scheme, only the Central government will provide financial support for the International UDAN

Select the Correct Option

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation

- Under International UDAN, the plan is to connect India's smaller cities directly to some key foreign destinations in the neighbourhood. Such direct air connectivity, it is hoped, would promote the development of the city and the State by wooing tourists and businesspeople to travel via smaller towns, instead of their flying through the metros.
- The scheme seeks to make use of the open skies policy that India has with other Asian countries that allows direct and unlimited flights to and from these nations to 18 Indian destinations.
- Unlike in domestic UDAN where both the Centre and the State government share the subsidy, it is only the State government that will provide the financial support for flights under international UDAN. But like the domestic UDAN, the financial support and flying exclusivity on the route will be for three years.
- Only Indian carriers can participate in the international UDAN scheme, and only aircraft with capacity of 70 seats or more can fly the foreign routes.

99. Which of the following statements are correct about the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) test?

1. It is an initiative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
2. The test aims to produce comparable data on education for only developing countries
3. PISA tests the students on their memory for analysis of education systems

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- Initiated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), an intergovernmental economic organisation with 36 member countries, the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a study done to produce comparable data on education policy and outcomes across countries.
- The study, which began in the year 2000, conducts a test evaluating 15-year-olds in member and non-member countries to assess the quality and inclusivity of school systems in these countries.
- The PISA test is held every three years and the next test will be held in 2021, in which students from government schools in Chandigarh will represent India.
- There is no hard and fast rule on who can apply to take the test and who cannot. Countries usually volunteer to take the test.

- The aim of the test is not to rank the countries which volunteer to participate in the evaluation, but to give a comprehensive analysis of how education systems are working in terms of preparing its students for higher education and subsequent employment.
- Unlike conventional tests and exams, the PISA test does not assess students on their memory, but attempts to evaluate whether students can apply the knowledge they have gained through primary and secondary education.
- Apart from subjects like math, reading comprehension and science; since 2015 the test also includes an optional section on innovative subjects such as collaborative problem-solving and financial literacy.

100. Which of the following statements are correct about Fundamental Duties?

1. Fundamental Duties were incorporated in Part IV-A of the Constitution by the Constitution 42nd Amendment Act, 1976
2. Presently they are 10 Fundamental Duties enshrined in the Indian Constitution
3. The concept of Fundamental Duties is taken from the Constitution of Russia

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Fundamental Duties were incorporated in Part IV-A of the Constitution by the Constitution 42nd Amendment Act, 1976, during Emergency under Indira Gandhi's government. Today, there are 11 Fundamental Duties described under Article 51-A, of which 10 was introduced by the 42nd Amendment and the 11th was added by the 86th Amendment in 2002, during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government.
- These are statutory duties, not enforceable by law, but a court may take them into account while adjudicating on a matter.
- The idea behind their incorporation was to emphasise the obligation of the citizen in exchange for the Fundamental Rights that he or she enjoys. The concept of Fundamental Duties is taken from the Constitution of Russia.
- In his Constitution Day address to a Joint Session of Parliament, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed the importance of constitutional duties, while making a distinction between seva (service) and these duties.
- On the same occasion, President Ram Nath stressed the difference between rights and duties, while Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu called for fundamental duties to be included in the school curriculum and the list of the duties to be displayed at educational institutions and at other public places.

101. Which of the following is correct about the Citizenship Amendment Bill 2019?

1. It changes grounds for cancellation of OCI to include violation of Constitution
2. It is not applicable in the tribal areas of 6th Schedule

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- The CAB 2019 seeks to amend the **Citizenship Act of 1955** to make it easier to grant Indian Citizenship to persons belonging to **Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities** who have migrated to India after facing persecution on grounds of religion in **Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh**, if they fulfill conditions for grant of citizenship.
- However, the Bill adds that the provisions on citizenship for illegal migrants will not apply to the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, or Tripura, as included in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution.
- When the Bill was passed in Lok Sabha, **Section 7D** is sought to be amended to **limit the disqualification to violations of the Citizenship Act or of any other law so notified by the central government.**

102. Which of the following statements is correct?

1. An Additional Grant is granted when the amount authorised by the Parliament through the appropriation act for a particular service for the current financial year is found to be insufficient for that year.
2. Supplementary Grant is granted for a special purpose and forms no part of the current service of any financial year.

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation

- **Supplementary** Grant is granted when the amount authorised by the Parliament through the appropriation act for a particular service for the current financial year is found to be insufficient for that year.
- **Additional** Grant is granted when a need has arisen during the current financial year for additional expenditure upon some new service not contemplated in the budget for that year.
- **Exceptional** Grant is granted for a special purpose and forms no part of the current service of any financial year.

103. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana?

1. It is being run under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
2. It seeks to provide all senior citizens suffering from age-related disabilities with physical aids and assisted living devices

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation

- A Central Sector Scheme namely '**Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana**' (RVY) is being implemented by D/o Social Justice and Empowerment (M/o SJ&E) with an objective to provide to **senior citizens**, belonging to **BPL category** and suffering from age-related disabilities/ infirmities, with such physical aids and assisted living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions.
- The expenditure for implementation of the scheme is being met from the "Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund".
- The Scheme is being implemented by the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), a PSU under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

104. Which of the following are correct about the Surrogacy Act of 2019?

1. It allows only childless couple who have been married for 5 years eligible
2. A surrogate can be a close relative of the couple who is unmarried

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both of the above

D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- Surrogacy is permitted when it is: (i) for intending couples who suffer from proven infertility; (ii) altruistic; (iii) not for commercial purposes; (iv) not for producing children for sale, prostitution or other forms of exploitation; and (v) for any condition or disease specified through regulations. The intending couple should have a 'certificate of essentiality' and a 'certificate of eligibility' issued by the appropriate authority.
- A **certificate of essentiality** will be issued upon fulfillment of the following conditions: (i) a certificate of proven infertility of one or both members of the intending couple from a District Medical Board; (ii) an order of parentage and custody of the surrogate child passed by a Magistrate's court; and (iii) insurance coverage for a period of 16 months covering postpartum delivery complications for the surrogate.
- The **certificate of eligibility** to the intending couple is issued upon fulfillment of the following conditions: (i) the couple being Indian citizens and married for at least five years; (ii) between 23 to 50 years old (wife) and 26 to 55 years old (husband); (iii) they do not have any surviving child (biological, adopted or surrogate); this would not include a child who is mentally or physically challenged or suffers from life threatening disorder or fatal illness; and (iv) other conditions that may be specified by regulations.
- To obtain a certificate of eligibility from the appropriate authority, the surrogate mother has to be: (i) a close relative of the intending couple; (ii) a **married woman having a child of her own**; (iii) 25 to 35 years old; (iv) a surrogate only once in her lifetime; and (v) possess a certificate of medical and psychological fitness for surrogacy. Further, the surrogate mother cannot provide her own gametes for surrogacy.

105. The Logistics Support Agreement is being negotiated by India with which of the following countries?

- A. U.S.A
- B. Japan
- C. Australia
- D. United Kingdom

Answer: C

Explanation

- India and Australia have moved closer to closing in on the Logistics Support Agreement (LSA), as the Foreign and Defence Secretaries from both countries met in New Delhi recently.
- The dialogue comes ahead of Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison's scheduled January 13-16 trip to India, during which he will visit New Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru.
- The first such two-plus-two meeting happened in December 2017. The LSA will be one of the key agenda points during Prime Minister Morrison's visit.

- The Agreement will allow the two countries to use each other's military bases for logistics support, including food, water, and petroleum.

106. Which of the following is correct about the 20th Livestock census?

1. The enumeration of livestock was done in both rural and urban areas
2. For the first time the census was conducted online

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has released the 20th Livestock Census 2019. The livestock census is conducted across the country periodically since 1919.
- The census usually covers all domesticated animals and head counts of these animals are taken. So far, 19 Livestock Censuses were conducted in participation with State Governments and UT Administrations. The 20th Livestock Census was launched during the month of October, 2018. The enumeration was done in both rural and urban areas.
- Various species of animals (cattle, buffalo, mithun, yak, sheep, goat, pig, horse, pony, mule, donkey, camel, dog, rabbit and elephant)/poultry birds (fowl, duck and other poultry birds) possessed by the households, household enterprises/non-household enterprises were counted at that site.
- Another important feature of 20th Livestock Census is it has been designed to capture Breed-wise number of animals and poultry birds. For the first time, livestock data were collected online in 20th Livestock Census.

107. Which of the following is correct about the Hong Kong Convention?

1. It ensures that recycled ships do not pose risk to human health and safety or to the environment
2. The multilateral convention entered into force in 2009
3. India has signed but not ratified the convention

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Hong Kong International Convention for the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships, or Hong Kong Convention is a multilateral convention adopted in 2009, which has not entered into force. The conference that created the convention was attended by 63 countries, and overseen by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which is a specialist agency of the United Nations (U.N).
- The cabinet committee on economic affairs (CCEA) in November 2019 approved India's accession to the Hong Kong Convention on Hong Kong International Convention for Ship Recycling, which will help provide a boost to the ship-wrecking industry in India.
- The Parliament passed a landmark "The Recycling of Ships Bill 2019" for Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships in India. The existing Shipbreaking Code (revised), 2013 and the provisions of the Hong Kong Convention, 2009 are dovetailed in this Bill.
- The Bill, upon becoming Act, will ensure environment friendly recycling process of Ships and adequate safety of the yard workers.

108. Which of the following statements is/are correct with regard to financial committees of Parliament?

1. The Committee on Public Undertakings committee was created in 1964 on the recommendation of the Krishna Menon Committee
2. The PAC is the largest standing financial committee in the Parliament

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Committee on Public Undertakings committee was created in 1964 on the recommendation of the Krishna Menon Committee. Originally, it had 15 members (10 from the Lok Sabha and 5 from the Rajya Sabha). However, in 1974, its membership was raised to 22 (15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha).
- The members of this committee are elected by the Parliament every year from amongst its own members according to the principle of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote.
- The first Estimates Committee in the post-independence era was constituted in 1950 on the recommendation of John Mathai, the then finance minister. Originally, it had 25 members but in 1956 its membership was raised to 30 making it the largest standing financial committee. All the thirty members are from Lok Sabha only. The Rajya Sabha has no representation in this committee.

- PAC was set up first in 1921 under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1919 and has since been in existence. At present, it consists of 22 members (15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha).
- The members are elected by the Parliament every year from amongst its members according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

109. Consider the following statements and mark the correct ones:

1. The PRERNA Scheme aims to push up the age of marriage of girls and space the birth of children
2. The scheme is meant for all families to promote population stabilisation under Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both of the above
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- In order to help push up the age of marriage of girls and space the birth of children in the interest of health of young mothers and infants, Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (National Population Stabilization Fund) - an autonomous body of the MoHFW, Govt. of India has launched PRERNA, a Responsible Parenthood Strategy in all districts of seven focus states namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Rajasthan.
- The strategy recognizes and awards couples who have broken the stereotype of early marriage, early childbirth and repeated child birth and have helped change the mindset of the community. The scheme is meant only for BPL families. Conditions to be fulfilled:
 - ✓ Couple must belong to BPL family
 - ✓ Age of lady should not exceed 30 years
 - ✓ The girl should have been married after 19 years
 - ✓ First child birth after at least 2 years of marriage
 - ✓ Second child birth after at least 3 years of the first child birth
 - ✓ Either parent voluntarily accepts permanent method of family planning within one year of the second child birth

110. Which of the following is correct about the Bharatmala Pariyojana?

1. It aims for development of important ports in coastal states of India and neighbouring countries for encouraging trade and cultural relations
2. It is an entirely centrally sponsored project

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- Bharatmala Pariyojana (Project) is a centrally-sponsored and funded Road and Highways project of the Government of India. The project will build highways from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana and then cover the entire string of Himalayan states - Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand - and then portions of borders of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar alongside Terai, and move to West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and right up to the Indo-Myanmar border in Manipur and Mizoram.
- Special emphasis will be given on providing connectivity to far-flung border and rural areas including the tribal and backward areas. Bharatmala Project will interconnect 550 District Headquarters (from current 300) through a minimum 4-lane highway by raising the number of corridors to 50 (from current 6) and move 80% freight traffic (40% currently) to National Highways by interconnecting 24 logistics parks, 66 inter-corridors (IC) of total 8,000 km (5,000 mi), 116 feeder routes (FR) of total 7,500 km (4,700 mi) and 7 north east Multi-Modal waterway ports.
- The ambitious umbrella programme will subsume all existing Highway Projects including the flagship National Highways Development Project (NHDP), launched by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government in 1998. It is both enabler and beneficiary of other key Government of India schemes, such as Sagarmala, Dedicated Freight Corridors, Industrial corridors, UDAN-RCS, Bharat Net, Digital India and Make in India.

111. Which of the following is/are correct about National Population Register?

1. It is a register of citizens of the country
2. It is being conducted by Registrar General and ex-Officio Census Commissioner

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- India is set to update its National Population register - an exhaustive database of 'usual residents' of India.

- Union Cabinet on Tuesday announced that it has allocated around Rs 3,500 crores for updating National Population Register (NPR).
- The process shall commence from April next year and will be completed by September. NPR was first done in 2010 and was later updated in 2015 when it was linked with the Aadhar.
- A usual resident is defined, for the purposes of the NPR, as a person who has resided in a local area for the past six months or more, or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next six months.
- The law compulsorily seeks to register every citizen of India and issue a national identity card.
- The process of updating NPR will be carried out under the aegis of the Registrar General and ex-Officio Census Commissioner, India.
- The objective of the NPR is to create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country.

112. The SDG India Index is developed by which of the following?

- A. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. World Bank

Answer: C

Explanation

- NITI Aayog will launch the second edition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index, which documents the progress made by India's States and Union Territories towards implementing the 2030 SDG targets, on 30 December 2019 at NITI Aayog, New Delhi.
- The SDG India Index and Dashboard 2019–20 have been developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), the United Nations in India, and the Global Green Growth Institute.
- NITI Aayog has the mandate of overseeing the adoption and monitoring of SDGs in the country, at the national and sub-national level. The SDG India Index, whose first edition was launched in December 2018, was the first tool developed by any large country to monitor the progress towards achieving SDGs at the sub-national level.

113. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Begum Hazrat Mahal Girls Scholarships?

1. They are offered to all meritorious girl students from six notified minorities
2. They must be studying in class 9 to 12

Select the Correct Option

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation: The Begum Hazarat Mahal Girls scholarship aims to provide tuition fee assistance along with other benefits to the economically backward meritorious girl students of the minority community who are unable to support their education due to financial issues. Students adhering to the following criteria can apply:

- Only girl students belonging to Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, and Parsi communities are eligible for this scholarship.
- They must be studying in class 9 to 12.
- The annual family income of the student should be less than INR 2 Lakhs.
- The students must have secured a minimum of 50% marks (in aggregate) in the previous class.

114. Which of the following statements are correct about the NCLAT?

1. NCLAT is a statutory body
2. It hears appeals of orders from both IBC and CCI

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) is a tribunal which was formed by the Central Government of India under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013. The tribunal is responsible for hearing appeals from the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), starting on 1 June, 2016.
- The tribunal also hears appeals from orders issued by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC. It also hears appeals from any direction issued, decision made, or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

115. Which of the following bodies publishes the Global Gender Gap Index?

- A. IMF
- B. World Bank
- C. World Economic Forum
- D. UNESCO

Answer: C

Explanation

- India has ranked 112th among 153 countries in the annual Global Gender Gap Index for 2020, published by the World Economic Forum (WEF). Iceland, Norway, and Finland occupy the top three spots in the Report.
- Now in its 14th year, the Report benchmarks countries on their progress towards gender parity in four dimensions: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival and Political Empowerment.
- The analysis presented in the Global Gender Gap Report 2020 is based on “a methodology integrating the latest statistics from international organizations and a survey of executives”, the WEF said.
- The Report aims to serve “as a compass to track progress on relative gaps between women and men on health, education, economy and politics”. Through this annual yardstick, the Report says, “stakeholders within each country are able to set priorities relevant in each specific economic, political and cultural context”

116. Which of the following statements are correct about Curative Petition?

1. It is provided for in Article 137 of the Indian Constitution
2. Its hearing is only held in Judges' chambers

Select the correct option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation

- A curative petition may be filed after a review plea against the final conviction is dismissed. It is meant to ensure there is no miscarriage of justice, and to prevent abuse of process. A curative petition is usually decided by judges in chamber, unless a specific request for an open-court hearing is allowed. While Review petition is provided for Article 137 of the Indian Constitution, Curative petition was started after the decision of Supreme Court *Rupa Ashok Hurra v/s Ashok Hurra* case.
- A curative petition must be accompanied by certification by a senior advocate, pointing out substantial grounds for entertaining it. It must be first circulated to a bench of the three senior-most judges, and the judges who passed the concerned judgment, if available. Only when a majority of the judges conclude that the matter needs hearing should it be listed — as far as possible, before the same Bench.

117. Which of the following is correctly matched?

1. Kasturirangan Committee- Draft National Education Policy
2. Mihir Shah Committee- Ease Stress in Telecom sector

3. Mukundakam Sharma Committee- Draft National Sports Code

Choose the correct option

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- Statements 1 and 3 are correctly matched. Statement 2 is incorrect. The Committee for Draft National Education Policy (Chair: Dr. K. Kasturirangan) submitted its report on May 31, 2019. The Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in June 2017.
- The report proposes an education policy, which seeks to address the challenges of:
 - 1. access,
 - 2. equity,
 - 3. quality,
 - 4. affordability, and
 - 5. Accountability faced by the current education system.
- The Union Water Resources Ministry finalised a committee to draft a new National Water Policy (NWP) in November 2019. It will be chaired by Mihir Shah, who is a former Planning Commission member and a water expert. The committee has 10 principal members, including Shashi Shekhar, a former secretary of Water Resources, and A.B. Pandya, former chairman of the Central Ground Water Board.
- Supreme Court judge Justice (Retd) Mukundakam Sharma as its chairman headed committee was appointed by the Sports Ministry to review the controversial Draft National Sports Code 2017.
- Olympic bronze-medallist shooter Gagan Narang, former football captain Baichung Bhutia and national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand have been named in a 13-member expert committee.

118. Which of the following are correctly matched?

- 1. Savitribai Phule- Kavya Phule
- 2. Jyotiba Phule- Ghulamgiri
- 3. Mahatma Gandhi- Gokhale, My Political Guru

Select the correct option

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only

- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- Mahatma Jyotirao Govindrao Phule and his wife Savitribai Phule were pioneers of women education in India. He is mostly known for his efforts in educating women and lower caste people. Phule Started the first school for girls in 1848 at Pune. He wrote Gulamgiri in 1873.
- Savitribai Phule's books of poems "Kavya Phule" and "Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar" were published in 1934 and 1982.
- Gopal Krishna Gokhale was a mentor to both Mohammed Jinnah and Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi even wrote a book called, 'Gokhale, My Political Guru'.

119. Which one of the following statements are correct?

1. Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog has been established for Conservation protection and development of cows
2. This scheme is being run by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Choose the correct option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both of the above
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- Mr. Goyal announced the "Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog" to improve sustainable genetic upgrading of cow resources, and to enhance production and productivity of cows in Budget 2019. The Budget increased the allocation for Rashtriya Gokul Mission to Rs. 750 crore. The scheme, run by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare aims to conserve and develop indigenous breeds of cattle.

120. Which of the following is correct about the National Pension Scheme for Traders, Shopkeepers and Self-Employed Persons?

1. The Scheme is open for traders in the age group of 18-40 years
2. The annual turnover should not exceed Rs.1 crore to be eligible
3. The traders need to be an income tax payer to be eligible

Choose the correct option

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only

- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

Answer: D

Explanation

- National Pension Scheme for Traders, Shopkeepers and Self-Employed Persons (originally proposed name was, Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Scheme) has been launched on 12.09.2019. It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme.
- Enrolment to the Scheme is done through the Common Service Centres, with its network of 3.50 lakh Centres across the country. In addition eligible persons can also self-enroll through visiting the portal www.maandhan.in.
- The traders in the age group of 18-40 years with an annual turnover, not exceeding Rs.1.5 crore and who are not members of EPFO/ESIC/NPS/PM-SYM or an income tax payer, can join the scheme. Under the scheme, 50%monthly contribution is payable by the beneficiary and equal matching contribution is paid by the Central Government.
- Subscribers, after attaining the age of 60 years, are eligible for a monthly minimum assured pension of Rs.3,000/-.
- As the Scheme has been launched on 12th September, 2019. It envisages coverage of about 50 lakh enrolments under the Scheme for 2019-20. In order to achieve this, various measures including celebration of Pension Week/Pension Saptah have been taken.

121. Which of the following is correct about Classical languages in context of India?

1. Their early texts/recorded history should span over a period of 1500-2000years
2. Currently there are 5 classical languages with Malayalam as the latest addition

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

Currently, six languages enjoy the 'Classical' status: Tamil (declared in 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014). According to information provided by the Ministry of Culture in the Rajya Sabha in February 2014, the guidelines for declaring a language as 'Classical' are:

- High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000years;
- A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers;

- The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community;
- The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.”

122. Which of the following are correct about original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court as per Article 131?

1. Dispute between government of India and any other states is included
2. The term state for the purpose of this article uses the same definition as in Article 12
3. Disputes regarding a pre-constitutional treaty are included in its ambit

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

Answer: A

Explanation

- Article 131 reads, “Original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Supreme Court shall, to the exclusion of any other court, have original jurisdiction in any dispute –
 - A. between the Government of India and one or more States; or
 - B. between the Government of India and any State or States on one side and one or more other States on the other; or
 - C. between two or more States,
- if and in so far as the dispute involves any question (whether of law or fact) on which the existence or extent of a legal right depends
- Provided that the said jurisdiction shall not extend to a dispute arising out of any treaty, agreement, covenant, engagement, or other similar instrument which, having been entered into or executed before the commencement of this Constitution, continues in operation after such commencement, or which provides, that the said jurisdiction shall not extend to such a dispute.
- Article 131 talks about State disputes, but the word ‘State’ does not have the same meaning like that in Article 12 of the Indian Constitution.
- Under Article 12 there are many organizations that can be qualified as a State if they fulfill the 6 conditions given in the *Ajay Hasia v Khalid Mujib Case* (AIR 1981 SC 487)[9]. Thus, it means that private parties are not be a part of the cases which fall under Article 131 which is resolved by the Supreme Court.

123. Which of the following are requirements for being a Census town?

1. Population of at least 10,000
2. More than 75% of the population not engaged in agriculture for their livelihood

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- According to the Census definition, an urban area is either a census town (CT) or a statutory town (ST). An ST is any place with a municipal corporation, municipal council, or cantonment board.
- ACT can be a village with “urban characteristics” a population more than 5,000, population density more than 400 people per sq km, and with more than 75% of the population not engaged in agriculture for their livelihood. When a village becomes a CT, its population is included in the urban population of the district.

124. Which of the following is regarded as the guarantor of fundamental rights in India?

- A. President of India
- B. Supreme Court of India
- C. Parliament
- D. Chief Justice of India

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Supreme Court is a federal court, the highest court of appeal the guarantor of the fundamental rights of the citizens and guardian of the Constitution.

125. The judiciary is empowered to issue various writs. Consider the following statements in this regard

1. Supreme Court has original jurisdiction to issue writs for the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights.
2. Writ jurisdiction of high court is wider than that of the Supreme Court.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- In our Indian Constitution, it has been mentioned that the Supreme Court is the guardian of the Fundamental Rights guaranteed to us under Article 14, thus any kind of violation of our fundamental rights we can go directly to the Supreme Court under Article 32 of the Constitution (this being a fundamental right too).
- Article 32 gives the Supreme Court original jurisdiction but not exclusive jurisdiction because of the reason that even the High Courts have that jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution.
- The mandate of the High Court is wider as it can issue writs not just for fundamental rights but in other matters as well.

126. Which of the following is correct about the National Investigation Agency Amendment Bill 2019?

1. It allows NIA to investigate cases in its schedule within the territory of India only
2. The NIA has been given powers to investigate cases related to cyber-terrorism and human trafficking

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- **OFFENCES OUTSIDE INDIA:** The original Act allowed NIA to investigate and prosecute offences within India. The amended Act empowered the agency to investigate offences committed outside India, subject to international
- Treaties and domestic laws of other countries. The amended section reads: "Where the Central Government is of the opinion that a Scheduled Offence has been committed at any place outside India to which this Act extends, it may direct the Agency to register the case and take up investigation as if such offence has been committed in India." The NIA special court in New Delhi will have jurisdiction over these cases.
- **WIDENED SCOPE OF LAW:** The NIA can investigate and prosecute offences under the Acts specified in the Schedule of the NIA Act. The Schedule originally had The Atomic Energy Act, 1962, The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and The Anti-Hijacking Act, 1982, among other entries. The amendment as allowed the NIA to investigate, in addition, cases related to
 - ✓ Human trafficking,
 - ✓ Counterfeit currency or banknotes,

- ✓ Manufacture or sale of prohibited arms,
- ✓ Cyber- terrorism, and
- ✓ Offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.

127. Which of the following statements is/are correct with regard to PESA Act?

1. It extends provision related to Panchayats to 6th Schedule
2. It provides for a state legislation to be in consonance with the customary law, social and religious practices and traditional management practices of community

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- The provisions of Part IX of the constitution relating to the Panchayats are not applicable to the Fifth Schedule areas. However, the Parliament may extend these provisions to such areas, subject to such exceptions and modifications as it may specify.
- Under this provision, the Parliament has enacted the "Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act", 1996, popularly known as the PESA Act or the Extension Act.
- The features (or the provisions) of the PESA Act are as follows:
 1. A state legislation on the Panchayats in the Scheduled Areas shall be in consonance with the customary law, social and religious practices and traditional management practices of community resources.
 2. A village shall ordinarily consist of a habitation or a group of habitations or a hamlet or a group of hamlets comprising a community and managing its affairs in accordance with traditions and customs.
 3. Every village shall have a Gram Sabha consisting of persons whose names are included in the electoral rolls for the Panchayat at the village level.
 4. Every Gram Sabha shall be competent to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the people, their cultural identity, community resources and the customary mode of dispute resolution.
 5. Every Gram Sabha shall—
 - ✓ approve of the plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before they are taken up for implementation by the Panchayat at the village level; and
 - ✓ Be responsible for the identification of beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation and other programmes.

6. The reservation of seats in the Scheduled Areas in every Panchayat shall be in proportion to the population of the communities for whom reservation is sought to be given under Part IX of the Constitution. However, the reservation for the Scheduled Tribes shall not be less than one-half of the total number of seats. Further, all seats of Chairpersons of Panchayat at all levels shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.

128. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the National Security Act?

1. It allows for a person to be held for 10 days without being told the charges
2. The detention under NSA need not be reported to the state government
3. The maximum period of detention under NSA is 12 months

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- The NSA, which was passed by Parliament after Indira Gandhi returned to power in 1980, received the assent of President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy on December 27, 1980, and was notified in the official gazette.
- The NSA was described as “an Act to provide for preventive detention in certain cases and for matters connected therewith”. The Act repealed the National Security Ordinance, 1980.
- A person detained under the National Security Act can be held for 10 days without being told the charges against them. The detained person can appeal before a high court advisory board but they are not allowed a lawyer during the trial.
- The maximum period of detention is 12 months. The order can also be made by the District Magistrate or a Commissioner of Police under their respective jurisdictions, but the detention should be reported to the State Government along with the grounds on which the order has been made. No such order shall remain in force for more than twelve days unless approved by the State Government.

129. Which of the following is/are correct about the Global Social Mobility Report?

1. It is published by the IMF
2. Global Social Mobility report 2020 was its 10th anniversary report

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both of the above

D. None of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- The World Economic Forum, which organizes the well-known annual gathering of the world's most influential business and political decision-makers in the ski-resort of Davos (Switzerland), has come out with its first-ever Global Social Mobility Report, which has ranked India a lowly 72 out of the 82 countries profiled.
- According to the report, the Nordic economies such as Denmark and Finland top the social mobility rankings while countries like India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and South Africa languish at the bottom. The WEF's Global Social Mobility Index assesses the 82 economies on "10 pillars" spread across the following five key dimensions of social mobility:
 - ✓ Health;
 - ✓ Education (access, quality and equity, lifelong learning);
 - ✓ Technology;
 - ✓ Work (opportunities, wages, conditions);
 - ✓ Protection and Institutions (social protection and inclusive institutions).

130. Which of the following is correct with regard to laws and rules regarding internet shutdown in India?

1. The shutdown of internet by the government is done under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885
2. The Rules regarding internet shutdowns specify a time period for the temporary shutdown
3. As per the rules the order of shut down can be only public emergency

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

Answer: D

Explanation

- On January 9, the Supreme Court significantly strengthened checks on the government's power to shut down the Internet. A major aspect of the verdict relates to the Rules passed in 2017 that outline how and when the government can enforce shutdowns. Before the temporary suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules were notified, there were no codified processes to block telecom services and the Internet in the country.
- The Rules, issued under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, stipulate that only the Home Secretary of the Union or a state can pass an order, and that the order must include the reasons for the decision.

- The order should be forwarded to a review committee the day after it is issued, and must be reviewed by the committee within five days to assess its compliance with Section 5(2) of The Telegraph Act, under which the government has the power to block the transmission of messages during a public emergency or in interest of public safety.
- The Bench also said that the State should make the orders freely available, even though the Suspension Rules do not specify this.
- The Rules also don't specify a time limitation for the shut down, the use Of "Temporary" in the title not with standing. The Bench decided that an indefinite suspension is "impermissible".

131. Which of the following is correct about National Commission for Protection of Child Rights?

1. NCPCR is an executive body under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child development
2. The NCPCR defines a child to be a human below 18 years of age

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is an Indian governmental commission, established by an Act of Parliament, the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act in December 2005, thus is a statutory body. The commission works under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child development, GoI. The Commission began operation a year later in March 2007.
- The Commission considers that its Mandate is "to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. As defined by the commission, child includes those up to the age of 18 years.

132. Which of the following are correct about Legislative Councils in states?

1. The abolition of a legislative council requires special majority in the assembly
2. The MLCs can't vote in elections of both the President and Vice President
3. Legislative Council is a permanent House of state legislature

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only

D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- The legislative Council or the Vidhan Parishad is the Upper Chamber of the State legislature. The Union Parliament has the power to create or abolish the legislative Council in various States on the basis of resolutions adopted by two thirds majority in the respective Assembly. Article 169 has given power to the States to set up the Council or abolish it. All the members of the legislative Council are either indirectly elected or nominated by the Governor.
- One-third of the members of this House are elected by the legislative Assembly from amongst persons who are not its members. Again, one-third of its members are elected by the local bodies like Municipalities or District Boards or any other local authority as specified by the law of the Parliament. One-twelfth of the members are elected by graduates of at least three years standing.
- One-twelfth of the members are elected by teachers of secondary schools having at least three years experience. About one-sixth of the members are nominated by the Governor from among persons possessing special knowledge and experience in the field of art, science, literature, social service and cooperative movement.
- Any Indian citizen who is 30 years of age or above having such other qualifications as prescribed by the Parliament can become a member of the Vidhan Parishad. Of course, a person cannot simultaneously be a Member of Parliament and State legislature. Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs) cannot vote in elections for the President and Vice President.
- The legislative Council, like the Council of States, is a permanent chamber, not subject to dissolution. The members are elected for a period of six years like Rajya Sabha, one-third of members retire every second year. The legislative Council elects its Chairman and Deputy Chairman from amongst its members.

133. Which of the following is/are correct about the recent Bode Peace Accord?

1. This is the third peace accord to be signed with the Bode militant groups
2. Past accords led to the formation of the Bodoland Territorial Autonomous Districts under the 5th Schedule

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal signed a peace accord on January 27th in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah, with all factions of the Bodo militant group National Democratic Front of

Bodoland (NDFB) and All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU), paving the way for political and economic benefits for the Bode community. However, the Bode outfits' demand for a separate Bodoland state or territorial change in terms of a new union territory was not included in the accord. This is the third Bodo accord to be signed in last 27 years when the violent movement for a separate Bodoland state claimed hundreds of lives, destruction of public and private properties. The first Bodo accord was signed with the All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) in 1993, leading to creation of a Bodoland Autonomous Council with limited political powers.

- In 2003, the second Bodo accord was signed with the militant group Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT), leading to formation of a Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) with four districts of Assam -- Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baska and Udalguri --called the Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD).
- The BTC has control over 30 subjects like education, forests, horticulture but no jurisdiction on the police, revenue and general administration departments, which are controlled by the Assam government. The BTC was formed under the 6th Schedule of the Constitution.

134. Which of the following is/are correct about the Global Corruption Perception Index?

1. It is an annual Index published by the Transparency International
2. It ranks countries based on the relative degrees of public and private sector corruption

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is prepared annually by the Germany-based Transparency International, and offers a snapshot of the relative degrees of public sector corruption by ranking countries and territories from around the world. It gives each country a score from zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).
- India has slipped two spots to number 80 in the 2019 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), with its score remaining the same at 41. Major protests across the world last year signal a growing lack of trust in government, and erodes public confidence in political leaders, elected officials and democracy, the report says. The 2019 CPI, released on January 23, draws on 13 surveys and expert assessments to measure public sector corruption in 180 countries and territories.

135. Which of the following is correct with regard to the pardoning power of President of India?

1. The President exercises his power to pardon on the aid and advice of Council of Ministers
2. This power of the President is subject to Judicial Review

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- Under the Constitution of India (Article 72), the President of India can grant a pardon or reduce the sentence of a convicted person, particularly in cases involving capital punishment. A similar and parallel power vests in the governors of each state under Article 161.
- The Constitution of India vests sovereign power in the president and governors. The governance in the centre and states is carried out in the name of the president and governor respectively. The president is empowered with the power to pardon under Article 72 of the Indian Constitution. Article 72 says that the president shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence.
- The power of clemency of both the President and Governor has been subject to Judicial Review as held by the Supreme Court of India in the case of Maru Ram v. Union of India (1980), Supreme Court. It was subsequently confirmed by Kehar Singh v. Union of India (1988), Supreme Court. In the case of Epuru Sudhakar & Anr vs Govt. Of A.P. & Ors (2006), Supreme Court, it was held that "clemency is subject to judicial review and that it cannot be dispensed as a privilege or act of grace"

136. Which of the following are correct about the Medical Devices (Amendment) Rules, 2020?

1. These are applicable to intended for internal or external use in the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of disease or disorder in human beings only
2. It requires that every medical device, either manufactured in India or imported, will have to have quality assurance before they can be sold in India
3. The rules are notified in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act by Health Ministry

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 Only
- B. 1 and 2 Only
- C. 1 and 3 Only
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recently notified changes in the Medical Devices Rules, 2017 to regulate medical devices on the same lines as drugs under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**. Called the Medical Devices (Amendment) Rules, 2020, these are applicable to devices "intended for internal or external use in the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of disease

or disorder in human beings or animals” (as notified by the ministry) and require online registration of these devices “with the Central Licensing Authority through an identified online portal established by the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation** for this purpose”.

- The rules require that every medical device, either manufactured in India or imported, will have to have quality assurance before they can be sold anywhere in the country. “After furnishing of the above information on the ‘Online System for Medical Devices’ established by **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation** for this purpose by the applicant’s, registration number will be generated. For much of the last one year, the health sector has been at the centre of attention following revelations about faulty hip implants marketed by pharma major Johnson & Johnson. This has caused major embarrassment to the government, too, as it exposed the lack of regulatory teeth when it came to medical devices.

137. Which of the following is correct about the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act?

1. The law prohibits employing manual scavengers, manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks completely
2. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes issues directions to ensure effective implementation of the law banning manual scavenging

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

Answer: B

Explanation

- The **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (PEMSR) Act** came into force in 2013. The law prohibits employing manual scavengers, manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks without protective equipment and construction of insanitary latrines. Those violating the law and getting sewers and septic tanks cleaned without protective equipment can face imprisonment of up to two years or a fine of up to Rs 2 lakh, or both. Repeat offenders will face imprisonment of up to five years or a fine of up to Rs 5 lakh, or both.
- The Maharashtra government has directed all civic bodies in the state to set up Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs) to ensure safeguards for sanitation workers who clean manholes and sewers, after multiple cases were reported of workers dying from suffocation or inhalation of hazardous gases.
- The Supreme Court had said that making a sanitation worker enter sewer lines without safety gear should be a crime even in emergency situations. In such instances, if a sanitation worker died due to the unsafe conditions, a compensation of Rs 10 lakh has to be given to the family of the deceased, stated the court.

- To ensure effective implementation of the law banning manual scavenging, the National commission for SCs issued various directives. It said workers have to be fully equipped with safety apparatus and oxygen masks in case they have to clean sewers manually. A first information report has to be lodged against officials or contractors responsible for sending a worker to clean sewers manually, without proper gear.

138. Which of the following is correct about the Ninth Schedule?

1. The Ninth Schedule contains a list of only central laws which can't be challenged in Courts
2. The schedule was a part of the original Constitution with new amendments leading to addition of laws as required Article 31B can have retrospective operation

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Ninth Schedule contains a list of central and state laws which cannot be challenged in courts. Currently, 284 such laws are shielded from judicial review.
- The Schedule became a part of the Constitution in 1951, when the document was amended for the first time. It was created by the new Article 31B, which along with 31A was brought in by the government to protect laws related to agrarian reform and for abolishing the Zamindari system. While A. 31A extends protection to 'classes' of laws, A. 31B shields specific laws or enactments.
- Article 31B also has retrospective operation: meaning if laws are inserted in the Ninth Schedule after they are declared unconstitutional, they are considered to have been in the Schedule since their commencement, and thus valid. Although Article 31B excludes judicial review, the apex court has said in the past that even laws under the Ninth Schedule would be open to scrutiny if they violated fundamental rights or the basic structure of the Constitution.
- Recently, LJP leader Chirag Paswan said that reservation should be put under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. His comments came days after the Supreme Court ruled that reservation in the matter of promotions in public posts was not a fundamental right, and that a state cannot be compelled to offer quota if it chooses not to.

139. Which of the following is correct about the Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2019?

1. The Municipal Performance Index has been launched by the NITI Aayog
2. The Index is designed to assess quality of life of citizens in 100 Smart Cities only

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only

- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation

- To help assess the progress made in cities through various initiatives and empower them to use evidence to plan, implement & monitor their performance, two Assessment Frameworks, viz. **Ease of Living Index (EoLI)** and **Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2019** have been launched by the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs**. Both these indices are designed to assess quality of life of citizens in **100 Smart Cities and 14 other Million Plus Cities**.
- With the Municipal Performance Index 2019, the Ministry has sought to assess the performance of municipalities based on five enablers namely Service, Finance, Planning, Technology and Governance which have been further divided into 20 sectors which will be evaluated across 100 indicators. This will help Municipalities in better planning and management, filling the gaps in city administration, and improving the liveability of cities for its citizens.

140. Which of the following are correct about the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)?

1. The ERSS is being implemented by Ministry of Home Affairs across all states and UTs
2. The ERSS provides a single response number for women stuck in situations of distress, panic, exploitation or violence in public or private places

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

The **Ministry of Home Affairs** is implementing Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) project through States/Union Territories. ERSS seeks to enable a pan-India; single, internationally recognized number i.e. 112 based emergency response mechanism **for various emergencies, including police, medical and fire, with computer-aided dispatch of field resources**. Addition of other emergency services is a function of requirement and preparedness of States/Union Territories. 112 service is accessible through call, SMS, e-mail, panic button and a 112 India mobile app.

141. Which of the following is correct with regard to Right to establish educational institutions under Article 30?

1. Article 30 provides all minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice

2. The right conferred on minorities under Article 30 is only to ensure equality with the majority and not intended to place the minorities in a more advantageous position
3. No conditions can be imposed by the State to ensure proper utilization of the aid provided to minority institutions

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

Answer: B

Explanation

Article 30 grants the following rights to minorities, whether religious or linguistic:

1. All minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
 2. The compensation amount fixed by the State for the compulsory acquisition of any property of a minority educational institution shall not restrict or abrogate the right guaranteed to them. This provision was added by the 44th Amendment Act of 1978 to protect the right of minorities in this regard. The Act deleted the right to property as a Fundamental Right (Article 31).
 3. In granting aid, the State shall not discriminate against any educational institution managed by a minority. In a judgement delivered in the Secretary of Malankara Syrian Catholic College case (2007), the Supreme Court has summarized the general principles relating to establishment and administration of minority educational institutions.
- The right conferred on minorities under Article 30 is only to ensure equality with the majority and not intended to place the minorities in a more advantageous position vis-à-vis the majority. There is no reverse discrimination in favour of minorities.
 - The general laws of the land relating to national interest, national security, social welfare, public order, morality, health, sanitation, taxation etc., applicable to all, will equally apply to minority institutions also. Extension of aid by the State, does not alter the nature and character of the minority educational institutions.
 - The conditions can be imposed by the State to ensure proper utilization of the aid, without however diluting or abridging the right under Article 30(1).

142. Which of the following is regarded as 'information' under the RTI Act?

1. Software installed in government apps
2. Logbooks of a government department
3. Electronic Voting machine
4. Service details of a government servant

Select the Correct Option

- A. 2 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1,2 and 4 only

Answer: C

Explanation

Article 19 (1) of the Indian Constitution guarantees us the right to freedom of speech and expression and as recognized by the Supreme Court this also implies a full right to information. The Right to Information Act, 2005 ("the Act") has established the necessary practical regime of right to information. Under this Act, an Indian Citizen can access the information from the public authority. Right to Information means the Right to Information accessible under this Act which is held by or under the possession of any Central or State Public Authority and that includes the right to:

- Inspection of work, documents, records;
- Taking notes, extracts or certified copies of documents or records;
- Taking certified samples of material;
- Obtaining information in the form of diskettes, floppies, tapes, video cassettes or in any other electronic mode or through printouts where such information is stored in a computer or in any other device.

Section 8(1)(d) exempts information including commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property, the disclosure of which would harm the competitive position of a third party unless the competent authority is satisfied that larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information.

Section 8(1)(j) of RTI Act, 2005 states as "Notwithstanding anything contained in this act, there shall be no obligation to give any citizen information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest, or which would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual unless the Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer or the appellate authority, as the case may be, is satisfied that the larger public interest justifies the disclosure of such information."

- In 2017, the Supreme Court has held that service details of employees fall within the ambit of 'personal information' under Section 8(1)(j) of the Right to Information Act and that such details cannot be furnished unless any nexus with the larger public interest is shown.
- In 2019, the Central Information Commission (CIC) has ruled that the EVM machine is information under the Right to Information Act and directed the Election Commission to respond to the appellant.
- The ECI though contended that the software installed in the EVM is an intellectual property of a third party, the disclosure of which would harm the competitive position of the third party concerned.

143. Which of the following is/are correct about Delhi's Happiness Curriculum?

1. Inspired by the World Happiness Report the curriculum has been included in government and private schools Delhi
2. There is no evaluation or marks regarding the happiness curriculum and only a qualitative assessment is included

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- The happiness curriculum is one of the flagship schemes of the Delhi government in the education sector launched in July 2018 in all government schools. Citing the World Happiness Report, 2018, in which India ranked 133 among 155 nations in the global rankings, the curriculum calls for schools in India to promote development in cognition, language, literacy, numeracy and the arts along with addressing the well-being and happiness of students.
- The objectives of this curriculum include developing self-awareness and mindfulness, inculcating skills of critical thinking and inquiry, enabling learners to communicate effectively and helping learners to apply life skills to deal with stressful and conflicting situations around them.
- The assessment under this curriculum is qualitative with no marks or evaluation, focusing on the "process rather than the outcome" and noting that each student's journey is unique and different.

144. Which of the following is/ are correct regarding maintenance of public order?

1. In circumstances where public disorder is not so serious as to fall in the category of an "internal disturbance" as defined in Article 355 of the Constitution army can't be requested
2. The Seventh Schedule of the Constitution states that use of the armed forces in the maintenance of public order is within the purview of the states

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation

- While public order and police are under the state list, the state government may request the Union government to make available armed forces to help restore public order.
- Even in circumstances where public disorder is not so serious as to fall in the category of an “internal disturbance” as defined in Article 355 of the Constitution, the Union Government may accede to the request.
- However, it is important to note that except for the limited purpose of dispersing an “unlawful assembly” and arresting its members – for which Section 130 CRPC empowers the Executive Magistrate to requisition the aid of the Army – neither the state government nor any authority under it has been conferred by the Constitution any legal right to call the armed forces while dealing with a public disorder or “internal disturbance”.
- Also, the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution – which deals with the subject of public order in the state list – states that use of the armed forces in the maintenance of public order is outside the purview of the states.

145. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The origin of the Indian railway budget was the result of a report by British politician William Ackworth in 1924
2. While the Union budget is a Constitutional requirement, there is no such necessity attached with the Railways budget

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- The origin of the railway budget goes back to a report by British politician William Ackworth in 1924. He recommended a separate railway budget, given that most of the infrastructure spending by the British government went towards building railway lines.
- While the Union budget is a Constitutional requirement and is presented under Article 112 of the Indian Constitution, which mandates an annual financial statement, the Constitution does not talk about the railway budget in particular

146. Which of the following is correct with regard to Consumer Protection Act 2019?

1. The Act includes punishment for misleading advertisements
2. The Act has broadened the definition of consumers to include e-commerce transactions as well

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation: The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (New Act) received the assent of the President of India and was published in the official gazette on 9 August 2019. The New Act will come into force on such date as the Central Government may so notify. The New Act seeks to replace the more than 3 (three) decades old Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (Act). Set out below are some of the Key Highlights of the New Act:

Covers E-Commerce Transactions:

- The New Act has widened the definition of 'consumer'.
- The definition now includes any person who buys any goods, whether through offline or online transactions, electronic means, teleshopping, direct selling or multi-level marketing.
- The earlier Act did not specifically include e-commerce transactions, and this lacuna has been addressed by the New Act.
- **Unfair Trade Practices:** The New Act introduces a specific broad definition of Unfair Trade Practices, which also includes sharing of personal information given by the consumer in confidence, unless such disclosure is made in accordance with the provisions of any other law.

Penalties for Misleading Advertisement:

- The CCPA may impose a penalty of up to INR 1,000,000 (Indian Rupees One Million) on a manufacturer or an endorser, for a false or misleading advertisement.
- The CCPA may also sentence them to imprisonment for up to 2 (two) years for the same. In case of a subsequent offence, the fine may extend to INR 5,000,000 (Indian Rupees Five Million) and imprisonment of up to 5 (five) years.
- The CCPA can also prohibit the endorser of a misleading advertisement from endorsing that particular product or service for a period of up to 1 (one) year. For every subsequent offence, the period of prohibition may extend to 3 (three) years.

147. Which of the following is/are correct about Central Consumer Protection Authority?

1. The CCPA is a statutory body
2. The CCPA can only investigate matters on the basis of complaint or Centre's directions and not suo-moto

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- Recently, the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan announced that a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) will be established by the first week of April. This was after the Minister held consultations with industry representatives about the role and functioning of a proposed CCPA.
- The authority is being constituted under Section 10(1) of The Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- The Act replaced The Consumer Protection Act, 1986, and seeks to widen its scope in addressing consumer concerns.
- The new Act recognises offences such as providing false information regarding the quality or quantity of a good or service, and misleading advertisements. It also specifies action to be taken if goods and services are found “dangerous, hazardous or unsafe”.
- The CCPA will have the powers to inquire or investigate into matters relating to violations of consumer rights or unfair trade practices suo motu, or on a complaint received, or on a direction from the central government. While conducting an investigation after preliminary inquiry, officers of the CCPA’s Investigation Wing will have the powers to enter any premise and search for any document or article, and to seize these. For search and seizure, the CCPA will have similar powers given under the provisions of The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

148. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Foreigners’ Act lists out ‘anti-government activities’ on the basis of which foreigner can be asked to leave
2. For Indian nationals, ‘anti-government activities’ as those listed out in Section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- There was a recent case is of Polish student Kamil Siedcynski in Kolkata’s Jadavpur University who has been asked to leave India by the MHA after he attended an anti-CAA rally in the city.

- According to visa guidelines laid out by the MHA, foreign nationals shall be required to strictly adhere to the purpose of visit declared while submitting the visa application. However, there are no provisions specified under “anti-government” activities subhead.
- The absence of any such provision in visa laws or Foreigner’s Act means a court can rule that whatever are defined as “anti-government” activities for Indian national is “anti-government” for foreign national too.
- According to the lawyers, “anti-government” activities are those which are listed as punishable under Section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code.

149. Which of the following is/ are correct regarding to recusal of judges in India?

1. Recusal of judge in case of conflict of interest is mandated by Supreme Court rules
2. In case of recusal, the reasons for the same need to be disclosed in court order

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation

- Recently, Supreme Court judge Justice Mohan M. Shantanagoudar recused himself from hearing a petition filed by Sara Abdullah Pilot, sister of former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, against the government’s move to charge him under the Public Safety Act.
- Recusal usually takes place when a judge has a conflict of interest or has a prior association with the parties in the case. There are no written rules on the recusal of judges from hearing cases listed before them in constitutional courts. It is left to the discretion of a judge.
- The reasons for recusal are not disclosed in an order of the court. Some judges orally convey to the lawyers involved in the case their reasons for recusal, many do not. Some explain the reasons in their order. The decision rests on the conscience of the judge.

150. Which of the following is/are correct about the Places of Worship Act?

1. The law freezes the status of places of worship as they were on the date of enactment of this law
2. Its intention is maintenance of the religious character of such a place of worship and preserve communal harmony

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- During the height of Babri-Ram Janmabhoomi dispute, the P.V. Narasimha Rao government enacted, in September 1991, a special law to freeze the status of places of worship as they were on August 15, 1947.
- The law kept the disputed structure at Ayodhya out of its purview, mainly because it was the subject of prolonged litigation. It was also aimed at providing scope for a possible negotiated settlement.
- The aim of the Act was to freeze the status of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947. It was also to provide for the maintenance of the religious character of such a place of worship as on that day. It was intended to pre-empt new claims by any group about the past status of any place of worship and attempts to reclaim the structures or the land on which they stood. It was hoped that the legislation would help the preservation of communal harmony in the long run.

151. The Gender Norms Social Index is prepared by which of the following organisations/institutions?

- A. UNHCR
- B. WHO
- C. UNDP
- D. WSF

Answer: C

Explanation

- The UNDP published its first **Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI)** measures how social beliefs obstruct gender equality in areas like politics, work, and education, and contains data from 75 countries, covering over 80 percent of the world's population.
- The report commemorates the year 2020 as the 25th of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25).
- According to the index, about half of the world's men and women feel that men make better political leaders, and over 40 percent feel that men make better business executives and that men have more right to a job when jobs are scarce. 28 percent think it is justified for a man to beat his wife.

152. Which of the following is correct about anti-lynching laws in India?

1. The Supreme Court was the first to give a set of guidelines to prevent lynchings in India
2. There is no central law that tackles the problem of lynchings in India

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- India **does not have a central law** that deals with the issue of lynchings in the country. In 2018, the Supreme Court condemned the increasing number of incidents of mob lynchings across the country, calling them “horrendous acts of mobocracy” and had then asked Parliament to make lynching a separate offence.
- The 17 July 2018 judgment by an apex court bench, headed by the then **CJI Dipak Misra**, had issued **11 point guideline for preventive, remedial and punitive measures** for the rampant increase in incidents of lynching in India. The guidelines include setting up high level police teams to keep an eye on areas where such incidents are likely to occur.

153. Which of the following is correct about the Digital Locker service being offered by the Postal Department?

1. It is a locker service to avail missed parcels at a very nominal cost
2. Addressees to collect their consignments from specified post offices within 7 days only
3. The facility is only for consignments received through registered post or speed post

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

Answer: D

Explanation

- For the first time in India, the Department of Posts is starting a **free digital parcel locker service** that will allow addressees to collect their consignments from specified post offices at their convenience. As a pilot, the service will be launched in Kolkata. It is expected to help the growing population of migrant professionals who often miss out receiving parcels because they are away at work and have no one at home to receive the consignment on their behalf.
- The free digital parcel locker service that will allow addressees to collect their consignments from specified post offices at their convenience. The addressee will have to give a locker number as the address, upon which India Post will drop the parcel into the locker, which will **remain accessible for seven days – any time of the day – through an OTP**. The facility will be available, as of now, only for consignments received through registered post or speed post.

154. Mission Zero Accident is an initiative of which of the following ministries/ Departments?

- A. Ministry of Railways
- B. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

- C. Department of Nuclear Energy
- D. Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change

Answer: A

Explanation: In the Railway Budget 2016-17, Mission Zero Accident was one of the Missions announced, comprising of the two sub-missions:

- Elimination of unmanned level crossings (UMLC) over broad gauge in the next 3-4 years.
- Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS): To prevent collisions and signal passing at danger by the Loco Pilot through developing an indigenous technology and also to increase throughput by increasing average sectional speed on Indian Railways (IR).
- In compliance of the same, the Ministry reported:
 1. **Elimination of Unmanned Level Crossings:** All unmanned level crossings (UMLC) on Broad Gauge have already been eliminated in January 2019.
 2. **Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS):** Train Collision Avoidance System is an indigenous Automatic Train protection (ATP) system developed in association with Indian manufacturers. The system has been installed on Lingampalli – Vikarabad – Wadi and Vikarabad – Bidar sections (250 Route km) on South Central Railway. Further, the system is under implementation on 1199 Route Km on South Central Railway.

155. Which of the following is/are true about the Central Vigilance Commission?

1. The CVC is a multi-member body consisting of a Central Vigilance Commissioner (chairperson) and not more than two vigilance commissioners.
2. They hold office for a term of five years or until they attain the age of sixty five years, whichever is earlier.
3. After their tenure, they are not eligible for further employment under the Central or a state government

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- They hold office for a term of four years or until they attain the age of sixty five years, whichever is earlier.

156. Which of the following is true about amendment process of Indian Constitution?

1. All kinds of amendments are covered under Article 368

2. Amendment of federal provisions requires special majority of the Parliament and with the ratification by half of the total states

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation: The Constitution of India is neither rigid nor flexible but a synthesis of both. Article 368 provides for two types of amendments:

1. Some provisions can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament, i.e., a two-third majority of the members of each House present and voting, and a majority (that is, more than 50 per cent), of the total membership of each House.
2. Some other provisions can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and with the ratification by half of the total states. At the same time, some provisions of the Constitution can be amended by a simple majority of the Parliament in the manner of ordinary legislative process. Notably, these amendments do not come under Article 368.

157. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. 'Union of India' is a wider term than 'Territory of India' because the former includes not only the states but also union territories and territories that may be acquired
2. A bill contemplating the changes under Article 3 can be introduced in the Parliament only with the prior recommendation of the President

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation: '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. Article 3 authorises the Parliament to:

1. form a new state by separation of territory from any state or by uniting two or more states or parts of states or by uniting any territory to a part of any state,
2. Increase the area of any state,

3. Diminish the area of any state,
4. Alter the boundaries of any state, and
5. Alter the name of any state.

However, Article 3 lays down two conditions in this regard: one, a bill contemplating the above changes can be introduced in the Parliament only with the prior recommendation of the President; and two, before recommending the bill, the President has to refer the same to the state legislature concerned for expressing its views within a specified period.

158. Which of the following is correct about Article 27 of Fundamental Rights?

1. This provision prohibits the State from favouring, patronising and supporting one religion over the other
2. This provision prohibits only levy of both tax and fee

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- Article 27 lays down that no person shall be compelled to pay any taxes for the promotion or maintenance of any particular religion or religious denomination. In other words, the State should not spend the public money collected by way of tax for the promotion or maintenance of any particular religion.
- This provision prohibits the State from favouring, patronising and supporting one religion over the other. This means that the taxes can be used for the promotion or maintenance of all religions. This provision prohibits only levy of a tax and not a fee. This is because the purpose of a fee is to control secular administration of religious institutions and not to promote or maintain religion.

159. Which of the following was the mandate 2014 Bibek Debroy committee?

- A. Draft National Textile Policy
- B. Restructuring of NPAs in Banking sector
- C. Restructuring of railways
- D. Draft National Water Policy

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Railway Board had constituted a Committee for mobilization of resources for major railway projects and restructuring of Railway Ministry and Railway Board (Chair: Mr. Bibek Debroy). The Committee was constituted on September 22, 2014 to prepare a blueprint for reforming Indian Railways. The Committee submitted its final report in June 2015.
- Its main recommendations included impetus to private sector, creation of a statutory railway authority, restructuring of railway zones, focusing on core activities, financing and accounting reforms.

160. Which of the following is correct about the calling attention motion?

1. It calls the attention of a minister to a matter of urgent public importance
2. It is inspired from a similar motion in the British Parliament
3. It is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- Calling Attention Motion: It is introduced in the Parliament by a member to call the attention of a minister to a matter of urgent public importance, and to seek an authoritative statement from him on that matter.
- Like the zero hour, it is also an Indian innovation in the parliamentary procedure and has been in existence since 1954. It is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure. It is Rule 197 in Lok Sabha and Rule 180 in Rajya Sabha.
- In Rajya Sabha, there is also a motion under Rule 167. This Rule can be used to determine the sense of the House on matters of general public interest. The issue must be raised in the form of a motion. After the Minister's reply, the House votes on the motion. It was recently in news when the same was raised on the issue of the Rafale Deal. In Lok Sabha there is a corresponding motion under Rule 184.

161. Which of the following are true with regard to Money Bill?

1. A Bill is deemed to be a Money Bill if it contains only provisions mentioned in Article 110 (1)
2. If any question arises whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not, the decision of the Speaker of the House of the People thereon shall be final
3. Money Bill is the only type of Financial Bill to carry a speaker's certification

Select the Correct Option

- A. Only 1

- B. Only 2
- C. Only 1 and 2
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- In a general sense, any Bill that relates to revenue or expenditure is a Financial Bill. A Money Bill is a specific kind of Financial Bill, defined very precisely: a Bill is deemed to be a Money Bill if it deals only with matters specified in Article 110 (1) (a) to (g). A Money Bill is certified by the Speaker as such – in other words, only those Financial Bills that carry the Speaker’s certification are Money Bills.

162. The Umesh Sinha Committee has been constituted for what purpose?

- A. To study the use and feasibility of lateral entry in civil services
- B. Suggest changes to Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act) in view of social media expansion
- C. Suggest further reforms in the structure of GST and distribution of funds
- D. Review AFSPA

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Election Commission of India on 11 January 2018 constituted a 14 member committee to suggest changes to Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act) in view of social media expansion chaired by Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Umesh Sinha.
- The committee will comprise of nine officers of Election Commission, one nominated member each from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Law Ministry, IT Ministry, National Broadcasters Association and Press Council of India.
- It will study the impact of new media and social media during the “silence period”, the 48 hours period prior to elections and its implication in view of Section 126 of the RP Act.
- After a thorough study, it will suggest modifications to the election law and model code of conduct.
- It will examine the difficulties faced in regulating media platforms during the prohibitory 48 hours in a multi-phase election.

163. With reference to the Writ jurisdiction of Supreme Court and High Court, which among the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Supreme Court can issue writs only for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights, whereas High Court can issue writs for any other purpose
2. The Supreme Court can issue a writ against any organization defined under Article 12 whereas High Court can issue a writ against any organization which has a public character

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Supreme Court can issue writs only for the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights and not for other purposes. The high court, on the other hand, can issue writs for purposes other than the enforcement of FRs. Thus the writ jurisdiction of the high court is wider than that of the Supreme Court.
- Since the Supreme Court's writ jurisdiction is restricted to upholding Fundamental Rights, it can issue writs against organizations defined under Article 12. The writ jurisdiction of HC is applicable for purposes other than enforcement of Fundamental Rights.

164. Which of the following is correct about nominated members of Rajya Sabha?

1. The persons have special knowledge or practical experience in literature, science, art and social service
2. Unlike independent members, nominated members can't join any political party

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- **Article 80 of the Constitution** provides that the President can nominate to Rajya Sabha 12 persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of literature, science, art and social service. "A nominated member can join any political party within **six months of his or her nomination** to the Rajya Sabha.
- Since Rajya Sabha was constituted in 1952, 137 people have been nominated as its members. These include scholars, jurists, educationists, historians, scientists, litterateurs, journalists, engineers, economists, administrators, artistes, social workers and politicians usually with loyalty to the government of the day.
- Presidential nominees in the present Rajya Sabha are Swapan Dasgupta, Subramanian Swamy, Narendra Jadhav, Suresh Gopi, Mary Kom, Chhatrapati Sambhajiraje, Roopa Ganguly (all nominated in 2016), Rakesh Sinha, Sonal Mansingh, and Raghunath Mohapatra (all 2018). Former CJI Ranjan

Gogoi is the latest in that list which led to much debate and discussion. In a first such instance in the Rajya Sabha since 1986, majority of nominated members preferred to join the ruling party.

165. Which of the following is/are true about the Samagra Shiksha Scheme?

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme looking to provide holistic and inclusive higher education including colleges and universities in the country
2. Further the scheme provides for States and UTs setting up of Youth and Eco Club to develop life skills and for environmental activities

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- **Samagra Shiksha** - an Integrated Scheme for School Education has been launched throughout the country as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with effect from the year 2018-19. This programme subsumes the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).
- It is an **overarching programme for the school education sector** extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. It envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels.
- Besides this, approval has been given to **States and UTs** for setting up of **Youth and Eco Club in Government Schools in 2019-20** under Samagra Shiksha. Youth clubs in schools are an instrument to develop life skills, build self-esteem, develop self-confidence and resilience. Eco clubs in schools aim to empower students to participate and take up meaningful environmental activities and projects