

1. (c)

Statement 1, Incorrect: Article 61 states that the President can be impeached for violation of the Constitution.

Statement 2, Incorrect: The resolution to prefer the charge of impeachment can be introduced in either of the house. It should be moved after at least fourteen days' notice in writing signed by not less than one-fourth of the total number of members of the House have given their intention to move the resolution.

Statement 3, Correct : The Nominated members of both the houses of Parliament have a right to vote in the impeachment process of the President. However, they do not have a right to vote in the Presidential Election.

2. (c)

Statement 1, Correct : Parliamentary privileges are special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by the two Houses of Parliament, their committees and their members. They are necessary in order to secure the independence and effectiveness of their actions. The Constitution has also extended the parliamentary privileges to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a House of Parliament or any of its committees.

Statement 2, Correct : The parliamentary privileges do not extend to the President who is also an integral part of the Parliament.

3. (b)

Crossing the floor : Passing between the member addressing the House and the Chair is called Crossing the floor. It is considered a breach of parliamentary etiquette.

4. (b)

Statement 1, Incorrect: There is no requirement for the prior permission of the President for the introduction of such a constitutional amendment bill.

Statement 2, Incorrect: Constitution provides for a number of ways for amendment i.e. by a simple majority, amendment by a special majority of the parliament and amendment by a special majority of the parliament and the ratification of half of the state legislature.

Statement 3, Correct: If the bill is passed by both the houses, President is bound to give assent to the bill.

5. (c)

Statement 1, Correct : A 'session' of Parliament is the period spanning between the first sitting of a House and its prorogation or dissolution in the case of the Lok Sabha. The period spanning between the prorogation of a House and its reassembly in a new session is called 'recess'.

Statement 2, Correct : Constitution states that the maximum gap between two sessions of Parliament cannot be more than six months. In other words, the Parliament should meet at least twice a year. However, there are usually three sessions in a year, viz, the Budget Session (February to May); the Monsoon Session (July to September); and the Winter Session (November to December).

6. (d)

Statement 1, Incorrect: The Constitution of India makes special provisions for the administration of the tribal dominated areas in four states viz. Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. As per article 244 and 6th Schedule, these areas are called "Tribal Areas".

Statement 2, Correct : Article 244 and 6th schedule of the constitution has provisions for the formation of autonomous districts and autonomous regions within the districts as there are different schedule tribes within the district, to make laws of the land, management of forests (except reserved forests), regulation on trade by persons not being local schedule tribes, appointment of traditional chiefs and headmen, inheritance of property, marriage, divorce, social customs, establishment and maintenance of primary schools, markets, taxation, issue of lease for extraction of minerals etc.

Statement 3, Incorrect: The acts of Parliament or the state legislature do not apply to autonomous districts and autonomous regions or apply with specified modifications and exceptions. The power of discretion, in this regard, lies either with the President or Governor. In the case of Assam, it lies with the Governor, both in respect of acts of Parliament or state legislature. In the case of Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram, it lies with the President in respect of acts of Parliament and governor in respect of acts of the state legislature.

7. (d)

Statement 1, Correct : When President's rule is imposed in a state, President either dissolves or suspends the state legislative assembly. The Parliament passes the state legislative bills and the state budget.

Statement 2, Correct : A law made by the Parliament or president or any other specified authority during President's rule in a state continues to be operative even after the President's Rule. But it can be repealed or altered or re-enacted by the state legislature.

Statement 3, Incorrect : During President's rule the state assembly is either dissolved or suspended. But the MLA's do not lose their membership of the Assembly.

8. (a)

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 provides for some compulsory and some voluntary provisions.

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.

Voluntary Provisions

1. Giving representation to members of the Parliament (both the Houses) and the state legislature (both the Houses) in the panchayats at different levels falling within their constituencies.
2. Providing reservation of seats (both members and chairpersons) for backward classes in Panchayats at any level.

9. (a)

Statement 1, Correct: Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is neither a constitutional nor a statutory body. It enjoys the status of a department of the government of India under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

provides secretarial assistance to the Prime Minister.

Statement 2, Incorrect: PM is the political head whereas, administratively it is headed by the Principal Secretary to PM.

10. (b)

Statement 1, Incorrect: In India, contempt is defined by Contempt of Courts Act of 1971 (not by the constitution) as civil or criminal.

Statement 2, Correct: Criminal contempt of the court means the publication of any matter or doing an act which: scandalizes or lowers the authority of a court or prejudices or interferes with the due course of a judicial proceeding.

Statement 3, Correct: The Supreme Court and High Court are only conferred the power to punish for their own contempt. Section 10 of the Contempt of Courts Act 1971 vests with the High Court the power to punish contempt of subordinate courts.

11. (b)

The Constitution has made the following provisions to safeguard and ensure the independent and impartial functioning of a High Court.

- i. Mode of Appointment: The judges of a high court are appointed by the president (which means the cabinet) in consultation with the members of the judiciary itself (i.e., chief justice of India and the chief justice of the high

court). This provision curtails the absolute discretion of the executive as well as ensures that the judicial appointments are not based on any political or practical considerations.

- ii. **Ban on Practice after Retirement:** The retired permanent judges of a high court are prohibited from pleading or acting in any court or before any authority in India except the Supreme Court and the other high courts. This ensures that they do not favour any one in the hope of future favour.
- iii. **Expenses Charged on Consolidated Fund of State:** The salaries and allowances of the judges, the salaries, allowances and pensions of the staff as well as the administrative expenses of a high court are charged on the consolidated fund of the state. Thus, they are non-votable by the state legislature (though they can be discussed by it). It should be noted here that the pension of a high court judge is charged on the Consolidated Fund of India and not the state.
- iv. **Freedom to Appoint its Staff:** The chief justice of a high court can appoint officers and servants of the high court without any interference from the executive. He can also prescribe their conditions of service.

Others being

- Security of Tenure.
- Fixed Service Conditions.
- Conduct of Judges cannot be discussed.
- Power to Punish for its Contempt.
- Its Jurisdiction cannot be curtailed.



12. (d)

Exp) Option d is Correct

Statement 1 is incorrect. Chief Justice of India (not the President) is empowered to appoint a judge of a High Court as an ad hoc judge of the Supreme Court only after consultation with the chief justice of the HC concerned and also with the previous consent of the president. It is done in case of lack of quorum of the permanent judges to hold or continue any session of the Supreme Court.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The President (and not the CJI) can appoint duly qualified persons as additional judges of a high court for a temporary period not exceeding two years if there is a temporary increase in the business of the high court or if there are arrears of work in the high court.

13. (b)

Statement 1, Incorrect : Article 359 has been in the Constitution since its inception. It was amended by 38th, 42nd and 44th Constitutional Amendment Act.

Statement 2, Correct : Article 359 authorises the President to suspend the right to move any court for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights (except those under Art 20 and 21) during a National Emergency. Any such Order has to be approved by both Houses of Parliament by a simple majority.

14. (a)

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 PESA Act provides for reservation of seats in the Scheduled Areas in every Panchayat shall be in proportion to the population of the communities for whom the 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 (not one-third). But all seats of Chairpersons of Panchayats at all levels shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.

15. (b)

Statement 1, Incorrect: The superintendence, direction, and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections to a co-operative society shall vest in such body, as may be provided by the state legislature.

Statement 2, Correct : The board shall consist of such number of directors as may be provided by the state legislature. But, the maximum number of directors of a co-operative society shall not exceed twenty-one.

Statement 3, Correct: The state legislature shall provide for the reservation of one seat for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes and two seats for women on the board of every co-operative society having members from such a category of

persons

16. (d)

Statement 1, Incorrect : The distribution of legislative powers between Centre and States provided in the three lists given in Seventh Schedule has been borrowed from the pattern of the Government of India Act, 1935.

Statement 2, Incorrect: Indian Constitution has been referred to as called quasi-federal because it has features of both federal and unitary types of governments. Seventh Schedule gives out the federal nature of the

Constitution.

Statement 3, Incorrect: The Seventh schedule has been amended by 44th, 46th, 88th and recently by 101st Constitutional Amendment Acts.

17. (b)

Statement 1, Correct : Article 344(4) provides for constituting a Committee with the duty to examine the recommendations of the Commission on Official

language constituted under Article 344 (1) and to report to the President their opinion thereon.

Statement 2, Incorrect : Article 348, states business in Parliament shall be transacted in Hindi or in English. Provided

that the Chairman or Speaker may

permit any member who cannot adequately express himself in Hindi or in English to address the House in his mother-tongue.

Statement 3, Correct : As per Article 348(1) All proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court shall be conducted only in English language.

18. (a)

Statement 1, Correct : Article 169 of the Constitution- Parliament may by law provide for the abolition of the Legislative Council of a State having such a Council or for the creation of such a Council in a State having no such Council, if the Legislative Assembly of the State passes a resolution to that effect by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Assembly present and

voting.

Statement 2, Incorrect : Chairman of Legislative Council of a State necessarily should be a member of the House.

19. (c)

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Special leave to appeal from any judgement can be claimed against any judgment of High court but not as a matter of right. The supreme court is authorized to grant in its own discretion. It is a discretionary power and hence, cannot be claimed as a matter of right by an individual.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Special leave to appeal can't be granted against the judgments of military tribunal or order or judgments passed by any tribunal or court constituted under any law relating to armed forces.

Statement 3 is incorrect. To file an application of special leave before the Supreme court, it does not need any certificate of fitness from High court. Any aggrieved party can approach the Supreme court of India under Article 136 by filing special leave petition in case any substantial question of law is involved or in any matter where gross injustice has been done.

Statement 4 is correct. The Supreme Court is authorised to grant in its discretion special leave to appeal from any judgement in any matter passed by any court or tribunal in the country (except military tribunal and court martial). So, it can be filed in case of constitutional, civil and criminal, matters.

20. (b)

Exp) Option b is correct.

Judicial Restraint is a theory of judicial interpretation that encourages judges to limit the exercise of their own power. It asserts that judges should hesitate to strike down laws unless they are obviously unconstitutional. Judicially-restrained judges respect stare-decisis, the principle of upholding established precedent handed down by past judges.

Statement 1 is incorrect. While delivering a judgment in December 2007, the Supreme Court of India called for judicial restraint and commented that judicial restraint is consistent with and complementary to the balance of power among the three independent branches of the state.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Supreme Court has stated that judicial restraint tends to protect the independence of the judiciary. When courts encroach into the legislative or administrative fields almost inevitably voters, legislators, and other elected officials will conclude that the activities of judges should be closely monitored. If judges act like legislators or administrators it follows that judges should be elected like legislators or selected and trained like administrators. This would be counterproductive. The touchstone of an independent judiciary has been its removal from the political or administrative process. Even if this removal has sometimes been less than complete, it is an ideal worthy of support and one that has had valuable effects.

Statement 3 is correct. The Supreme Court has mentioned that judicial restraint recognizes the equality of the other two branches (Legislature and Executive) with the judiciary. Judicial restraint also fosters that equality by minimizing inter-branch interference by the judiciary.

21. (b)

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The 44th Amendment to the Constitution of India had no provision placing the election of the Prime Minister beyond judicial review. 44th Amendment to the Constitution of India was enacted to nullify some of the amendments made by the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.

Statement 2 is correct. 99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014 was enacted to reflect the change in the system of appointments of Judges from the collegium system. It sought to establish the National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC). This was struck down by the Supreme Court as being violative of the independence of judiciary.

22. (d)

Exp) Option d is Correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals. The 42nd (and not 44th) Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution. This part is entitled as 'Tribunals' and consists of only two Articles—Article 323 A dealing with administrative tribunals and Article 323 B dealing with tribunals for other matters.

Statement 2 is correct. The 'tribunalisation' of justice is driven by the recognition that it would be cost-effective, accessible and give scope for utilising expertise in the respective fields. Central to this scheme is the principle that the 'experts' appointed to these tribunals brings in special knowledge and experience.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The CAT is not bound by the procedure laid down in the Civil Procedure Code of 1908. However, it is guided by the principles of natural justice. These principles keep the CAT flexible in approach.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Originally, appeals against the orders of the CAT could be made only in the Supreme Court and not in the high courts. However, in the Chandra Kumar case (1997), the Supreme Court declared this restriction on the jurisdiction of the high courts as unconstitutional, holding that judicial review is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution. It laid down that appeals against the orders of the CAT shall lie before the division bench of the concerned high court. Consequently, now it is not possible for an aggrieved public servant to approach the Supreme Court directly against an order of the CAT, without first going to the concerned high court.

Knowledge Base: Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was set up in 1985 with the principal bench at Delhi and additional benches in different states. At present, it has 17 regular benches, 15 of which operate at the principal seats of high courts and the remaining two at Jaipur and Lucknow. These benches also hold circuit sittings at other seats of high courts.

The CAT exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of public servants covered by it. Its jurisdiction extends to the all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian

employees of defence services. However, the members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it.

23. (d)

Exp) Option d is correct.

An active and vigilant Parliament can keep regular and effective check on the executive through many ways.

Statement 1 is correct. The power and freedom of the legislators as people's representatives to work effectively and fearlessly is one the basic ways to keep control on the executive. The constitution provides for the freedom of speech to the members of Parliament inside the house. This is known as parliamentary privilege. The main purpose of such privileges is to enable the members of the legislature to represent the people and exercise effective control over the executive.

Statement 2 is correct. The Question Hour, which is held every day during the sessions of Parliament, where Ministers have to respond to questions raised by the members is the most effective method of keeping vigil on the executive and the administrative agencies of the government. Most of the questions aim at eliciting information from the government on issues of public interest such as, price rise, availability of food grains, atrocities on weaker sections of the society, riots, black-marketing, etc. This gives the members an opportunity to criticise the government, and represent the problems of their constituencies.

Statement 3 is correct. Adjournment motion is introduced in the Parliament to draw attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance. It involves the element of censure against the government. Thus, it acts as an effective check on the executive.

Statement 4 is correct. Preparation and presentation of budget for the approval of the legislature is constitutional obligation of the government. This obligation allows the legislature to exercise control over the spending of the government. The legislature may refuse to grant resources to the government. This seldom happens because the government ordinarily enjoys support of the majority in the parliamentary system. Nevertheless, before granting money the Lok Sabha can discuss the reasons for which the government requires money. It can also enquire into cases of misuse of funds on the basis of the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

24. b

Exp) Option b is correct.

The Committee on Subordinate legislation examines and reports to the House whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules and bye-laws delegated by the Parliament or conferred by the Constitution to the Executive are being properly exercised by it. In both the Houses, the committee consists of 15 members. It was constituted in 1953.

25. c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Rajya Sabha being a federal chamber enjoys certain special powers under the Constitution. Although Rajya Sabha cannot make or unmake the Government as the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to Lok Sabha only. It can, however, exercise effective check over the Government.

Option c is correct. Rajya Sabha plays a crucial role in the Indian democratic system:

1) Exercises control over executive by asking questions, introducing motions and resolutions (but not through no-confidence motion). Lok Sabha controls the executive by asking questions, supplementary questions, resolutions and motions and through no confidence motion.

2) It has powers to initiate constitutional amendments. A constitutional amendment bill can be introduced in the Rajya Sabha also. In this regard it has equal status with the Lok Sabha. Although such a bill needs to be passed by both the Houses with a special majority.

3) Participates in the election and removal of the President, Vice President, Judges of Supreme Court and High Court. It can alone initiate the procedure for removal of Vice President (Article 67).

4) Considers and approves non money bills and suggests amendments to money bills.

5) Can give the Union parliament power to make laws on matters included in the State list.

26. a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Independent regulatory authorities are agencies of modern democratic governments. They are parts of the executive wing with a certain degree of statutory or constitutional autonomy, reporting directly to the legislature. Like the general executive, they are accountable to the legislature and subject to judicial review.

Ad Hoc Committee set up by the Parliament and Parliamentary Department Related Standing Committee review the independent regulators in sectors like telecommunications, insurance electricity, etc.

Finance Commission and NITI Aayog are advisory bodies and do not review the independent regulators in sectors like telecommunications. Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission (FSLRC) also had no role in reviewing independent regulators.

27. c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Parliamentary democracy envisages a cabinet form of government with a President as a titular head (and a governor in the states) with responsibility of ministers to the Parliament.

One of the key features of Parliamentary System of Government is that the Executive is responsible to the Legislature. Thus, Under Article 75(3), In India the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the House of People (Lok Sabha). The Council of Ministers remains in office as long as they enjoy the support and confidence of the Lok Sabha.

The features of parliamentary government in India are:

- (a) Presence of nominal and real executives;
- (b) Majority party rule,
- (c) Collective responsibility of the executive to the legislature,
- (d) Membership of the ministers in the legislature,
- (e) Leadership of the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister,
- (f) Dissolution of the lower House (Lok Sabha or Assembly).

28. a

Exp) Option a is correct.

The Rajya Sabha has been given certain special powers that are not enjoyed by the Lok Sabha. This helps it to maintain the federal equilibrium by protecting the interests of the states against the undue interference of the Centre.

Statement 1 is correct. If the Union Parliament wishes to remove a matter from the State list (over which only the State Legislature can make law) to either the Union List or Concurrent List in the interest of the nation, the approval of the Rajya Sabha is necessary. This is because the Rajya Sabha is an institutional mechanism to provide representation to the States. Its purpose is to protect the powers of the States. Therefore, any matter that affects the States must be referred to it for its consent and approval.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Rajya Sabha has been given some special powers which it enjoys exclusively. This includes power to authorise the Parliament to create new All-India Services common to both the Centre and states (Article 312) by passing a resolution. The resolution has to be supported by not less than two-third members present and voting (and not simple majority). The Lok Sabha does not enjoy any such power to create new All India Services.

29. b

Exp) Option b is correct.

The Constitution of India provides for a parliamentary system of government modelled on the British pattern.

Thus, the council of ministers headed by the prime minister is the real executive authority in our politico-administrative system.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 75 (3) of the Constitution states that the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and not parliament as a whole.

Statement 2 is correct. According to Article 75 (2), the Minister shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.

Statement 3 is correct. Article 78 (a) states that it shall be the duty of the Prime Minister to communicate to the President all decisions of the council of Ministers relating to the administration of the affairs of the union and proposals for legislation.

30. b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Consultative committees are attached to various ministries/departments of the Central Government. They consist of members of both the Houses of Parliament. The Minister/Minister of State in charge of the Ministry concerned acts as the chairman of the consultative committee of that ministry.

Statement 2 is correct. These committees provide a forum for informal discussions between the ministers and the members of Parliament on policies and programmes of the government and the manner of their implementation.

Statement 3 is correct. Consultative committees are constituted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The guidelines regarding the composition, functions and procedures of these committees are formulated by this Ministry. The Ministry also makes arrangements for holding their meetings both during the session and the intersession period of Parliament.

The membership of these committees is voluntary and is left to the choice of the members and the leaders of their parties. The maximum membership of a committee is 30 and the minimum is 10.

31. d

Exp) Option d is correct.

The Rajya Sabha has restricted powers with regard to a money bill. It cannot reject or amend a money bill. It can only make the recommendations. It must return the bill to the Lok Sabha within 14 days, whether with or without recommendations. The Lok Sabha can either accept or reject all or any of the recommendations of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement 1 is correct. Article 109 says that a Money Bill shall not be introduced in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha). It has to be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and after it is passed by that House, it has to be transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendation.

Statement 2 is correct. If it is a money bill, the Rajya Sabha can either approve the bill or suggest changes but

cannot reject it. If a Money Bill is not returned by the Rajya Sabha within fourteen days of its receipt to the Lok Sabha, it will be deemed to have been passed by both Houses after the expiry of the said period. Amendments to the bill, suggested by Rajya Sabha, may or may not be accepted by the Lok Sabha.

Statement 3 is correct. Certain category of Financial Bills also cannot be introduced in the Rajya Sabha but there is no other limitation on the power of the Rajya Sabha with regard to such Bills and the Rajya Sabha has full powers to reject or amend a Financial Bill as it has in respect of any Bill other than a Money Bill.

32. c

Exp) Option c is correct.

The principle of collective responsibility implies that the Lok Sabha can remove the ministry (i.e., council of ministers headed by the prime minister) from office by passing a vote of no confidence.

Statement 1 is correct. There is no mention of a No-Confidence Motion in the Constitution of India. However, Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Lok Sabha specifies the procedure for moving a no-confidence motion.

Statement 2 is correct. A Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to Lok Sabha and it remains in office till it enjoys confidence of majority of the members in Lok Sabha. Thus, A no-confidence motion can be moved only in the Lok Sabha (or state assembly as the case may be).

A no-confidence motion can be moved by any member of the House.

33. c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. Article 190 of the Indian Constitution states that no person shall be a member of both Houses of Parliament and provision shall be made by Parliament by law for the vacation by a person who is chosen a member of both Houses of his seat in one House or the other.

Statement 2 is incorrect. A member may resign his seat by writing to the Chairman of Rajya Sabha or Speaker of Lok Sabha, as the case may be (and not to the President). The seat falls vacant when the resignation is accepted. However, the Chairman/ Speaker may not accept the resignation if he is satisfied that it is not voluntary or genuine.

Statement 3 is correct. A House can declare the seat of a member vacant if he is absent from all its meetings for a period of sixty days without its permission. In computing the period of sixty days, no account shall be taken of any period during which the House is prorogued or adjourned for more than four consecutive days.

Statement 4 is incorrect. The Salaries and Allowances of the Members of Parliament are determined by the Salaries, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954. It is not charged on the Consolidated Fund

of India and is not provided for in the Second Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

34. c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Budget Division of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) (and not the department of revenue) in the finance ministry is the nodal body responsible for producing the Budget.

Statement 2 is correct. The Constitution (under article 114) states that 'no money shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India except under appropriation made by law'. Accordingly, an appropriation bill is introduced in the parliament to provide for the appropriation, out of the Consolidated Fund of India. It should be noted in this context that the voting of demands for grants is the exclusive privilege of the Lok Sabha, that is, the Rajya Sabha has no power of voting the demands.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Provident Fund deposits, savings bank deposits, remittances etc. are credited to the Public Account and this account is operated by the executive action i.e., payment from this account can be made without Parliamentary appropriation.

35. d

Exp) Option d is correct.

The Constitution of India provides for a separate secretarial staff for each House of Parliament. Parliament may by law regulate the recruitment and the conditions of service of persons appointed to the secretarial staff of either House of Parliament. The Secretariat functions under the overall guidance and control of the Chairman/ Speaker.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 98 of the Indian Constitution states that each House of Parliament shall have separate secretarial staff of its own, though there can be some posts common to both the Houses. Thus, it is a constitutional office and not a statutory office.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The secretariat of each House is headed by a secretary-general. He is a permanent officer and is appointed by the presiding officer of the House (and not the President).

36. d

Exp) Option d is correct.

According to Article 249 of the Constitution of India if the Rajya Sabha declares that it is necessary in the national interest that Parliament should make laws with respect to goods and services tax or a matter in the State List, then the Parliament becomes competent to make laws on that matter. Such a resolution must be supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting. The resolution remains in force for one year; it can be renewed

any number of times but not exceeding one year at a time. The laws cease to have effect on the expiration of six months after the resolution has ceased to be in force.

This provision does not restrict the power of a state legislature to make laws on the same matter. But, in case of inconsistency between a state law and a parliamentary law, the latter is to prevail.

37. c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Under the Indian constitution, the parliament of India consists of three parts viz, the President, the Council of states (Rajya sabha) and the House of the people (Lok sabha).

Though the president of India is not a member of either House of Parliament and does not sit in the Parliament to attend its meetings, still he is an integral part of Parliament.

This is because of the following:

- 1) A bill passed by both the houses of Parliament cannot become law without the president's assent. (Statement 1 is correct)
- 2) He performs certain functions relating to the proceedings of the Parliament, for example, he summons and prorogues both the Houses and dissolves the Lok Sabha. (Statement 2 is correct)
- 3) He addresses the parliament at the commencement of the first session after each general election and the first session of each year. (Statement 3 is correct)
- 4) He issues ordinances when Parliament is not in session.

The parliamentary form of government emphasizes on the interdependence between the legislative and executive organs.

Hence, we have the 'President-in-Parliament' like the 'Crown-in-Parliament' in Britain.

The presidential form of government, on the other hand, lays stress on the separation of legislative and executive organs. Hence, the American president is not regarded as a constituent part of the Congress.

38. a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Territorial representation simply means one person is elected to represent a particular territory. It is generally done through the First-past-the-post system. It is an electoral system in which voters indicate on ballots the candidate of their choice and the candidate receiving the majority of votes gets to win.

Proportional representation (PR) is a term used to describe a range of electoral systems in which the distribution of seats corresponds closely with the proportion of the total votes cast for each party or individual candidate.

Statement 1 is correct. Under territorial representation, every member of the legislature represents a

geographical area known as a constituency. From each constituency, only one representative is elected. Hence such a constituency is known as single-member constituency. In this system, a candidate who secures majority of votes is declared elected. This simple majority system of representation does not represent the whole electorate. In other words, it does not secure due representation to minorities (small groups).

Proportional representation is a system used to elect representatives in multi-member constituencies. It is used to secure representation in the legislature in such a way that each group or political party gets seats in proportion to the percentage of votes casted in favor of a group or political party. The more the percentage of votes casted in favor of a political party, the more the seats that will be allocated to it. The system provides representation for all interest groups in a given community.

Statement 2 is correct. The system of proportional representation aims at removing the defects of territorial representation. Under this system, all sections of the people get representation in proportion to their number. Even the smallest section of the population gets its due share of representation in the legislature. So, it is more likely to promote minority thinking and group interests.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Additionally, the system of proportional representation has the following demerits:

1. It is highly expensive. 2. It does not give any scope for organising by-elections. 3. It eliminates intimate contacts between voters and representatives. 4. It increases the significance of party system and decreases that of voter.

Whereas by elections can be easily held in territorial representation system.

Knowledge Base:

There are two kinds of proportional representation, namely, single transferable vote system and list system.

In India, the first kind is adopted for the election of members to the Rajya Sabha and state legislative council and for electing the President and the Vice-President

39. b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statements 1 and 5 are incorrect - The salaries of the high court judges are not charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India. Only their pensions are charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India. The salaries and allowances of the judges, the salaries, allowances and pensions of the staff as well as the administrative expenses of a high court are charged on the consolidated fund of the state.

The expenditure incurred by the Election Commission of India is also not charged on Consolidated Fund of India; rather it is voted by the parliament.

The disbursements charged on the Consolidated Fund or Charged Expenditures are non-votable charges. These charges have to be paid whether the budget is passed or not. The expenses under this category, among others,

includes: (Statements 2, 3 and 4 are correct)

- 1) The salaries and allowances and pension payable to or in respect of judges of the Supreme Court and the pension payable to or in respect of Judges of any High Court.
- 2) Debt Charges for which the Government of India is liable including interest, sinking fund charges and redemption charges and other expenditure relating to loans and the service and redemption of debt.
- 3) The salaries and allowances of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Council of States and the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House of People.
- 4) The administrative expenses of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General including all salaries, allowances and pensions payable to or in respect of persons serving in that office.

40. b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Communist Party of India (CPI) was the single largest opposition party in the First general Election held in 1951-52.

Statement 2 is correct. Historically, the first officially designated Opposition party in Parliament emerged from the break-up of the all-dominant Congress party in power. In 1969, when Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, the Congress split to form the Indian National Congress (Requisitionists) and the Indian National Congress (Organisation). The Leader of INC(O), Ram Subhag Singh, became the first person to be formally recognised as LoP in the Lok Sabha.

Statement 3 is incorrect. A party must have at least 10 per cent of the strength of the House in order to qualify to be designated as a parliamentary party and the leader of the largest such parliamentary party in the opposition ranks is designated Leader of Opposition. Thus, a party must have 55 seats in Lok Sabha to designate its leader as the Leader of Opposition.

41. b

Exp) Option b is correct.

The main objective of the standing committees is to secure more accountability of the Executive (i.e., the Council of Ministers) to the Parliament, particularly financial accountability. They also assist the Parliament in debating the budget more effectively. Currently there are 24 Departmental standing committees functioning in India. 17 Departmentally-Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) were set up in the Parliament in 1993. In 2004, seven more such committees were setup, thus increasing their number from 17 to 24.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Each standing committee consists of 31 members in which 21 are from Lok Sabha and 10 are from Rajya Sabha. The members of the Lok Sabha are nominated by the Speaker from amongst its own

members, just as the members of the Rajya Sabha are nominated by the Chairman from amongst its members. Statement 2 is correct. The functions of each of the standing committees are to consider the demands for grants of the concerned ministries / departments before they are discussed and voted in the Lok Sabha. It also considers national basic long-term policy documents presented to the Houses.

Statement 3 is correct. One of the limitations of these standing committees is that they should not consider the matters of day-to-day administration of the concerned ministries / departments.

42. d

Exp) Option d is correct.

In a parliamentary system, the prime minister is the head of government. Most parliamentary systems have a president or a monarch who is the nominal Head of state. In such a system, the role of president or monarch is primarily ceremonial and prime minister along with the cabinet wields effective power. The parliamentary executive derives its authority from parliament. The Council of Ministers is dependent on the support of the majority in the legislature. This also means that the Council of Ministers may be removed at any time and a new Council of Ministers will have to be put in place.

43. b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. General Purposes Committee considers and advises on matters concerning affairs of the House, which do not fall within the jurisdiction of any other parliamentary committee. It does not regulate the programme and time table of the House. In each House, this committee consists of the presiding officer (Speaker / Chairman) as its ex-officio Chairman.

Statement 2 is correct. Rules Committee considers the matters of procedure and conduct of business in the House and recommends necessary amendments or additions to the rules of the House. The Lok Sabha committee consists of 15 members including the Speaker as its ex-officio chairman. In the Rajya Sabha, it consists of 16 members including the Chairman as its ex-officio Chairman.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Business Advisory Committee regulates the programme and time table of the House. It allocates time for the transaction of legislative and other business brought before the House by the government. It does not advise on matters which do not fall within the jurisdiction of any other Parliamentary Committee. The Lok Sabha committee consists of 15 members including the Speaker as its chairman. In the Rajya Sabha, it has 11 members including the Chairman as its ex officio Chairman.

44. a

Exp) Option a is correct.

The Constitution refers to the budget as the 'annual financial statement'. It has been dealt with in Article 112 of the Constitution. The budget is a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India in a particular financial year, which begins on 1 April and ends on 31 March of the following year.

Statement 1 is correct. In addition to the estimates of receipts and expenditure, the budget contains certain other elements like,

- 1) Estimates of revenue and capital receipts;
- 2) Ways and means to raise the revenue;
- 3) Estimates of expenditure;
- 4) Details of the actual receipts and expenditure of the closing financial year and the reasons for any deficit or surplus in that year; and
- 5) Economic and financial policy of the coming year, that is, taxation proposals, prospects of revenue, spending programme and introduction of new schemes/projects.

Statement 2 is correct. The term 'budget' has nowhere been mentioned in the Constitution. It is mentioned as 'Annual financial statement' in article 112.

Statement 3 is incorrect. It is the Parliament that can reduce or abolish a tax but cannot increase it.

45. D

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. According to the Constitution of India, the maximum strength of the legislative council is fixed at one-third of the total strength of the assembly and the minimum strength is fixed at 40 (with some exceptions).

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Chairman of the Legislative Council is elected by the council itself from amongst its members.

46. b

Exp) Option b is correct

Statement 1 is *incorrect*. Anyone who is 18 years old or more and who has the right to vote is a member of the Gram Sabha. In other words, a person who is above 18 year old, and registered within the electoral rolls of a village comprised within the area of panchayat at the village level, is the member of gram sabha.

Gram Sabha is the general assembly of registered voters who reside in the area of Gram Panchayat.

Statement 2 is correct. The Gram Panchayat has a Secretary who also works as the Secretary of the Gram Sabha. He / She is appointed by the concerned state government. He / She is responsible for calling the meeting

of the Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat and keeping a record of the proceedings.

47. c

Exp) Option c is correct

Twenty-Nine Functional Items are placed within the purview of panchayats and listed in Schedule Eleven of the Constitution of India: -

- 1) Agriculture, including agricultural extension
- 2) Land improvement, implementation of land reforms, land consolidation and soil conservation.
- 3) Minor irrigation, water management and watershed development
- 4) Animal husbandry, dairying, and poultry
- 5) Fisheries
- 6) Social forestry and farm forestry
- 7) Minor forest produce
- 8) Small-scale industries, including food processing industries
- 9) Khadi, village and cottage industries
- 10) Rural housing
- 11) Drinking water
- 12) Fuel and fodder
- 13) Roads, culverts, bridges, ferries, waterways, and other means of communication (Statement 1 is correct)
- 14) Rural electrification, including distribution of electricity
- 15) Non-conventional energy sources
- 16) Poverty alleviation programme
- 17) Education, including primary and secondary schools
- 18) Technical training and vocational education
- 19) Adult and non-formal education
- 20) Libraries
- 21) Cultural activities
- 22) Markets and fairs
- 23) Health and sanitation including hospitals, primary health centres and dispensaries
- 24) Family welfare
- 25) Women and child development
- 26) Social welfare, including welfare of the handicapped and mentally retarded
- 27) Welfare of the weaker sections, and, in particular, of the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes.

28) Public distribution system

29) Maintenance of community assets, which may include maintenance of natural lake, ponds, school building, and other assets created (Statement 3 is correct).

Voluntary provisions: State government should grant financial powers to the panchayats, that is, authorizing them to levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees. It is the state government which is competent to levy taxes on agricultural income as per entry number 46 in state list under Seventh Schedule. (Statement 2 is *incorrect*)

48. b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Only statements 1 and 3 are correct.

The governor can use discretionary powers:

- (a) If no party gets an absolute majority, the governor can use his discretion in the selection of the chief minister;
- (b) During an emergency he can override the advice of the council of ministers. At such times, he acts as an agent of the President and becomes the real ruler of the state;
- (c) He uses his discretion in submitting a report to the President regarding the affairs of the state;
- (d) He can withhold his assent to a bill and send it to the President for his approval.

Statements 2 and 4 are incorrect.

Article 166(3) - The Governor shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of the State, and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business in so far as it is not business with respect to which the Governor is by or under this Constitution required to act in his discretion. Hence, making the rules to conduct the business of the State Government is not a discretionary power but a constitutional obligation. Also, the Governor appoints Ministers on the advice of the Chief Minister.

49. c

Exp) Option c is correct.

Statement 1 is *incorrect*. The President of India can be removed from office by a process of impeachment for 'violation of the Constitution'. However, the Constitution does not define the meaning of the phrase 'violation of the Constitution'. The term Basic Structure is coined Kesavananda Bharati case in 1973 by Supreme Court in India and it is not the ground for impeachment of President of India

Statement 2 is *incorrect*. The impeachment charges can be initiated by either House of Parliament. It does not require the prior permission of Chief Justice of India or any other institutions. These charges should be signed by one-fourth members of the House (that framed the charges), and a 14 days' notice should be given to the

President.

Statement 3 is correct. An impeachment is a quasi-judicial procedure in the Parliament. In this context, two things should be noted: (a) the nominated members of either House of Parliament can participate in the impeachment of the President though they do not participate in his election; (b) the elected members of the legislative assemblies of states and the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry do not participate in the impeachment of the President though they participate in his election.

Statement 4 is *incorrect*. After the impeachment resolution is passed by a majority of two-thirds of the total membership of that House, it is sent to the other House, which should investigate the charges. If the other House also sustains the charges and passes the impeachment resolution by a majority of two-thirds of the total membership, then the President stands removed from his office from the date on which the resolution is so passed

There is no need to pass Constitutional Amendment for the removal of President of India.

50. a

Exp) Option a is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. The District planning committee (DPC) constituted by each state at district level to consolidate development plans prepared by panchayats and municipalities is generally composed of elected members of the local bodies within the district, both rural and urban, as well as some nominated members. The number of members varies with the population size of the districts. The ratio of members from Panchayats and ULBs is based on the ratio in which the population of the district is divided between rural and urban areas.

Statement 2 is *incorrect*. The DPCs are to have at least four-fifths elected members as per Article 243 ZD.

Members should be elected from amongst, the elected members of the Panchayat at the district level and of the Municipalities in the district in proportion to the ratio between the population of the rural areas and of the urban areas in the district. The actual pattern, however, varies across states.

Statement 3 is *incorrect*. The chairperson of such committees forwards the development plan to the state government.

In preparing the draft development plan, a district planning committee shall (a) Have regard to– (1) matters of common interest between the Panchayats and Municipalities including spatial planning, sharing of water other physical and natural resources, the integrated development of infrastructure and environmental conservation;

51. (b)

- Under the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, states are guaranteed compensation for loss of revenue on account of implementation of GST for a transition period of five years between 2017 and 2022.
- The compensation is calculated based on the difference between the states current GST revenue and the protected revenue after estimating an annualised 14% growth rate from the base year of 2015-16.

52. (d)

About PM-Kisan scheme:

- It is a central sector scheme with 100 per cent funding from the Government of India. The scheme was launched in December 2018.
- Under the scheme, income support of ₹6,000 per year is provided to small and marginal farmers.
- The state governments and Union Territory administration identify the farmers who are eligible for the scheme and share the list with the Centre.

53. (d)

Explanation:

- Nano urea liquid is a patented technology of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) developed at its Nano Biotechnology Research Center, Gujarat.
- IFFCO has priced nano urea liquid at ₹240 per bottle, which is 10 per cent cheaper than the cost of a bag of conventional urea.
- Nano urea liquid is environmental friendly, smart fertilizer with high nutrient use efficiency and a sustainable solution for curtailing pollution and reduction in global warming in the long run as it reduces the emissions of nitrous oxide into soil, air and water bodies.
- The size of one nano urea particle is 30 nanometre and when compare to the conventional urea it has about 10,000 times more surface area to volume size when compare to granular urea.
- Due to the ultra-small size and surface properties of nano urea, it gets absorbed by the plants when sprayed on their leaves. Upon penetration, these nanoparticles reach plant parts where nitrogen is required and release nutrients in a controlled manner.
- IFFCO said nano urea requirement will be lower than conventional urea fertiliser to fulfil plant's nitrogen requirement.
- The efficacy trials demonstrated that nano urea increases crop productivity and can reduce the requirement of conventional Urea by 50 per cent.
- Further, application of nano urea (liquid) improves yield, biomass, soil health and nutritional quality of the produce.
- Nano Urea liquid is completely safe for human, animals, birds, rhizosphere organisms and environment at the recommended levels of application.

54. (d) Explanation:

- It is located in Uttarakhand.
- Declared a National Park in 1982, the Valley of Flowers stretches over an expanse of 87.50 sq. km.
- It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2005.
- The valley was an accidental discovery by an avid British mountaineer and a botanist, Frank S Smythe, when he was traversing through the region in 1931.
- The valley today is home to over 600 flowering species, including some exotic varieties like Brahmkamal, which is also the state flower of Uttarakhand.
- Blue poppy, described as the Queen of Flowers, can also be found here.
- The region also has a rich faunal diversity with species like the leopard, musk deer, and blue sheep.
- It is located on a unique transition zone between the mountain ranges of the Zaskar and Great Himalaya.
- The park lies completely in the temperate alpine zone.

55. (b) Explanation:

- S1: About 29% are such, not 26%. Out of the 5723 assessment units assessed jointly by State Ground Water Departments and CGWB in the country, 4078 are safe (71%), 550 are semi critical (10%), 226 are critical (4%) and 839 are over exploited (15%).
- S2: Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under Section 3(3) of 'The Environment (Protection) Act, (1986)' regulates extraction of ground water through guidelines which are updated regularly.
- S3: At 39 million hectares (67% of its total irrigation), India has the world's largest groundwater well equipped irrigation system (China with 19 mha is second, USA with 17 mha is third).

Refer: UPSC CSE 2020

56. (b) Explanation:

- The UIDAI is a statutory authority established on 12th July 2016.
- Parent body: Works under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Initially, the UIDAI was set up by the Government of India in January 2009, as an attached office under the aegis of the Planning Commission.
- Mandate: The UIDAI is mandated to assign a 12-digit unique identification (UID) number (Aadhaar) to all the residents of India.
- Total: As of 31st October 2021, UIDAI had issued 131.68 crore Aadhaar numbers.

57. c) Explanation:

- Israel and the United Arab Emirates have signed a free trade agreement.
- This is the first of its kind that Israel has concluded with an Arab country.
- The deal scraps customs duties on 96% of all products traded.

- The UAE was the first Gulf country to normalise ties with Israel and only the third Arab nation to do so after Egypt and Jordan.

58. (c) Explanation:

- It is bounded to the east and south by Pakistan (including those areas of Kashmir administered by Pakistan but claimed by India), to the west by Iran, and to the north by the Central Asian states of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.

59. (b) Explanation:

- S2: The G7 is not based on a treaty and has no permanent secretariat or office; its presidency rotates annually among the member states, with the presiding state setting the group's priorities, and hosting and organizing its summit.
- S1: The Group of Seven (G7) is an inter-governmental political forum consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. In addition, the European Union is a 'non-enumerated member'. Its members are the world's largest IMF advanced economies and wealthiest liberal democracies;

60. (b) Explanation:

- The CBI is the designated nodal body for the Interpol in India. It works in close coordination with the Interpol and other member countries for the sharing of inputs related to trans-national crimes and persons wanted by enforcement agencies across the world.
- India has been a member since 1956.
- Like any member nation, India maintains a National Central Bureau, which serves as the national platform for cooperation between domestic law enforcement units and the international police community.
- The NCB is the designated contact point for the Interpol.
- India has collaborated with the Interpol, in tackling a myriad of organised crimes such as poaching, wildlife trafficking, spurious drugs, and fake medicine rackets, among others.

61. (b) Explanation:

- The concept of eVTOL aircraft emerged in 2009 when a video of the NASA Puffin eVTOL concept went viral on November 11th 2009 showcasing a single person concept rendering of the technology, and concept in flight.
- An electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft is a variety of VTOL (vertical take-off and landing) aircraft that uses electric power to hover, take off, and land vertically.

62. (a) Explanation:

- India's coal industry was predominantly driven by the private sector after Independence until the Indira Gandhi government decided to transfer all coal holdings to Coal India through the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973.
- S2 is done on an auction basis.
- India is still import-dependent for coal supply.

63. (d) • All three statements are correct

64. (a) • The ISS programme is a joint project between five participating space agencies: NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada)

- ISS is now the largest human-made body in low Earth orbit. The Chinese station will be smaller and similar in design, meaning it will have limited capacity for astronauts (three versus six on ISS).

- The completed station will be similar to the Soviet Mir station that orbited Earth from the 1980s until 2001.
- But the ISS is scheduled to be decommissioned after 2024 to leave place for the Lunar Gateway, a small outpost that will orbit the Moon. This is an international initiative part of the US-led Artemis Programme that again sees China excluded.

65. (b) Explanation:

- The fishing cat is nocturnal (active at night).
- State animal of West Bengal.
- Habitats: In India, fishing cats are mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, on the foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga and Brahmaputra river valleys and in the Western Ghats
- Protection:
 - o Vulnerable— IUCN Red List.
 - o CITES: Appendix II
 - o Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I.
 - o Fishing Cat Project, launched in 2010 started raising awareness about the Cat in West Bengal.

66. (d) Explanation:

- Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) or Ecologically Fragile Areas (EFAs) are areas notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. The purpose of declaring ESZs is to create some kind of “shock absorbers” to the protected areas by regulating and managing the activities around such areas. They also act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.
- The Environment Protection Act, 1986 does not mention the word “Ecosensitive Zones”.
- The section 3(2)(v) of the Act, says that Central Government can restrict areas in which any industries, operations or processes shall not be carried out or shall be carried out subject to certain safeguards
- Besides the section 5 (1) of this act says that central government can prohibit or restrict the location of industries and carrying on certain operations or processes on the basis of considerations like the biological diversity of an area, maximum allowable limits of concentration of pollutants for an area, environmentally compatible land use, and proximity to protected areas.
- The above two clauses have been effectively used by the government to declare Eco-Sensitive Zones or Ecologically Fragile Areas (EFA). The same criteria have been used by the government to declare No Development Zones.
- National Board for Wildlife (which replaced the Indian Board for Wildlife in 2002) decided that the “delineation of ESZs would have to be site specific and relate to regulation, rather than prohibition of specific activities”.

67. (c) Explanation:

About Kabir:

- Sant Kabir Das was a very renowned saint, poet and social reformer of India who lived during the 15th century. His esteemed works and poems describe the greatness and oneness of the Supreme Being.
- He was a proponent of the Bhakti Movement.
- He did not believe in any religious discrimination and readily accepted all the religions.
- A religious community known as ‘Kabir Panth’ was founded by him and the members of this forum are referred to as ‘Kabir Panthis’.
- Swami Ramananda influence: Kabir Das’ ideologies were greatly influenced by Vaishnava saint Swami Ramananda who accepted Kabir as his disciple.

68. (b) Explanation:

Overview of the Surrogacy Act, 2021:

- It came into effect in January this year.
- It allows ‘altruistic surrogacy’ — wherein only the medical expenses and insurance coverage is provided by the couple to the surrogate mother during pregnancy.
- Creates a national board to lay down and implement a code of conduct for people working at IVF clinics.

- It intends to make genetic testing of the embryo mandatory before implantation for the benefit of the child born through ART. It also seeks to streamline the cryo-preservation processes for sperm, oocytes and embryos.
- It also proposes to constitute a national registry and registration authority to maintain a central database and assist the national board in its functioning.

69. (b) Explanation:

- Option A: They were applicable to both.
- Option C: This was due to commercialization of agriculture, not land reforms.

Refer: UPSC CSE 2019

70. (a) Explanation:

- S1 and S2: The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is a group of nuclear supplier countries that seeks to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons through the implementation of two sets of Guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports. But becoming the member of the 'Nuclear Suppliers Group' will NOT automatically make a country a member of "The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).
- The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is a multilateral export control regime and a group of nuclear supplier countries that seek to prevent nuclear proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment and technology that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.
- Membership of the NSG enables access to technology for a range of uses from medicine to building nuclear power plants for India from the NSG which is essentially a traders' cartel.

71. (b) Explanation:

- It is a condition caused by the deficiency of the male sex hormone, testosterone.
- It can cause sexual dysfunction, weakening of bones and muscles, and reduced quality of life.
- Risk factors include ageing (as testosterone levels decline with age), obesity and diabetes.
- Testosterone replacement therapy is the standard treatment for hypogonadism.

72. (a)

- From the policy document: "The scope of the Policy encompasses following categories of fuels as "Biofuels" which can be used as transportation fuel or in stationary applications:—
- 'bioethanol': ethanol produced from biomass such as sugar containing materials, like sugar cane, sugar beet, sweet sorghum etc.; starch containing materials such as corn, cassava, rotten potatoes, algae etc.; and, cellulosic materials such as bagasse, wood waste, agricultural and forestry residues or other renewable resources like industrial waste;
- 'biodiesel': a methyl or ethyl ester of fatty acids produced from non-edible vegetable oils, acid oil, used cooking oil or animal fat and bio-oil;

73. (d) Explanation:

About Sant Tukaram:

- He was the contemporary of Shivaji.
- He is considered as the greatest Maratha Bhakthi reformer.
- He made the Vithoba cult popular.
- He composed devotional songs on Vithalswamy called as Abhangs.
- He preached the message of equality and universal brotherhood.
- Sant Tukaram and his work are central to the Warkari sect spread across Maharashtra.
- Sant Tukaram is credited with starting the Wari pilgrimage.
- His master was Saint Chaitanya Mahaprabhu of the Bhakti movement.

74. (d) Explanation:

- It is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) under the Digital India Programme.
- The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA) is the 'Nodal Ministry' for its implementation in all the 31 States/UTs with Legislatures.
- The funding for e-Vidhan is provided by the MoPA and technical support by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MietY).
- The funding of NeVA is through Central Sponsored Scheme. 60:40; and 90:10 for North East & hilly States and 100% for UTs.

75. : (d) Explanation:

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7
- It is a "policy-making body" which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in various areas.
- The FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD headquarters in Paris.

76. (b) Explanation:

- *Chelonoidis phantasticus* is a giant tortoise species believed to be extinct for more than a century.
- Now, a surviving member has been found in Fernandina Island (Galápagos Islands, Ecuador).
- Commonly called the Fernandina Island Galápagos giant tortoise, the species was so far known only from a single individual, collected in 1906.

77. (c) Explanation:

- Ramsay Hunt Syndrome is neurological disease in which a virus – Varicella Zoster – causes inflammation of the nerves involved in facial movements.
- The Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV) is the same virus that causes chickenpox and shingles.
- When the nerves get inflamed, they lose their ability to function, leading to temporary facial palsy or paralysis.
- The symptoms include painful, red rash and blisters in and around the ear, and facial paralysis on the same side.
- It is treated using anti-viral drugs, steroids and physiotherapy.

78. (a) Explanation:

- A black swan is an extremely rare event with severe consequences.
- It cannot be predicted beforehand, though after the fact, many falsely claim it should have been predictable.
- Black swan events can cause catastrophic damage to an economy by negatively impacting markets and investments, but even the use of robust modeling cannot prevent a black swan event.
- Reliance on standard forecasting tools can both fail to predict and potentially increase vulnerability to black swans by propagating risk and offering false security.
- The term was popularized by the book, *The Black Swan*, by Nassim Nicholas Taleb.

79. : (c) Explanation:

- Spiny Horntail (*Burmagomphus chaukulensis*) discovered in the Kottiyoor forests of Kannur
- The species that is known to be endemic to the Western Ghats was discovered in Maharashtra earlier this year.
- Dragonflies have nearly 360-degree vision, with just one blind spot directly behind them. This extraordinary vision is one reason why they're able to keep a watch on a single insect within a swarm and go after it while avoiding midair collisions with other insects in the swarm

80. (c) Explanation:

- National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) is an organisation of the Government of India created under Sec 70A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (amended 2008), through a gazette notification on 16th Jan 2014 based in New Delhi, India.
- It is designated as the National Nodal Agency in respect of Critical Information Infrastructure Protection.

81. (b) Explanation:

- S1: A current account surplus implies a higher inflow of forex than outflow.
 - o It helps with an increase in reserves which is critical for maintaining financial and external sector stability.
- S2: According to an assessment by India Ratings, the Current Account Deficit (CAD) has moderated to \$17.3 billion or 1.96 per cent of GDP in the fourth quarter of FY22.

82. (b) Explanation:

Overview of the Surrogacy Act, 2021:

- It allows 'altruistic surrogacy' — wherein only the medical expenses and insurance coverage is provided by the couple to the surrogate mother during pregnancy.
- Creates a national board to lay down and implement a code of conduct for people working at IVF clinics.
- It intends to make genetic testing of the embryo mandatory before implantation for the benefit of the child born through ART.
- It also seeks to streamline the cryo-preservation processes for sperm, oocytes and embryos.
- It also proposes to constitute a national registry and registration authority to maintain a central database and assist the national board in its functioning

83. (d) Explanation:

- The New Development Bank (NDB) was established in 2015 by BRICS countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The Bank's membership is open to members of the United Nations. NDB commenced the admission of its first new member countries in the second half of 2021.
- The bank is headquartered in Shanghai, China.

84. (a) Explanation:

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

- It is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ONDC is a network based on open protocol and will enable local commerce across segments, such as mobility, grocery, food order and delivery, hotel booking and travel, among others, to be discovered and engaged by any network-enabled application

85. (c) Explanation:

- 'Sao Joao' festival is the feast of St John the Baptist. Traditionally, people jump into the well but since the wells are fast disappearing, people prefer to celebrate it in swimming pools.
- It is celebrated to commemorate the day in the name of St John De Baptista who was believed to have baptised Jesus Christ.
- Sao Joao, like any other Goan festival, has that captivating spirit of merriment, colour and tradition. People dressed in colourful outfits from several villages meet and celebrate the day like a carnival.

86. : (a) Explanation:

- BIS is the National Standard Body of India (under the BIS act 1986) for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods.

- It became a national standard body of India under BIS Act 2016. It involves Certification, Hallmarking (e.g., Gold jewellery), Eco Mark (e.g. environmentally friendly products), Compulsory registration (for electronic items) and Laboratory services

87. (a) Explanation:

- Hermit is new spyware with the capability to affect both Android and iOS devices.
- Spyware is malicious software that enters a user's computer, gathers data from the device and user, and sends it to third parties without their consent.

88. (d)

- Justification: S1 and S2: Selection of resistant microorganisms is exacerbated by inappropriate use of antimicrobials since a number of microbes are resistant to these anti-biotics. So, S1 is irrelevant to MDR.
- The practice of adding antibiotics to agricultural feed promotes drug resistance.
- S3: As per WHO, the high volume of antibiotics in food-producing animals contributes to the development of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria, particularly in settings of intensive animal production. These bacteria can be transmitted from animals to humans via direct contact between animals and humans, or through the food chain and the environment.
- S4: This is a confusing option, nonetheless seems correct.
- Many medical advances are dependent on the ability to fight infections using antibiotics, such as for treatment of chronic diseases like diabetes, asthma, and rheumatoid arthritis, and thus, multiple chronic diseases in some people may lead them to take more antibiotics than others exacerbating the problem.
- Sometimes healthcare providers prescribe antimicrobials inappropriately, wishing to placate an insistent patient who has a viral infection or an as-yet undiagnosed condition. At times there could be a wrong identification of the disease. All these worsen the problem. Whether this is actually a reason or not is hard to testify unless we find a solid evidence, but based on reasoning alone this would be correct.
- Also, MDR provokes obstruction in disease control by intensifying the possibility of spreading of resistant pathogens, thus, declining efficacy of treatment and, hence, resulting in prolonged time of infection in patient.

89. (d) Explanation:

- Ukraine is bordered by Belarus to the north, Russia to the east, the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea to the south, Moldova and Romania to the southwest, and Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland to the west.

90. (a) Explanation:

- NASA launched CAPSTONE, a microwave oven-sized CubeSat weighing just 55 pounds (25 kg). CAPSTONE – Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System Technology Operations and Navigation Experiment, is designed to test a unique, elliptical lunar orbit known as a near-rectilinear halo orbit (NRHO) which is significantly elongated, and is located at a precise balance point in the gravities of Earth and the Moon. This offers stability for long-term missions like Gateway.
- CAPS (Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System) is CAPSTONE's autonomous navigation software. If tested successfully, the software will allow future spacecraft to determine their location without having to rely exclusively on Earth-based tracking.

91. d

[SOL] In News: Recently, The Prime Minister of India highlighted that the country has reached a landmark figure of 100 unicorns with a valuation of more than \$300 billion. Statements 1 and 2 are not correct : Unicorns are privately held, venture-capital backed startups that have reached a value of \$1 billion. o The term was first popularised by venture capitalist Aileen Lee.

- They are very rare and require innovation. Because of their sheer size, unicorn investor

- The valuation of unicorns is not expressly linked to their current financial performance, but largely based on their growth potential as perceived by investors and venture capitalists who have taken part in various funding rounds tend to be private investors or venture capitalists, which means they are out of the reach of retail investors.

92. d

[SOL] Statement 1 is not correct: Tax-to-GDP ratio represents the size of a country's tax kitty relative to its GDP. It is a representation of the size of the government's tax revenue expressed as a percentage of the GDP. The higher the tax to GDP ratio the better the financial position the country will be in. The ratio represents that the government is able to finance its expenditure. A higher tax to GDP ratio means that the government is able to cast its fiscal net wide. It reduces a government's dependence on borrowings. Statement 2 is not correct: Developed nations typically have higher tax-to-GDP ratios than developing nations.

93. a

[SOL] In News : Species of tortoise named Fernanda after her Fernandina Island thought extinct 100 years ago rediscovered recently .It belongs to *Chelonoidis phantasticus*.

- *Chelonoidis phantasticus* means “fantastic giant tortoise”. ○ Commonly called the Fernandina Island Galápagos giant tortoise ○ The species was so far known only from a single individual, collected in 1906. ○ *Chelonoidis phantasticus* is listed as Critically Endangered in IUCN status.

94. (b)

[SOL] The Government of India (GoI) has questioned the parameters of the recently released Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2022.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Environment Performance Index (EPI) is an international ranking system of countries based on their environmental health. It is a biennial index, first started in 2002 as the Environment Sustainability Index by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in collaboration with the Yale Centre for Environmental Law and Policy and Columbia University Centre for International Earth Information Network. Statement 2 is correct: EPI 2022 uses 40 performance indicators across 11 issue categories to assess and rank 180 countries. EPI 2022 ranked India at the bottom position among 180 countries.

95. d

[SOL] Former Twitter CEO recently announced his vision for a new decentralised web platform that is being called Web 5.0.

- Web 3.0 is the next version of the internet, where services will run on blockchain. It is a decentralised internet that runs on a public blockchain, which is also used for cryptocurrency transactions.
- It will be permissionless and democratic.
- In a Web 3.0 universe, people will control their own data and will be able to move around from social media to email to shopping using a single personalised account, creating a public record on the blockchain of all of that activity.
- All data will be interconnected in a decentralised way, unlike the current generation of the internet (Web 2.0), where data is mostly stored in centralised repositories.

96. d

[SOL] Recently, the US Federal Reserve hiked interest rates by 0.75 percentage points which is the highest rate hike in 28 years in a bid to tame runaway inflation.

- Impacts:
- Foreign Portfolio Investors: Emerging economies such as India tend to have higher inflation and, therefore, higher interest rates than in developed countries.

o Thus, investors including Foreign Portfolio Investors tend to borrow in the US at lower interest rates in dollar terms, and invest that money in the bonds of countries such as India in rupee terms to earn a higher rate of interest.

- Currency carry trade: When the Fed raises its policy rates, the difference between the interest rates of the two countries narrows, thus making countries such as India less attractive for the currency carry trade.

- RBI's monetary policy: The Fed's decision to hike rates will also have a bearing on the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy.

- Pressure on the rupee: In the Indian economy, the rate hike could further weaken the domestic currency which has depreciated already.

- Imported inflation: As India is a big importer of gold, crude and electronics, the rising cost of imports is likely to further widen the current account deficit (CAD).

- War and COVID: Prices have spiked partly due to external factors that include the war in Ukraine and the continuing Covid-19 shutdowns in China's key manufacturing hubs

- Price of gas and groceries: Fed's rate hike can make borrowing costs more expensive and bring down demand in the economy by forcing consumers and businesses to curb spending.

o However, it has no control over supply shocks, which are currently being caused by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

- Gold prices may soar: gold prices could be on the rise as more people look to diversify their money and not park their money in bank deposits.

- Cost of borrowing: When the Fed raises the target interest rate, the cost of borrowing increases.

- Job cuts: rising rates will also spark a period of slower economic growth, which could result in layoffs.

97. d

[SOL] Recently, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction study stated that the COVID-19 worsened matters in Sundarbans. All the statements are correct: The Sunderban is the world's largest mangrove delta forest spread over India and Bangladesh and lies on the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers.

- Approximately 66% of the entire mangrove forest area is estimated to occur in Bangladesh with the remaining 34% in India.

- The land area in the Sundarbans has been changing constantly, moulded and shaped by the action of the tides, with erosion processes more prominent along estuaries and deposition processes along the banks of inner estuarine waterways influenced by the accelerated discharge of silt from seawater.

- Its role as a wetland nursery for marine organisms and as a climatic buffer against cyclones is a unique natural process and Sundarbans are enlisted as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

- The site is intersected by a complex network of tidal waterways, mudflats and small islands of salt-tolerant mangrove forests, and presents an excellent example of ongoing ecological processes and the forest has a large number of Sundari trees.

98. b

[SOL] Recently, the Manipur government announced that a heritage park would come up near the Keibul Lamjao National Park in Bishnupur district.

Statement 1 is not correct :The park is located in the south western part of the Loktak lake.

Statement 2 is correct : It is the only floating park in the world.

- This is the last natural habitat of the brow-antlered deer(Sangai) , the dancing deer of Manipur.

- Other wildlife to be seen include: Hog Deer, Otter, a host of waterfowl and migratory birds, the latter usually sighted during November to March.

99. d

[SOL] Recently, four new species of corals were recorded in the Indian waters of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Statements 1,2 and 3 are correct : The newly recorded species belong to the group “azooxanthellate corals”.

- These corals are a group of hard corals and the four new records are solitary and highly compressed skeletal structures.
- More about azooxanthellate corals:
 - Azooxanthellate corals are a group of corals that do not contain zooxanthellae.
 - They are non-reef building, unicellular, golden-brown algae.
 - They derive nourishment not from the sun but from capturing different forms of plankton.
 - These groups of corals are deep-sea representatives, with the majority of species reporting from between 200 m to 1000 m.
 - Their occurrences are also reported from shallow coastal waters.

100. d

[SOL] Recently, India’s cyber security watchdog CERT-In issued new rules regarding virtual private networks (VPNs).

- A VPN is a service that protects users online by preventing their IP address from being tracked by websites, law enforcement agencies, cybercriminals and others.
- About the new rules:
 - Storing Data: preserving a wide range of data on their customers, including their contact numbers, email IDs and IP addresses, for five years.
 - It also mandates VPN providers to record and keep their customers' logs for 180 days.
 - Reporting an incident: Companies are also required to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In within six hours of becoming aware of them.
 - Application: they would apply only to individual VPN customers and not to enterprise or corporate VPNs.
 - They will be also applicable to data centres, virtual private server (VPS) providers, cloud service providers, virtual asset service providers, virtual asset exchange providers, custodian wallet providers and Government organisations.
 - Penalty: Failure to follow the rules will attract penalties for VPN providers. If they all refuse to comply, VPN services will effectively become illegal in India.
 - KYC verification process: Users apart from potentially having their privacy data exposed to the government will also face a stringent know-your-customer verification process when signing up for a VPN service, and will have to state their reasons for using it