

# Competition Care<sup>®</sup>

## FREE FLT - 4

1. "Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing measures (SCM)" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?
- a) World Bank
  - b) International Monetary Fund
  - c) World Trade Organization
  - d) UNEP

Answer: C

Explanation: The Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (Subsidies Agreement) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) provides rules for the use of government subsidies and for the application of remedies to address subsidized trade that has harmful commercial effects. These remedies can be pursued through the WTO's dispute settlement procedures, or through a countervailing duty (CVD) investigation which can be undertaken unilaterally by any WTO member government.

2. Consider the following statements regarding Ministerial Conference of the WTO:
- i. It is the top decision making body of WTO.
  - ii. It usually meets every two years.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

- a) i only

- b) ii only
- c) Both i and ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

Answer: C

Explanation: The Ministerial Conference is the WTO's top decision-making body and usually meets every two years. All members of the WTO are involved in the MC and they can take decisions on all matters covered under any multilateral trade agreements.

3. Which of the following is NOT part of World Trade Organization?
- a) Agreement on Agriculture
  - b) TRIPS
  - c) TRIMS
  - d) Rapid Credit Facility

Answer: D

Explanation: The World Trade Organization is the only international organization that deals with the rules of trade between countries.

- The WTO officially commenced in 1995 under the Marrakesh Agreement signed by 124 nations, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Currently, it has 164 members and 23 observer governments (like Iran, Iraq, Bhutan, Libya etc).
- According to its rules, all decisions are taken through consensus and any member can exercise a veto.

- Its aim is to promote free trade, which is done through trade agreements that are discussed and signed by the member states. The WTO also provides a forum for countries to negotiate trade rules and settle economic disputes between them.

4. Consider the following statements regarding Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs):

- i. It applicable to both goods and services.
- ii. Local content requirement is part of the TRIMs.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both i and ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

Answer: B

Explanation: Agreement, negotiated during the Uruguay Round, applies only to measures that affect trade in goods. Recognizing that certain investment measures can have trade-restrictive and distorting effects, it states that no Member shall apply a measure that is prohibited by the provisions of GATT Article III (national treatment) or Article XI (quantitative restrictions).

- The Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs) recognizes that certain investment measures can restrict and distort trade.
- It states that WTO members may not apply any measure that discriminates against foreign products or that leads to quantitative restrictions, both of which violate basic WTO principles.

- A list of prohibited TRIMS, such as local content requirements, is part of the Agreement.
- The TRIMS Committee monitors the operation and implementation of the Agreement and allows members the opportunity to consult on any relevant matters.

5. Which of the following is NOT part of International Monetary Funding (IMF) lending facilities?

- a) Extended Credit Facility
- b) Standby Credit Facility
- c) Rapid Credit Facility
- d) Development Policy Lending Facility

Answer: D

Explanation:

All IMF members have access to the General Resources Account on non-concessional terms, but the IMF also provides concessional financial support through the (PRGT), which is better tailored to the diversity and needs of LICs. Poverty reduction strategies that details policies to promote growth and reduce poverty are essential to IMF- supported programs in LICs. The PRGT has these three concessional lending facilities:

- Extended Credit Facility
- Standby Credit Facility
- Rapid Credit Facility

6. "Fiscal Monitor report" is published by which of the following?
- a) World Economic Forum
  - b) World Bank
  - c) International Monetary Fund
  - d) UNESCO

Answer: C

Explanation: With increasing fiscal challenges in the aftermath of the global financial crisis, multilateral surveillance of fiscal developments, a key part of the IMF's surveillance responsibilities, has gained further importance. In response, the Fiscal Monitor was launched in 2009 to survey and analyze the latest public finance developments, update fiscal implications of the crisis and medium-term fiscal projections, and assess policies to put public finances on a sustainable footing. The Fiscal Monitor is prepared twice a year by the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department. Its projections are based on the same database used for the World Economic Outlook (WEO) and the Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR). The fiscal projections for individual countries have been prepared by IMF desk economists, and, in line with the WEO guidelines, assume that announced policies will be implemented.

7. Consider the following statements with respect to Jal Jeevan Mission:
- i. Objective of the mission is to give functional tap-water to every household in the country by 2024.
  - ii. Mission is based up on the principle of source sustainability.
  - iii. Jal Jeevan Mission will converge with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply.

Which of the following below given codes are correct?

- a) i only

- b) i and ii only
- c) ii and iii only
- d) i, ii and iii

Answer: D

Explanation: Water is a global issue. Our country is facing challenges regarding drinking water and making water available for irrigation. Availability of water or precipitation is favourable to us, but the problem lies with managing that water. Prime Minister Narendra Modi realised this, and therefore this Ministry was formed. The impact of climate change is visible all over the world, and in India also. The big programme announced by the Prime Minister — Jal Jeevan Mission — is to give functional tap-water to every household in the country by 2024. The Jal Jeevan Mission is set to be based on various water conservation efforts like point recharge, desilting of minor irrigation tanks, use of greywater for agriculture and source sustainability. The Jal Jeevan Mission will converge with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management across the country.

8. Sendai Framework is related to which of the following:
- a) To protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury.
  - b) Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
  - c) Conservation of species within their natural habitats
  - d) Global women's safety framework

Answer: B

Explanation: The Sendai Framework is a 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders. It aims for the following outcome:

- The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.
- The Sendai Framework is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. It is the outcome of stakeholder consultations initiated in March 2012 and inter-governmental negotiations held from July 2014 to March 2015, which were supported by the UNISDR upon the request of the UN General Assembly.
- International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction began in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. Held every 13 October, the day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face. The 2019 edition continues as part of the "Sendai Seven" campaign, centred on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework.

9. Consider the following statements about Tuberculosis (TB):

- i. Government of India (GoI) aims to eliminate TB by 2025.
- ii. TB is caused by protozoa.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both i and ii

d) Neither i nor ii

Answer: A

Explanation: The Mycobacterium tuberculosis bacterium causes TB. It is spread through the air when a person with TB (whose lungs are affected) coughs, sneezes, spits, laughs, or talks. TB is contagious, but it is not easy to catch

Elimination as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO), means that there should be less than 1 case of TB for a population of a million people. In view of the current TB burden in India, there is a great deal that needs to be done if elimination is to be achieved by 2025. The National Strategic Plan 2017 - 2025, sets out the government plans of how the elimination of TB can be achieved.

the World Health Organization released its annual Global Tuberculosis Report for 2019, which found India was able to reduce incidence in 2018 by almost 50,000 cases from the previous year, but still had the highest burden with 2.69 million cases – 26.9% of the global burden of 10 million.

10. "Most Favoured Nation" provision related to which of the following?

- a) WTO
- b) IMF
- c) AIIB
- d) World Bank

Answer: A

Explanation: The WTO provides a rule based, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system. The WTO rules envisage non-discrimination in the form of National Treatment and Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment to India's exports in the markets of other WTO Members. National Treatment ensures that India's products once imported into the territory of other WTO Members would not be



discriminated vis-à-vis the domestic products in those countries. MFN treatment principle ensures that members do not discriminate among various WTO members.

11. The term 'Rules of Origin' is related to which of the following?

- a) UNCTAD
- b) IPCC
- c) WTO
- d) UNEP

Answer: C

Explanation: India recently amended the rules of origin requirement under the Customs Act. The burden of compliance is imposed on importers, which discourages imports.

Rules of Origin: The Rules of Origin determine whether a product originated in an FTA or a non-FTA country. The products from FTA countries attract preferential tariff rates, while non-FTA attract the Most Favoured Nation rate.

12. Consider the following statements with respect to International Monetary Fund (IMF):

- i. The IMF's primary purpose is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system.
- ii. IMF raises its resource only through member countries.

Which of the following codes below given is/are correct?

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both i and ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

Answer: A

Explanation: About International Monetary Fund (IMF):

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 189 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.
- Created in 1945, the IMF is governed by and accountable to the 189 countries that make up its near-global membership.
- The IMF's primary purpose is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system—the system of exchange rates and international payments that enables countries (and their citizens) to transact with each other.
- The Fund's mandate was updated in 2012 to include all macroeconomic and financial sector issues that bear on global stability.
- Most resources for IMF loans are provided by member countries, primarily through their payment of quotas.
- While quota subscriptions of member countries are the IMF's main source of financing, the Fund can supplement its quota resources through borrowing if it believes that they might fall short of members' needs.

13. The term "Harmonized System (HS)" often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Industrial Sector
- b) International product nomenclature
- c) International Financial Services
- d) Global Infrastructure Investment

Answer: B

Explanation: The Harmonized System, or simply 'HS', is a six-digit identification code developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO).

- Called the "universal economic language" for goods, it is a multipurpose international product nomenclature.
- Over 200 countries use the system as a basis for their customs tariffs, gathering international trade statistics, making trade policies, and for monitoring goods.
- The system helps in harmonizing of customs and trade procedures, thus reducing costs in international trade.

14. Which of the following is/are part of external debt?

- i. Commercial borrowings.
- ii. NRI deposits.
- iii. Short term trade credit

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

- a) i only
- b) i and ii only
- c) ii and iii only
- d) i, ii and iii

Answer: D

Explanation: The long-term debt estimated at US\$ 499.1 billion, constituted the largest chunk of 80.4 per cent, while the short-term debt, at US\$ 121.7 billion, accounted for 19.6 per cent of the total.

- The short-term trade credit was predominantly in the form of trade credit (96 per cent) financing imports.
- Commercial borrowings (CBs), NRIs deposits, short-term trade credit and multilateral loans together accounted for 90 per cent of the total external debt.

- While NRI deposits marginally contracted during end-March 2021 and end-March 2022, CBs, short-term trade credit and multilateral loans, on the other hand, expanded during the same period.
- The rise in CBs, short-term trade credit and multilateral loans together was significantly larger than the contraction in NRI deposits.

15. Which of the following is/are component/s of the capital account of balance of payments?

- i. External lending and borrowing.
- ii. Foreign currency deposits of banks.
- iii. Foreign Direct Investment

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

- a) i only
- b) i and ii only
- c) ii and iii only
- d) i, ii and iii

ANS: D

Explanation: Every government of the world maintains a capital account, which shows the capital kind of transactions of the economy with outside economies.

- Every transaction in foreign currency (inflow or outflow) considered as capital is shown in this account—external lending and borrowing, foreign currency deposits of banks, external bonds issued by the Government of India, FDI, PIS and security market investment of the QFIs (Rupee is fully convertible in this case).
- There is no deficit or surplus in this account like the current account.

16. The term "LERMS" is related to which of the following?

- a) Exchange rate
- b) Capital adequacy ratio
- c) Sustainable development
- d) Renewable energy

Answer - A

Explanation: India announced the Liberalised Exchange Rate Mechanism System (LERMS) in the Union Budget 1992–93 and in March 1993 it was operationalised.

- India delinked its currency from the fixed currency system and moved into the era of floating exchange-rate system under it.
- Indian form of exchange rate is known as the 'dual exchange rate', one exchange rate of rupee is official and the other is market-driven.
- The market-driven exchange rate shows the actual tendencies of the foreign currency demand and supply in the economy vis-à-vis the domestic currency.
- It is the market-driven exchange rate which affects the official rate and not the other way round.

17. Which of the following institutions are called as Bretton Wood's twins?

- a) World Bank and International Labour Organization
- b) World Bank and International Monetary Fund
- c) International Monetary Fund and United Nations
- d) United Nations and World Bank

Answer: B

Explanation: As the powerful nations of the world were hopeful of a new and more stable world order with the emergence of the UNO, on the contrary, they were also anxious for a more homogenous world financial order, after the Second World War.

- The representatives of the USA, the UK and 42 other (total 44 countries) nations met at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, USA in July 1944 to decide a new international monetary system.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (with its first group-institution IBRD) were set up together—popularly called as the Bretton Woods’ twins —both having their headquarters in Washington DC, USA.

18. Which of the following is/are function/s of International Monetary Fund?

- i. Exchange rate regulation.
- ii. Purchasing short-term foreign currency liabilities of the member nations.
- iii. Allotting special drawing rights (SDRs) to the member nations.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

- a) i only
- b) i and ii only
- c) i and iii only
- d) i, ii and iii

Answer: D

Explanation: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) came up in 1944 whose Articles came into force on the 27 December, 1945 with the main functions as exchange rate regulation, purchasing short-term foreign currency liabilities of the member nations from around the world, allotting special drawing rights (SDRs) to the member nations and the most important one as the bailor to the member economies in the situation of any BoP crisis.

19. Which of the following institution is oldest of World Bank group?

- a) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- b) International Development Agency (IDA)
- c) International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- d) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

Answer: A

Explanation: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is the oldest of the WB institutions which started functioning (1945) in the area of reconstruction of the war ravaged regions (World War II) and later for the development of the middle-income and credit worthy poorer economies of the world.

- Human development was the main focus of the developmental lending with a very low interest rate (1.55 per cent per annum)—the areas of focus being agriculture, irrigation, urban development, healthcare, family welfare, dairy development, etc. It commenced lending for India in 1949.
- After the process of reforms started in the World Bank in 2010, India was allotted additional shares in IBRD (now holds 56,739 shares accounting to US \$ 6,844.7 million).
- With this India emerged as the 7th largest shareholder (up from the 11th position) in IBRD with voting power of 2.91 per cent (up from 2.77 per cent).

20. "Uruguay Round negotiations" is associated with which of the following institution?

- a) Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- b) World Trade Organization (WTO)
- c) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- d) UNFCCC

Answer: B

Explanation: The World Trade Organization (WTO) came into being as a result of the evolution of the multilateral trading system starting with the establishment of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1947.

- The protracted Uruguay Round negotiations spanning the period 1986–1994, which resulted in the establishment of the WTO, substantially extended the reach of multilateral rules and disciplines related to trade in goods, and introduced multilateral rules applicable to trade in agriculture (Agreement on Agriculture), trade in services (General Agreement on Trade in Services— GATS) as well as Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- A separate understanding on WTO dispute settlement mechanism (DSU) and trade policy review mechanism (TPRM) was also agreed upon.
- The WTO provides a rule based transparent and predictable multilateral trading system.
- The WTO rules envisage non-discrimination in the form of National Treatment and Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment to India's exports in the markets of other WTO Members.

21. Which of the following statements is/are correct with regard to discussions in the parliament?

- i. During the Zero Hour, the members are free to raise any matter that they think is important.
- ii. During the Question Hour, Ministers are bound to give oral answers to all the types of questions.

Select the correct answer using code given below.

a) i only



- b) ii only
- c) Both i and ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

Answer- A

- Zero Hour is where members are free to raise any matter that they think is important but the ministers are not bound to reply. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- During the Question Hour, which is held every day during the sessions of Parliament, Ministers respond to questions raised by the members. However, he is bound to give oral answers only to starred questions. In case of unstarred questions, written replies will be given. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

22. Consider the following statements regarding Council of Ministers:

- i. The strength of the Council of Ministers cannot exceed 10 percent of total number of members of the Lok Sabha.
- ii. Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both i and ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

Answer – D

- Before the 91st Amendment Act (2003), the size of the Council of Ministers was determined according to exigencies of time and requirements of the situation. But this led to very large size of the Council of Ministers.
- Besides, when no party had a clear majority, there was a temptation to win over the support of the members of the Parliament by giving them ministerial positions

as there was no restriction on the number of the members of the Council of Ministers. This was happening in many States also. Therefore, an amendment was made that the Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15 percent of total number of members of the House of People (or Assembly, in the case of the States). Hence statement 1 is not correct.

- The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

23. Which of the following statements are correct regarding office of the Prime minister?

- i. He holds office during the pleasure of the President.
- ii. Resignation of Prime minister automatically dissolves the council of ministers.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both i and ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

Answer – C

- The term of the Prime Minister is not fixed and he holds office during the pleasure of the president. However, this does not mean that the president can dismiss the Prime Minister at any time. So long as the Prime Minister enjoys the majority support in the Lok Sabha, he cannot be dismissed by the President. However, if he loses the confidence of the Lok Sabha, he must resign or the President can dismiss him. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Since the Prime Minister stands at the head of the council of ministers, the other ministers cannot function when the Prime Minister resigns or dies. In other words,

the resignation or death of an incumbent Prime Minister automatically dissolves the council of ministers and thereby generates a vacuum. The resignation or death of any other minister, on the other hand, merely creates a vacancy which the Prime Minister may or may not like to fill. Hence statement 2 is correct.

- Constitution has not specified any selection procedure for Prime minister. It is based on Parliamentary Convention that leader of the majority party is appointed as Prime minister.

24. Which of the following is/are the exclusive powers of Lok Sabha?

- i. Vote of demand for grants
- ii. Introduction of Constitution Amendment bill
- iii. Creation of All India Services

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) i only
- b) ii and iii only
- c) i and iii only
- d) i, ii and iii

Answer – A

- **Option 1 is correct:** Rajya Sabha can only discuss the budget but cannot vote on the demands for grants (which is the exclusive privilege of the Lok Sabha).
- **Option 2 is not correct:** An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated in either House of Parliament.
- **Option 3 is not correct:** It is the Rajya Sabha which can authorize the Parliament to create new All-India Services common to both the Centre and states (Article 312).

25. Consider the following provisions under the Directive Principles of State Policy as enshrined in the Indian Constitution:

- i. Promoting cottage industries in rural areas
- ii. Securing a uniform civil code throughout the country
- iii. Avoiding concentration of wealth in a few hands
- iv. Securing the participation of workers in the management of industries

Which of the directive principles given above are socialistic in nature?

- a) i, ii and iii only
- b) iii and iv only
- c) i, iii and iv only
- d) i, ii and iv only

Answer – B

- **Socialistic Principles:** These principles contemplate the ideology of socialism and lay down the framework of a democratic socialist state. The concept envisages providing social and economic justice, so that state should achieve the optimum norms of the welfare state. They direct the state through the following articles:
  - **Article 38:** To promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice, social, economic, and political shall inform all the institutions of the national life.
  - **Article 39:** To Secure:
    - (a) Right to an adequate means of livelihood for all citizens
    - (b) **Equitable distribution of material resources of the community for the common good**
    - (c) **Operation of an economic system to prevent the concentration of wealth and means of production**
    - (d) Equal pay for equal work for both men and women
    - (e) Opportunities for the healthy development of children.

- Article 39 A: To promote equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor.
- Article 41: To secure the right to work, right to education, and right to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement.
- Article 42: To make provision for just and humane conditions for work and maternity relief.
- Article 43: To secure a living wage, a decent standard of living, and social and cultural opportunities for all workers. The State shall promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operative basis in rural areas.
- **Article 43 A: To take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries.**
- Article 47: Raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of people and improve public health.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

26. Article 24 of the Indian Constitution prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14. In this context, which of the following acts explicitly regulate/prohibit the employment of children in India?

- i. The Beedi and Cigar Workers Act, 1966
- ii. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976
- iii. Factories Act, 1948

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) ii and iii only
- b) i only

- c) i, ii and iii
- d) i and iii only

Answer –D

- Article 24 prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in any factory, mine, or other hazardous activities like construction work or railway. But it does not prohibit their employment in any harmless or innocent work. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, is the most important law in this direction.
- In addition,
  - the Employment of Children Act, 1938;
  - **the Factories Act, 1948;**
  - the Mines Act, 1952;
  - the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958;
  - the Plantation Labour Act, 1951;
  - the Motor Transport Workers Act, 1951;
  - Apprentices Act, 1961;
  - **the Beedi and Cigar Workers Act, 1966;** and other similar acts prohibit the employment of children below a certain age.
- The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 prohibits *beggar* (forced labour). **It does not deal with the issue of child labour. Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

27. Which of the following can be passed using a simple majority in the parliament?

- i. Money Bills
- ii. Declaration of President's Rule in a state
- iii. A resolution for the removal of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) ii only
- b) i and iii only
- c) i and ii only
- d) i, ii and iii

Answer – C

- **Simple Majority**

- This refers to a majority of more than 50% of the members present and voting in the House. Also known as Functional or Working majority. This is the most commonly used type of majority. When the law does not specify the kind of majority needed, a simple majority is used for passing bills or motions.
- Ordinary bills require only a simple majority. For example, in the Lok Sabha, out of the total strength of 545, suppose 45 were absent and 100 abstained from voting. This means, that only 400 members were present and voting. In this case, the simple majority needed is 201 (50% + 1).
- Instances where a simple majority is needed:
  - To pass a money bill/financial/ordinary bills. Hence option 1 is correct.
  - To pass Adjournment Motion/Non-Confidence Motion/Censure Motion/Confidence Motion
  - To declare a financial emergency
  - To declare President's Rule (state emergency). Hence option 2 is correct.
  - To elect the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha

- **Special Majority:** Any majority other than simple, absolute, and effective are called Special Majorities. There are four types of special majorities. They are as follows:

- **Special Majority according to Article 249:** This refers to a majority of 2/3rd members present and voting. This is used to pass a Rajya Sabha resolution to empower the Parliament to make laws in the State List.
- **Special Majority according to Article 368**
  - This refers to a majority of 2/3rd members present and voting supported by over 50% of the total strength of the House. This is chiefly used for most of the Constitution Amendment Bills. Instances where this type of majority is used:
    - Passing a constitutional amendment bill that does not affect federalism.
    - Removing judges of the Supreme Court or High Court.
    - Removing the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) or the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). Hence option 3 is not correct.
    - National emergency
    - Resolution by the State Legislature for the abolition or creation of the Legislative Council.
    - Special Majority according to Article 368 + 50 percent state ratification by a simple majority.
    - This type of majority is needed when a constitutional amendment tries to change the federal structure.
    - E.g. The bill that introduced the National Judicial Appointments Commission. It needed the support of at least 15 state legislatures out of the 29 states.
- **Special Majority according to Article 61**
  - This refers to a majority of 2/3rd of the total strength of the House. This is used in the case of impeachment of the President of India.



28. In the context of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements regarding fundamental duties:

- i. These are incorporated in Part IV of the Constitution by the 42nd Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1976.
- ii. The eleventh fundamental duty was added by the 86<sup>th</sup> Constitution (Amendment) Act during the prime ministership of Manmohan Singh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both i and ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

Answer - D

- Fundamental Duties are specified under Article 51A in Part IV-A of the Constitution by the 42nd Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1976 on the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Article 51(A) describes 11 fundamental duties — 10 came with the 42nd Amendment; the 11th was added by the 86th Amendment in 2002 when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was Prime Minister. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

29. Consider the following statements with respect to the supreme court of India:

- i. Article 130 of the Constitution declares Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court.
- ii. Parliament is authorized to appoint other place or places as seat of the Supreme Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both i and ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

ANSWER-A

• Articles 124 to 147 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the organisation, independence, jurisdiction, powers, procedures and so on of the Supreme Court. The Parliament is also authorised to regulate them.

• **Seat of Supreme Court**

o Under Article 130 Constitution declares Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court. Hence statement 1 is correct.

o But, it also authorizes 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. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

o 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.

30. Which of the following has/have the right to equality under Article 14 besides the Indian citizens?

- i. Foreigners
- ii. Statutory corporations
- iii. Registered Societies

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) i only

- b) iii only
- c) ii and iii only
- d) i, ii and iii

ANSWER-D

- Article 14 says that no person shall be denied treatment of equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. The right is extended to all persons whether citizens or foreigners, statutory corporations, companies, registered societies, or any other type of legal person. Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

- Article 14 forbids discrimination in matters of procedure also.

- Article 14 of the constitution prohibits class legislation and not reasonable classification for the purpose of the legislation.

- Thus while Article 14 forbids class legislation, it does not forbid classification which rests upon reasonable grounds of distinction. It refers to legislation that applies to certain persons or classes of persons, either natural or artificial, or to certain districts of territory or state. Class legislation violates equal protection guaranteed by the Constitution.

31. With respect to Lok Adalats, consider the following statements:

- i. It has been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- ii. The award by the Lok Adalat is not binding and it is appealable.
- iii. There is no strict application of procedural laws like the Civil Procedure Code and the Evidence Act while assessing the claim by Lok Adalat.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) i and iii only

- b) ii and iii only
- c) i and ii only
- d) i, ii and iii

#### ANSWER-A

- Lok Adalat is a forum where the cases (or disputes) which are pending in a court or which are at pre litigation stage (not yet brought before a court) are compromised or settled in an amicable manner.
- Lok Adalat has been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Hence **statement 1 is correct.**
- According to the Supreme Court, the benefits under Lok Adalat are as follows:
  - o There is no court fee and if court fee is already paid the amount will be refunded if the dispute is settled at Lok Adalat.
  - o The basic features of Lok Adalat are the procedural flexibility and speedy trial of the disputes. There is no strict application of procedural laws like the Civil Procedure laws like the Civil Procedure Code and the Evidence Act while assessing the claim by Lok Adalat. Hence **statement 3 is correct.**
  - o The Parties to the dispute can directly interact with the judge through their counsel which is not possible in regular courts of law.
  - o The award by the Lok Adalat is binding on the parties and it has the status of a decree of a civil court and it is non appealable, which does not cause the delay in the settlement of disputes finally. Hence **statement 2 is not correct.**

32. With reference to Citizenship (Amendment), Act 2019, consider the following statements:

- i. It provides Indian citizenship to the illegal migrants who entered India on or before 31st December 2010.

- ii. The Act does not apply to tribal areas of North East states mentioned in the sixth schedule of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both i and ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

ANSWER-B

- **The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, of 1955.** The CAA provides citizenship on the basis of religion to six undocumented non-Muslim communities (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians) from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh who entered India on or before 31st December 2014. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Act does not apply to tribal areas of Tripura, Mizoram, Assam, and Meghalaya because of being included in the 6th Schedule of the Constitution. Also, areas that fall under the Inner Limit notified under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873, will also be outside the Act's purview. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**
- It also says people holding Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards – an immigration status permitting a foreign citizen of Indian origin to live and work in India indefinitely – can lose their status if they violate local laws for major and minor offenses and violations.

33. Which of the following steps can be taken to secure consumer Internet of Things (IoT)?

- i. All IoT device default passwords shall be unique per device.
- ii. Principle of least privilege needs to be avoided.

iii. Installation and maintenance of IoT devices should employ minimal steps.

Select the correct answer using code given below.

- a) i and ii only
- b) ii and iii only
- c) i and iii only
- d) i, ii and iii

ANSWER-C

- Recently, Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), under the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, has released a report “Code of Practice for Securing Consumer Internet of Things (IoT)” as a baseline requirement aligned with global standards and best practices.

- **Internet of Things (IoT)** is a seamlessly connected network of embedded objects/ devices, with identifiers, in which Machine to Machine (M2M) communication without any human intervention is possible using standard and interoperable communication protocols.

- Guidelines for securing consumer IoT

- o **All IoT device default passwords shall be unique per device** and/or require the user to choose a password that follows best practices, during device provisioning.

Hence option 1 is correct.

- o Disclosed vulnerabilities should be acted on in a timely manner

- o **Software components in IoT devices should be securely updateable.** Updates shall be timely and should not adversely impact the functioning of the device.

- o **Devices and services should operate on the ‘principle of least privilege’.**

Unused functionality should be disabled; hardware should not unnecessarily expose access (e.g. unrequired ports both network and logical should be closed). Unused functionality should be disabled; hardware should not unnecessarily expose access (e.g. unrequired ports both network and logical should be closed). Hence

option 2 is not correct.

▪ **The principle of least privilege (POLP)** is a concept in computer security that limits users' access rights to only what are strictly required to do their jobs. Users are granted permission to read, write or execute only the files or resources necessary to do their jobs.

o Security-sensitive data, including any remote management and control, should be encrypted in transit, appropriate to the properties of the technology and usage of the device. All keys should be managed securely.

o In case the device collects or transmits personal data, such data should be securely stored.

o Installation and **maintenance of IoT devices should employ minimal steps** and should follow security best practices on usability. Hence **option 3 is correct.**

34. In the context of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

- i. The term "minority" is defined in Article 30 of the Indian Constitution.
- ii. Under Article 28, religious instruction is permitted in educational institutions established under any endowment or trust and administered by the state.
- iii. Article 29 grants protection only to linguistic minorities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) i only
- b) i and ii only
- c) ii only
- d) iii only

ANSWER-C

- The term "Minority" is not defined in the Indian Constitution. However, the Constitution recognizes religious and linguistic minorities. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Article 28 prohibits completely state-run educational institutions from giving any religious instructions. However, the restriction is not applicable if the educational institution is established under any endowment or trust and is administered by the state. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Article 29 provides that every section of citizens residing in any part of the country has the right to protect and conserve its own distinct language, script or culture (it provides the right to a group/section/community of people).
- Article 29 grants protection to both religious, linguistic as well as cultural minorities. However, the rights are not necessarily restricted to minorities only, as it is commonly assumed to be. It includes minorities as well as the majority. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

35. Which of the following terms were *not* a part of the original constitution?

- Secular
- Democratic
- Integrity
- Fraternity

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- ii and iv only
- i and iv only
- i and iii only
- i, ii, iii and iv

ANSWER-C



- The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 is also famous as the Mini Constitution. This amendment brought a big change to the Constitution's preamble by adding the words 'SOCIALIST', 'SECULAR', and 'INTEGRITY' in the preamble. This amendment also added a vital Part IVA in the Constitution as Fundamental duties.

Hence options 1 and 3 are correct.

- The term Democratic was part of the original constitution. As stated in the Preamble, a democratic polity is founded on the doctrine of popular sovereignty or the people's possession of supreme power. The Indian Constitution establishes a representative parliamentary democracy in which the executive is accountable to the legislature for all policies and actions. The universal adult franchise, periodic elections, the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary, and the absence of discrimination on certain grounds are manifestations of the Indian polity's democratic character. In the Preamble, the term "democratic" is used broadly, encompassing not only political democracy but also social and economic democracy. Hence

option 2 is not correct.

- The term Fraternity was part of the original constitution. This refers to a sense of brothers and sisterhood among its citizens, as well as a sense of belonging to the country. Fraternity, according to the Preamble, must ensure two things: human dignity and national unity and integrity. The 42nd Constitutional Amendment added the word 'integrity' to the Preamble (1976). Hence option 4 is not correct.

36. Consider the following statements regarding citizenship in India:

- i. Citizenship is listed in the Union List under the Constitution.
- ii. The term "citizen" is not defined in the Constitution.
- iii. The concept of single citizenship is adopted from the Canadian Constitution.

Which of the statement given above is/are correct?

a) i and ii only

- b) ii only
- c) iii only
- d) i and iii only

ANSWER-A

- Citizenship signifies the relationship between individual and state. It is listed in the Union List under the Constitution and thus is under the exclusive jurisdiction of Parliament. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Constitution does not define the term 'citizen' but details of various categories of persons who are entitled to citizenship are given in Part 2 (Articles 5 to 11). Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- In India, the concept of single citizenship is adopted from the British constitution that is from the United Kingdom. In India, only single citizenship is available to citizens. One cannot be a citizen of the state as well. This helps in increasing the feeling of nationality and encourages patriotism as it forges unity amidst regional and cultural differences. It also encourages fundamental rights such as the freedom of movement and residence in any part of the nation. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

37. Consider the following statements concerning the constituent assembly in India:

- i. The Constituent Assembly established seven committees to draft the constitution.
- ii. Congress party officially demanded a constituent assembly in the 1929 Lahore Session.
- iii. The British accepted in principle the demand of a constituent assembly in the Cabinet Mission Plan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) ii only
- b) iii only
- c) i and ii only
- d) None

ANSWER-D

Constituent Assembly of India – Historical Background

- In 1934, M N Roy proposed the idea of a constituent assembly.
- The demand was taken up by the Congress Party in 1935 as an official demand. Hence statement 2 is not correct.
- The British accepted this in the August Offer of 1940. Hence statement 3 is not correct.
- Elections were held for the formation of the constituent assembly under the Cabinet Mission plan of 1946.
- The members of this assembly were elected indirectly, i.e., by the members of the provincial assemblies using the method of a single transferable vote.
- The Constituent Assembly established 13 committees to draft the constitution. A seven-member committee prepared a draft of the constitution based on the reports of these committees. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

38. The 7th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1956, and the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 were enacted based on the recommendation of which of the following committees?

- a) Dhar Commission
- b) JVP Committee
- c) Fazl Ali Commission
- d) J.C. Shah Commission

## ANSWER-C

- In the newly independent India, there was a demand from different regions, particularly South India, for the reorganization of states on linguistic basis. Accordingly, in **June 1948**, the Government of India appointed the Linguistic Provinces Commission under the chairmanship of S K Dhar to examine the feasibility of this.

- o The commission submitted its report in December 1948 and recommended the reorganization of states on the basis of administrative convenience rather than a linguistic factor. The above recommendations created much resentment and led to the appointment of another **Linguistic Provinces Committee** by the Congress in December 1948 itself to examine the whole question afresh.

- o It consisted of Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, and Pattabhi Sitaramayya and hence, was popularly known as JVP Committee.

- o It submitted its report in April 1949 and formally rejected language as the basis for reorganization of states.

- o However, in October 1953, the Government of India was forced to create the first linguistic state, known as the Andhra state, by separating the Telugu-speaking areas from the Madras state. This followed a prolonged popular agitation and the death of Potti Sriramulu, a Congress person of standing, after a 56-day hunger strike for the cause.

- **Fazl Ali Commission:**

- o The creation of Andhra state intensified the demand from other regions for the creation of states on linguistic basis.

- o This forced the Government of India to appoint (in December 1953) a three-member **States Reorganisation Commission** under the chairmanship of Fazl Ali to re-examine the whole question.

o Its other two members were K M Panikkar and H N Kunzru. It submitted its report in September 1955 and broadly accepted language as the basis of reorganisation of states. But, it rejected the theory of 'one language– one state'. Its view was that the unity of India should be regarded as the primary consideration in any redrawing of the country's political units. It identified four major factors that can be taken into account in any scheme of reorganisation of states:

- Preservation and strengthening of the unity and security of the country.
- Linguistic and cultural homogeneity.
- Financial, economic and administrative considerations.
- Planning and promotion of the welfare of the people in each state as well as of the nation as a whole.

o The commission suggested the abolition of the four-fold classification of states under the original Constitution and creation of 16 states and 3 centrally administered territories.

o The Government of India accepted these recommendations with certain minor modifications. By the States Reorganisation Act (1956) and the 7th Constitutional Amendment Act (1956), the distinction between Part-A and Part-B states was done away with and Part-C states were abolished. Some of them were merged with adjacent states and some other were designated as union territories.

As a result, 14 states and 6 union territories were created on November 1, 1956.

**Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

- In 1966, the State of Punjab was bifurcated to create Haryana, the 17th state of the Indian Union, and the union territory of Chandigarh. This followed the demand for a separate 'Sikh Homeland' (Punjabi Subha) raised by the Akali Dal under the leadership of Master Tara Singh.

o On the recommendation of the Shah Commission (1966), the punjabi-speaking areas were constituted into the unilingual state of Punjab, the Hindi-speaking areas were constituted into the State of Haryana and the hill areas were merged with the adjoining union territory of Himachal Pradesh. In 1971, the union territory of Himachal Pradesh was elevated to the status of a state (18th state of the

Indian Union).

39. The objective of the Government of India Act, 1915 was to:

- a) increase the number of non-official members in the Central Legislative Assembly.
- b) lay the foundation of a representative and popular government in India.
- c) consolidate all the preceding acts of Parliament concerning British India.
- d) consolidate all the ordinances passed by the Governor-General of India related to national security.

ANSWER-C

- The Government of India Act 1915 was an act of the Parliament of Britain, which consolidated prior Acts of Parliament concerning British India into a single act. It was passed in July 1915 and went into effect on 1 January 1916. Hence the option (c) is the correct answer.
- The act repealed 47 prior acts of Parliament, starting with an act of 1770, and replaced them with a single act containing 135 sections and five schedules. It was introduced first to the House of Lords, where it was referred to a joint committee of Parliament chaired by Lord Loreburn. The committee removed several provisions which went beyond the simple consolidation of existing law.
- The Government of India Act 1915 and its supplemental act the following year made the English statute law relating to India easier to understand, and therefore easier to amend.
- The Government of India Act of 1915 brought about one firm reform and this was with regards to the jurisdiction of the High Courts. It was held in this act that no High Court could exert original jurisdiction over matters concerning---Revenue, or any act done concerning or relation to it.

40. Consider the following statements with respect to the right to education in the Indian Constitution:

- i. The 92nd Constitution Amendment made the Right to Education a fundamental right.
- ii. Article 21A of the Constitution guarantees the right to receive education in the mother tongue.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both i and ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

ANSWER-D

- The 86th amendment to the constitution of India in 2002, provided the Right to Education as a fundamental right in part-III of the Constitution. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Right to Education Act (RTE) provided free and compulsory education to children in 2009 and enforced it as a fundamental right under Article 21-A. The Right to Education serves as a building block to ensure that every child has his or her right to get a quality elementary education.
- Article 21A of the Constitution provides for “free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years”. It does not “guarantee” the right to receive education in the “mother tongue or home language”, while it contemplates the right to free and elementary education, the Rajasthan High Court has held. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The first official document on the Right to Education was Ramamurti Committee Report in 1990.

41. Aus, aman and boro are variety of which crop

- a) Wheat
- b) Jowar
- c) Maize
- d) Rice

ANSWER: d

42. Consider the following statements regarding Negotiable Warehouse Receipts.

- i. It allows transfer of ownership of that commodity stored in a warehouse without having to deliver the physical commodity.
- ii. They are issued by registered warehouses and enables farmers to seek loans from banks against NWRs.
- iii. It is regulated by APEDA.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) ii only
- b) i, ii only
- c) ii, iii only
- d) i, iii only

ANSWER: b

Explanation:-

Negotiable warehouse receipt, which was launched in 2011, allows transfer of ownership of that commodity stored in a warehouse without having to deliver the



physical commodity. These receipts are issued in negotiable form, making them eligible as collateral for loans.

Warehouse receipts are made negotiable under the Warehouse (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007 and regulated by the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA).

43. Yangtse region, recently seen in news is located in

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Ladakh
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Sikkim

ANSWER: c

Explanation:-

Yangtse in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh is one of the contested areas along the 3488-km Line of Actual Control between India and China, stretching from the Western Sector to Middle Sector to Eastern Sector.

44. Consider the following statements regarding Morocco.

- i. Morocco lies along the boundary of the African and Eurasian tectonic plates.
- ii. It borders both the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.
- iii. Atlas mountain is located in Morocco.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only one

- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Solution: c

Explanation:-

A powerful earthquake struck Morocco, affecting areas including the Atlas Mountains and the historic city of Marrakech. Earthquakes are relatively rare in North Africa, and this was described as the strongest ever recorded in the mountain region.

Morocco lies along the boundary of the African and Eurasian tectonic plates. Here the two massive plates interact, and their movements can result in seismic activity.

Morocco, a North African country bordering the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, is distinguished by its Berber, Arabian and European cultural influences.

45. Which of the following statements describe the term 'Demographic Dividend'?

- a) A rise in the gross employment ratio of country due to government policies
- b) A rise in the standard of living of the people due to the growth of alternative livelihood practices
- c) A rise in the rate of economic growth due to higher share of working age people in a population
- d) A rise in the rate of literacy due to development of educational institutions in different parts of the country

ANSWER: c

Explanation:-

Demographic dividend, as defined by the United Nations Population Fund, is "the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population is larger than the non-working-age share of the population".

46. Vembanad lake is in-

- a) Kerala
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Sikkim
- d) Tamil Nadu

Answer - A

Vembanad lake is in Kerala which is the longest lake in India.

47. Simlipal tiger reserve, recently seen in news is located in

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Rajasthan
- c) West Bengal
- d) Odisha

ANSWER: d

Explanation:-

Simlipal is a tiger reserve in the Mayurbhanj district in Odisha. It is part of the Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve, which includes three protected areas—Similipal Tiger Reserve, Hadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary and Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary. Simlipal National Park derives its name from the abundance of red silk cotton trees growing in the area.

48. Consider the following statements regarding Flash floods.

- i. Flash floods occur in a shorter span of time, and are highly localised.
- ii. In India, Flash floods are often associated with cloudbursts.
- iii. Flash floods do not occur where rivers are narrow and steep.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

ANSWER: b

Explanation:-

Statement (iii) is incorrect.

Excessive or continuous rainfall over a period of days, or during particular seasons, can lead to stagnation of water and cause flooding. Flash floods refer to such a situation, but occurring in a much shorter span of time and are highly localised.

Flash floods are caused when rainfall creates flooding in less than 6 hours. It adds that flash floods can also be caused by factors apart from rainfall, like when water goes beyond the levels of a dam.

49. Consider the following statements.

- i. Nikshay Mitra is a government project that enables people to adopt tuberculosis patients and take care of their nutritional and medical requirements.

- ii. Under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, India aims at eliminating TB by 2030, which is also a Sustainable Development Goal.
- iii. National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) covers TB patients from both the public and the private sector.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

ANSWER: b

Explanation:-

Statement 2 is incorrect.

The Health Ministry's unique "adopt a TB-patient" (Ni-kshay Mitras) initiative -- probably the only one-of-its kind in the world. The programme was brought in to fill the critical "community" elements into India's fight towards the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan aimed at eliminating TB by 2025.

50. Consider the following statements.

- i. Under old pension scheme (OPS), the contribution of the current generation of workers was explicitly used to pay the pensions of existing pensioners.
- ii. National Pension Scheme (NPS) is a contributory pension scheme under which employees contribute 10 per cent of their salary.
- iii. NPS is mandatory for central government employees joining services on or after January 1, 2004.

- iv. At present National Pension Scheme is regulated by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

ANSWER: c

Explanation:-

Statement 4 is incorrect.

An old pension scheme (OPS), commonly known as the PAYG scheme, is defined as an unfunded pension scheme where current revenues fund pension benefits. Under this scheme, the contribution of the current generation of workers was explicitly used to pay the pensions of existing pensioners. OPS involved a direct transfer of resources from the current generation of taxpayers to fund the pensioners. NPS is a defined contribution pension scheme. NPS enables an individual to undertake retirement planning while in employment.

51. Consider the following statements regarding Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP).

- i. Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) provides a star rating indicating the safety of the cars in a crash.
- ii. It is an indigenous programme, which is not modelled on the Global New Car Assessment Programme.

iii. The programme is mandatory to all the car segments.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

ANSWER: a

Explanation:-

Only Statement 1 is correct.

The Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) is modelled on the Global New Car Assessment Programme (Global NCAP), a project of the Towards Zero Foundation, which is a U.K.-registered charity that promotes the universal adoption of the United Nation's most important motor vehicle safety standards worldwide.

52. Consider the following statements regarding PM Vishwakarma scheme.

- i. PM Vishwakarma scheme aims to help traditional craftspeople and artisans by providing interest-free loans.
- ii. The scheme also aims at improving the quality, as well as the reach of products and services of artisans and craftspeople.
- iii. The scheme covers rural and urban areas across India.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only one

- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

ANSWER: b

Statement (i) is incorrect.

Explanation:-

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved a new Central Sector Scheme "PM Vishwakarma" for a period of five years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28). The scheme aims to strengthen and nurture the Guru-Shishya parampara or family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftspeople working with their hands and tools. Under PM Vishwakarma scheme, the artisans and craftspeople will be provided recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card, Credit Support upto Rs.1 lakh (First Tranche) and Rs.2 lakh (Second Tranche) with a concessional interest rate of 5%.

53. Consider the following statements regarding PM Gati Shakti.

- i. PM Gati Shakti seeks to revolutionize infrastructure development through a 'whole of the government' approach.
- ii. PM Gati Shakti enables data-driven decision-making for project planning and implementation.
- iii. It also emphasizes multimodal connectivity to economic nodes and cargo hubs.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only one



- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

ANSWER: c

54. Which of the following statements is correct regarding PM-PRANAM scheme?

- a) Goal of achieving Sustainable Development Goals related to TB by 2025
- b) Connecting school students and scientists so as to extend students' classroom learning with that of research laboratory-based learning.
- c) It is aimed at saving the soil and promote sustainable, balanced use of fertilizers
- d) Skill development scheme for youth of 14 - 35 years age group

ANSWER: c

Explanation:-

The PM-PRANAM scheme was aimed at saving the soil and promote sustainable, balanced use of fertilizers and it involved the participation of State governments. The Centre would incentivise those States which would adopt alternative fertilizers with the subsidy that was saved by reducing the use of chemical fertilizer.

55. Luna 25 spacecraft, that was recently in news, was launched by

- a) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- b) European Space Agency
- c) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- d) Roscosmos

ANSWER: d

Explanation:-

Russia's Luna-25 has crashed on the Moon's surface, the country's space agency said, in a disappointing end to its first mission to the lunar surface 47 years after the last landing by the former Soviet Union.

56. Consider the following pairs of Indo-French Joint Exercises.

- i. Garuda - Army exercise.
- ii. Varuna - Naval exercise.
- iii. Shakti - Air exercise.

How many of the above options is/are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

ANSWER: b

Only Option 2 is correct.

57. Rotterdam Convention, often seen in news, is related to

- a) Prevention of the proliferation of ballistic missiles

- b) Promote shared responsibility among State Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals
- c) Prohibition of the usage of biological weapons by the member countries
- d) None of the above

ANSWER: b

Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures (PIC) that entered into force on 24th February, 2004, is a legally binding instrument, which was adopted on 10th September 1998 by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Rotterdam. India acceded to the Convention on 24.05.2006. The Convention seeks to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among State Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm.

58. The Election Commission registers political parties for the purpose of elections and grants them recognition as national or state parties on the basis of their -
- i. Poll performance.
  - ii. Number of elections contested.
  - iii. Cadre strength.
  - iv. Financial backing.

How many of the above options are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

ANSWER: b

Explanation:-

Only option 1 is correct.

A registered party is recognised as a national party only if it fulfils any one of the three conditions listed below:

- A party should win 2% of seats in the Lok Sabha from at least three different states.
- At a general election to Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly, the party polls 6% of votes in any four or more states and in addition it wins four Lok Sabha seats.
- A party gets recognition as a state party in four states.
- A party gets at least 8% of total valid votes polled in 4 or more states (with or without any seats)

59. Consider the following statements.

- i. The Constitution specifies that the Prime Minister is the head of the Council of Ministers.
- ii. In India's cabinet form of government, the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to Lok Sabha.
- iii. In India, since 1963, none of the no-confidence motions have been successful.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

ANSWER: c

Explanation:-

The Constitution specifies that the Prime Minister is the head of the Council of Ministers. Therefore, the PM responds to the debate whenever MPs discuss a no-confidence motion in Lok Sabha. The opposition parties' move requires the PM to reply to the charges they bring during the discussion. In India's cabinet form of government, the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to Lok Sabha. The rules of Lok Sabha provide the mechanism of a no-confidence motion to test whether the Council of Ministers continues to enjoy the confidence of the House. Twenty-seven no-confidence motions have been moved so far. None of these motions has been successful.

60. Which of the following measures could be used by the government to control the sudden spike in specific food items?

- i. Temporary ban on the export of inflated item.
- ii. Imposition of stock limit under the Essential Commodities Act to prevent hoarding.
- iii. Temporary prohibition on the import of inflated item.

Select the correct answer code:

- a) i, ii
- b) i, iii
- c) i only
- d) i, ii, iii

ANSWER: a

Explanation:-

The Government reviews the price situation regularly and has taken number of measures from time to time to stabilize prices of food items. These include:

(i). Banning the export of inflated food item.

(ii). Imposition of stock limit to prevent hoarding.

(iii). Easing of restrictions on imports, facilitating imports at integrated check-posts, issuance of licenses for imports and reduction in import duties. This has resulted in cooling of prices.

61. Consider the following statements with reference to the Aditya-L1 Mission:

- i. The Mission to observe the Sun will be launched to the first Lagrangian Point of the Sun-Earth System.
- ii. Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope is an instrument on board the Mission to study the Sun's corona.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both i and ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Aditya-L1 is the first Indian Space Mission to observe the Sun and the solar corona. It will observe Sun's photosphere, chromosphere and corona. The Indian Space Research Organization is planning to launch the Mission by mid- 2023.

62. Which of the following characterises/ characterises the people of Indus Civilization?

- i. They possessed great palaces and temples.
- ii. They worshipped both male and female deities.
- iii. They employed horse-drawn chariots in warfare.

Select the correct statement/ statements using the codes given below.

- a) i and ii only
- b) ii only
- c) i, ii and iii
- d) None of the statements given above is correct

Answer: b

63. The religion of early Vedic Aryans was primarily of

- a) Bhakti
- b) image worship and Yajnas
- c) worship of nature and Yajnas
- d) worship of nature and Bhakti

Answer: c

64. The national motto of India, 'Satyameva Jayate' inscribed below the Emblem of India is taken from

- a) Katha Upanishad
- b) Chandogya Upanishad
- c) Aitareya Upanishad

d) Mundaka Upanishad

Answer: (d)

65. With reference to the history of ancient India, which of the following was/were common to both Buddhism and Jainism?

- i. Avoidance of extremities of penance and enjoyment.
- ii. Indifference to the authority of the Vedas.
- iii. Denial of efficacy of rituals

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

- a) i only
- b) ii and iii only
- c) i and iii only
- d) i, ii and iii

Answer: (b)

66. Lord Buddha's image is sometimes shown with the hand gesture called 'Bhumisparsha Mudra'. It symbolises

- a) Buddha's calling of the Earth to watch over Mara and to prevent Mara from disturbing his meditation
- b) Buddha's calling of the Earth to witness his purity and chastity despite the temptations of Mara
- c) Buddha's reminder to his followers that they all arise from the Earth and finally dissolve into the Earth, and thus this life is transitory
- d) Both the statements (a) and (b) are correct in this context



Answer: (b)

67. Which of the following statements is/are applicable to Jain doctrine?

- i. The surest way of annihilating Karma is to practise penance.
- ii. Every object, even the smallest particle, has a soul.
- iii. Karma is the bane of the soul and must be ended.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) i only
- b) ii and iii only
- c) i and iii only
- d) i, ii and iii

Answer: (d)

68. Some Buddhist rock-cut caves are called Chaityas, while the others are called Viharas. What is the difference between the two?

- a) Vihara is a place of worship, while Chaitya is the dwelling place of the monks
- b) Chaitya is a place of worship, while Vihara is the dwelling place of the monks
- c) Chaitya is the stupa at the far end of the cave, while Vihara is the hall axial to it
- d) There is no material difference between the two

Answer: (b)

69. With reference to the scientific progress of ancient India, which of the statements given below are correct?

- i. Different kinds of specialised surgical instruments were in common use by the 1st century AD.
- ii. Transplant of internal organs in the human body had begun by the beginning of 3rd century AD.
- iii. The concept of sine of an angle was known in 5th century AD.
- iv. The concept of cyclic quadrilaterals was known in the 7th century AD.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) i and ii only
- b) iii and iv only
- c) i, iii and iv only
- d) i, ii, iii and iv

Answer: (c)

70. The Chinese traveller Yuan Chwang (Hiuen Tsang) who visited India recorded the general conditions and culture of India at that time. In this context, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- i. The roads and river-routes were completely immune from robbery.
- ii. As regards punishment for offences, ordeals by fire, water and poison were the instruments for determining the innocence or guilt of a person.
- iii. The tradesmen had to pay duties at ferries and barrier stations.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) i only
- b) ii and iii only
- c) i and iii only
- d) i, ii and iii

Answer: (b)

71. Consider the following statements about Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA).

- i. The GBA draws inspiration from the International Solar Alliance (ISA), jointly initiated by India and France in 2015 to combat climate change through solar energy adoption.
- ii. The initiative signals India's focus on reducing dependence on conventional hydrocarbons

Select the correct codes.

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both i and ii
- d) None of them.

ANSWER: C

72. Consider the following.

- i. First General election of Independent India began on October 25, 1951
- ii. Shyam Saran Negi became the first Indian to cast his ballot in the country's first ever elections.

Select the correct codes.

- a) i only
- b) ii only

- c) Both i and ii
- d) None of them.

ANSWER: C

73. "Maharaj Dodan", recently seen in the news is associated with which of the following mega sporting event?

- a) National Games
- b) North East Olympic games
- c) Khel Maharan
- d) Assam Youth Olympics

ANSWER: C

74. From the declines of Guptas until the rise of Harshavardhana in the early seventh century, which of the following kingdoms were holding power in Northern India?

- i. The Guptas of Magadha
- ii. The Paramaras of Malwa
- iii. The Pushyabhutis of Thanesar
- iv. The Maukharis of Kanauj
- v. The Yadavas of Devagiri
- vi. The Maitrakas of Valabhi

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) i, ii and v
- b) i,iii, iv and vi
- c) ii,iii and iv
- d) v and vi

ANSWER: b

75. The "Ashtadhyayi" is a comprehensive work on which ancient Indian subject?

- a) Medicine
- b) Astronomy
- c) Grammar
- d) Philosophy

ANSWER: C

76. The "Gita Govinda" is a poetic work composed by which Indian poet?

- a) Kalidasa
- b) Bhasa
- c) Sudraka
- d) Jayadeva

ANSWER- D

77. The "Silappadikaram" is an ancient Tamil epic written by which poet?

- a) Valmiki
- b) Vyasa
- c) Ilango Adigal

d) Thiruvalluvar

ANSWER- C

78. Which Gupta ruler issued the Allahabad Pillar Inscription, describing his conquests and achievements?

a) Chandragupta I

b) Chandragupta II

c) Skandagupta

d) Samudragupta

Ans: d) Samudragupta

79. Consider the following about Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC).

- i. It is a multinational grouping-between India and 14 Pacific Islands nations.
- ii. Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati & Marshall Islands are part of this forum.

Select the correct codes.

a) i only

b) ii only

c) Both i and ii

d) None of them.

ANSWER: C

80."Dakar Declaration", recently seen in the news is associated with

a) Tackling Climate change

- b) Protection and management of forests
- c) Reducing desertification
- d) Control of radioactive wastes

ANSWER: A

81. Answer the following about Coinage:

- i. The first coins to bear the names and images of rulers were issued by Chandragupta Maurya.
- ii. Punch-marked coins were issued by merchants, bankers and townspeople as well.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both i and ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

Answer : B

Explanation:

To some extent, exchanges were facilitated by the introduction of coinage.

Punch-marked coins made of silver and copper (c. sixth century BCE onwards) were amongst the earliest to be minted and used.

82. The History of Assam can be divided into eras? –

- a) 4 eras

- b) 5 eras
- c) 6 eras
- d) 7 eras

Answer: A

Explanation: The History of Assam can be divided into 4 eras. These are Ancient Assam (350-1206), Medieval Assam (1206-1826), Colonial Assam (1826-1947), Post-colonial Assam (1947-present).

83. Which one of the following epics is considered the highest source of the prehistory period of Assam?

- a) Mahabharata
- b) Kalika Puran
- c) Harshacharita
- d) Arthasatra

Answer: B

Explanation: Kali Purana is one of the eighteen minor puranas (Upapurana) in the Shaktism tradition of Hinduism.

84. What was the Dynasty of Mahiranga Danava? –

- a) Danava Dynasty
- b) Pala Dynasty
- c) Bhauma Dynasty
- d) Varman Dynasty



Answer: A

Explanation: The Danava dynasty was the first legendary line of rulers in Pragjyotisha, established by Mahiranga Danava.

85. According to Ramayana, Amurtyaraja was the founder of the kingdom of?

- a) Pragjyotisha
- b) Kamarupa
- c) Harappeswara
- d) Koch Behar

Answer: A

Explanation: Pragjyotisha is a mythological kingdom that is mentioned in a multitude of Hindu Epics which later come to be associated with the historical Kamrupa.

86. The marriage of Kamrupa princess Amritaprabha and Kashmir King

Meghavahana is mentioned in

- a) Vishnu purana
- b) Kalika purana
- c) Kalhana's Rajatarangini
- d) Hiuen Tsang's History

Answer: c

Explanation: Kalhana's Rajatarangini is not only a classic of Sanskrit narrative poetry but is the earliest extant history of Kashmir. Written in the middle of the 12th century, in the age when the Crusaders of Europe were fighting in Western Asia

87. When did Chilarai and Naranarayan enter Gargaon capital city of the Ahoms?

- a) In 1563 AD
- b) In 1543 AD
- c) In 1463 AD
- d) In 1653 AD

Answer: A

Explanation: In 1563 AD, Chilarai and Naranarayana entered Gargaon, the capital city of the Ahoms, after a military victory. Soon thereafter, they entered into a peace treaty with the Ahoms and returned to Coochbehar.

88. The Treaty of Ghilajharighat was signed between

- a) Aurangzeb and Ahom king
- b) Chakardhwaj Singha and ayadhawaj Singha
- c) Mirjumla and The Ahom king
- d) None of these

Answer: C

Explanation: The Treaty of Ghilajharighat, was signed between the Ahoms and the Mughal forces led by Mir Jumla II on January 23, 1663 or 9th Magh, 1584 sak

89. Which Purana was composed in Assam?

- a) Kalika Purana
- b) Varuna Purana
- c) Vamana Purana
- d) Saura Purana

Answer: A

90. The ancient city "Bengmara" is presently known as

- a) Diphu
- b) Sadiya
- c) Tinsukia
- d) Dibrugarh

Answer: c) Tinsukia

91. Which book of Hiuen Tsang mentions about Kamarupa?

- a) Si-Yu-Ki
- b) Buranji
- c) Indica
- d) History of Assam

Answer: A

92. Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary is located at

- a) Chirang
- b) Dibrugarh
- c) Kokrajhar
- d) Jorhat

Answer: D

The **Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary**, formerly known as the **Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary** or **Hollongapar Reserved Forest** is an isolated protected area of evergreen forest located in Assam, India. The sanctuary was officially constituted and renamed in 1997. Set aside initially in 1881, its forests used to extend to the foothills of the Patkai mountain range.

93. The Guwahati Tea Auction Centre was established in the year

- a) 1970
- b) 1972
- c) 1975
- d) 1977

Answer: A

94. The Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited Industry is located at

- a) Makum
- b) Mariani
- c) Lepatkata
- d) Nagaon

Answer: C

95. Which of the following reasons account for lesser biodiversity in temperate regions as compared to tropical regions of the world?

- i. Tropical regions have been subjected to frequent glaciations in the past while temperate latitudes have remained undisturbed.
- ii. Temperate environments are less seasonal and stable thus promoting niche specialisation.
- iii. There is more solar energy available in the tropics, which contributes to higher productivity.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) i and ii only
- b) ii and iii only
- c) iii only
- d) i, ii and iii

Answer: C

- Ecologists and evolutionary biologists have proposed various hypotheses to account for the greater biological diversity in the Tropics.

- o Speciation is generally a function of time, unlike temperate regions subjected to frequent glaciations in the past, tropical latitudes have remained relatively undisturbed for millions of years and thus, had a long evolutionary time for species diversification. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

- o Tropical environments, unlike temperate ones, are less seasonal, relatively more constant and predictable. Such constant environments promote niche specialisation and lead to a greater species diversity. Hence statement 2 is not correct.
- o There is more solar energy available in the tropics, which contributes to higher productivity; this in turn might contribute indirectly to greater diversity. Hence statement 3 is correct.

96. With reference to parasitism, consider the following statements:

- i. Parasites that feed on the external surface of the host organism are called endoparasites.
- ii. Ectoparasites live inside the host body at different sites.
- iii. In brood parasitism, a parasite does not feed on the organism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) iii only
- b) i and ii only
- c) ii and iii only
- d) i, ii and iii

Answer: A

- Parasitism has evolved in so many taxonomic groups from plants to higher vertebrates. Many parasites have evolved to be host-specific (they can parasitise only a single species of host) in such a way that both host and the parasite tend to co-evolve; that is, if the host evolves special mechanisms for rejecting or resisting the parasite, the parasite has to evolve mechanisms to counteract and neutralise them, in order to be successful with the same host species.

- In accordance with their life styles, parasites evolved special adaptations such as the loss of unnecessary sense organs, presence of adhesive organs or suckers to cling on to the host, loss of digestive system and high reproductive capacity. The life cycles of parasites are often complex, involving one or two intermediate hosts or vectors to facilitate parasitisation of its primary host.

- The human liver fluke (a trematode parasite) depends on two intermediate hosts (a snail and a fish) to complete its life cycle. The malarial parasite needs a vector (mosquito) to spread to other hosts. Majority of the parasites harm the host; they may reduce the survival, growth and reproduction of the host and reduce its population density.

- Parasites that feed on the external surface of the host organism are called ectoparasites. The most familiar examples of this group are the lice on humans and ticks on dogs. Many marine fish are infested with ectoparasitic copepods. Cuscuta, a parasitic plant that is commonly found growing on hedge plants, has lost its chlorophyll and leaves in the course of evolution. It derives its nutrition from the host plant which it parasitises. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

- In contrast, endoparasites are those that live inside the host body at different sites (liver, kidney, lungs, red blood cells, etc.). The life cycles of endoparasites are more complex because of their extreme specialisation. Their morphological and anatomical features are greatly simplified while emphasising their reproductive potential. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

- Brood parasitism in birds is a fascinating example of parasitism that lets the host incubate them. During the course of evolution, the eggs of the parasitic bird have evolved to resemble the host's egg in size and colour to reduce the chances of the host bird detecting the foreign eggs and ejecting them from the nest. In brood parasitism in birds, the parasitic species does not obtain food, nor does it depend on the host species for other functions, but only to incubate the eggs and feed the parasitic bird's chicks. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

97. Which of the following processes are involved in decomposition?

- i. Fragmentation
- ii. Catabolism
- iii. Humification
- iv. Mineralisation

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) i and iv only
- b) ii and iii only
- c) i, ii and iv only
- d) i, ii, iii and iv

Answer: D

• DECOMPOSITION:

o When a plant, animal or insect dies it breaks into tiny pieces and eventually, these small pieces become part of the soil. This process is known as decomposition. It is the process where organic substances break down into a simpler matter. Bodies of any living organism start decomposing shortly after their death. Animals such as worms help in decomposing the organic matter.

o Decomposers break down complex organic matter into inorganic substances like carbon dioxide, water and nutrients and the process is called decomposition. Dead plant remains such as leaves, bark, flowers and dead remains of animals, including fecal matter, constitute detritus, which is the raw material for decomposition. The important steps in the process of decomposition are fragmentation, leaching, catabolism, humification and mineralisation. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

o Detritivores (e.g., earthworm) break down detritus into smaller particles. This process is called fragmentation.



o By the process of leaching, water soluble inorganic nutrients go down into the soil horizon and get precipitated as unavailable salts. Bacterial and fungal enzymes degrade detritus into simpler inorganic substances. This process is called as catabolism. It is important to note that all the above steps in decomposition operate simultaneously on the detritus.

o Humification and mineralisation occur during decomposition in the soil.

Humification leads to accumulation of a dark coloured amorphous substance called humus that is highly resistant to microbial action and undergoes decomposition at an extremely slow rate. Being colloidal in nature it serves as a reservoir of nutrients. The humus is further degraded by some microbes and release of inorganic nutrients occur by the process known as mineralisation.

98. Consider the following statements:

- i. The first National Wildlife Action Plan was adopted under the provisions of National Forest Policy, 1988.
- ii. The National Board for Wildlife is headed by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both i and ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

Answer: D

- The first National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) was adopted in 1983, based upon the decision taken in the meeting of the Indian Board for Wildlife held in 1982. The plan

had outlined the strategies and action points for wildlife conservation. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- Now, India's National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) for the period 2017-2031 is released. The five components under the plan are:

- o strengthening and promoting the integrated management of wildlife and their habitats

- o adaptation to climate change and promoting integrated sustainable management of aquatic biodiversity in India; promoting eco-tourism

- o nature education and participatory management

- o strengthening wildlife research and monitoring of development of human resources in wildlife conservation

- o enabling policies and resources for conservation of wildlife in India.

- Due to the rapid decline in wildlife population, the Government of India during 1952 had constituted an advisory body designated as the Indian Board for Wildlife (IBWL).

- o The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 was subsequently amended during 1991 and last during 2002. As per the amendment of the Act in 2002, a provision was incorporated for the constitution of the National Board for Wildlife, replacing the Indian Board for Wildlife. The National Board for Wildlife is chaired by the Prime Minister. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

99. Consider the following pairs:

Sacred Grove: State

- i. Than : Assam
- ii. Kavus : Tamil Nadu
- iii. Devara Kadu : Karnataka

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- a) i and ii only
- b) ii and iii only
- c) i and iii only
- d) i, ii and iii

Answer: C

- Sacred Groves are the tracts of virgin forests that are left untouched by the local inhabitants and are protected by the local people due to their culture and religious beliefs. Sacred groves are relic vegetation of once-dominant flora. They are repositories of our rich biodiversity; they are also the last bastion where the rich culture and the customs of the indigenous people are still preserved.

- A sacred grove usually consists of a dense cover of vegetation including climbers, herbs, shrubs and trees, with the presence of a village deity and is mostly situated near a perennial water source.

- They are called with different names in different states:

- o Sarna in Bihar
- o Dev Van in Himachal Pradesh
- o Devarakadu in Karnataka. Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.
- o Kavu in Kerala. Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.
- o Dev in Madhya Pradesh
- o Devarahati or Devarai in Maharashtra
- o Lai Umang in Manipur
- o Law Kyntang or Asong Khosi in Meghalaya
- o Oran in Rajasthan

- o Kovil Kadu or Sarpa Kavu in Tamil Nadu
- o Than in Assam. Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.

100. Which of the following are the ex-situ methods of biodiversity conservation?

- i. Botanical Garden
- ii. Biosphere Reserve
- iii. Zoo

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) i and ii only
- b) ii and iii only
- c) i and iii only
- d) i, ii and iii

Answer: C

• Ex-situ conservation means conservation of wildlife outside its natural habitat. The conservation takes place in captivity under man's supervision. Some times the populations of species may decline or may become extinct due to genetic or environmental factors such as inbreeding, habitat loss, disease and over-exploitation. In such cases in-situ conservation may not prove to be effective and a species can be protected from becoming extinct only through maintaining them in artificial conditions under human care. Such, measures are included under Ex-Situ Conservation Methods.

• Examples are: Botanical gardens, zoo, aquariums, parks, agricultural research centre, forest research centres, etc.

- o A botanical garden is a garden dedicated to the collection, cultivation, preservation and display of an especially wide range of plants, which are typically labelled with their botanical names.
- o A zoo is a facility in which animals are housed within enclosures, cared for, displayed to the public, and in some cases bred for conservation purposes.
- A Biosphere Reserve is a unique and representative ecosystem of terrestrial and coastal areas which are internationally recognised within the framework of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme. The Biosphere Reserve aims at achieving the three objectives - conservation, development and research. Biosphere Reserve is an example of In-Situ Conservation method.
- Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

Competition Care