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MONTHLY GS QUIZ

MAY 2023

IAS GOOGLE



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1. Which of the following have coral reefs?

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2. Gulf of Kachchh
3. Gulf of Mannar
4. Sunderbans

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

2. In which of the following regions of India are you most likely to come across the 'Great Indian Hornbill' in its natural habitat?

- (a) Sand deserts of northwest India
- (b) Higher Himalayas of Jammu and Kashmir
- (c) Salt marshes of western

Gujarat

(d) Western Ghats

Ans: (d)

3. Cope India exercise is conducted between

- (a) India - U.S
- (b) India - U.K
- (c) India - France.
- (d) India - Japan.

4. Microbial fuel cells are considered a source of sustainable energy. Why?

1. They use living organisms as catalysts to generate electricity from certain substrates.
2. They use a variety of inorganic materials as substrates.
3. They can be installed in waste water treatment plants to cleanse water and produce electricity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

5.

In which one of the following places is the Shompen tribe found?

- (a) Nilgiri Hills
- (b) Nicobar Islands
- (c) Spiti Valley
- (d) Lakshadweep Islands

6.

In India, if a religious sect/community is given "the status of a national minority, what special advantages it is entitled to?

- 1. It can establish and administer exclusive educational institutions.
- 2. The President of India

automatically nominates a representative of the community to Lok Sabha.

- 3. It can derive benefits from the Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a.) 1 only
- (b.) 2 and 3 only'
- (c.) 1 and 3 only
- (d.) 1, 2 and 3

7.

Biodiversity forms the basis for human existence in the following ways

- 1. Soil formation
- 2. Prevention of soil erosion
- 3. Recycling of waste
- 4. Pollination of crops

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a.) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b.) 2, 3 and 4 only

(c.) 1 and 4 only

(d.) 1, 2, 3 and 4

8.

Consider the following:

1. Carbon dioxide
2. Oxides of Nitrogen
3. Oxides of Sulphur

Which of the above is/are the emission/ emissions from coal combustion at thermal power plants?

(a.) 1 only

(b.) 2 and 3 only

(c.) 1 and 3 only

(d.) 1, 2 and 3

9.

Regarding the Indus Valley Civilization, consider the following statements

1. It was predominantly a secular civilization and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene,
2. During this period, cotton

was used for

manufacturing textiles in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a.) 1 only

(b.) 2 only

(c.) Both 1 and 2

(d.) Neither 1 nor 2

10.

Which of the following characterizes/ characterize the people of Indus Civilization?

1. They possessed great palaces and temples.
2. They worshipped both male and female deities.
3. They employed horse-drawn chariots in warfare.

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

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 only

- (e) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None of the statements given above is correct
- 11.** The authorization for the withdrawal of funds from the Consolidated Fund of India must come from:
- (a.) The President of India
- (b.) The Parliament of India
- (c.) The Prime. Minister of India
- (d.) The Union Finance, Minister
- 12.** Which one of the following is not a site for in-situ method of conservation of flora?
- (a.) Biosphere Reserve
- (b.) Botanical Garden
- (c.) National Park
- (d.) Wildlife Sanctuary
- 13.** The “dharma” and “rita” depict a central idea of ancient Vedic

civilization of India, In this context, consider the following statements:

1. Dharma was a conception of obligations and of the discharge of one's duties to oneself and to others.
2. Rita was the fundamental moral law governing the functioning of the universe and all it contained.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a.) 1 only
- (b.) 2 only
- (c.) Both 1 and 2
- (d.) Neither 1 nor 2

14.

Consider the following factors

1. Rotation of the Earth
2. Air pressure and wind
3. Density of ocean water
4. Revolution of the Earth

Which of the above factors influence the ocean currents?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1, 2 and 3

(c) 1 and 4

(d) 2, 3 and 4

15.

Which one of the following observations is not true about the Quit India Movement of 1942?

(a.) It was a non-violent movement

(b.) It was led by Mahatma Gandhi

(c.) It was a spontaneous movement

(d.) It did not attract the labour class in general

16.

All revenues received by the Union. Government by way of taxes and other receipts for the conduct of Government business are credited to the:

(a.) Contingency Fund of India

(b.) Public Account

(c.) Consolidated Fund of India

(d.) Deposits and Advances Fund

17.

Consider the following statements:

1. Biodiversity is normally greater in the lower latitudes as compared to the higher latitudes.

2. Along the mountain gradients, biodiversity is normally greater in the lower altitudes as compared to the higher altitudes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a.) 1 only

(b.) 2 only

(c.) Both 1 and 2

(d.) Neither 1 nor 2

18.

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

19.

When you travel in Himalayas, you will see the following :

1. Deep gorges
2. U-turn river courses
3. Parallel mountain ranges
4. Steep gradients causing land-sliding

Which of the above can be said to be the evidences for Himalayas being young fold mountains?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

20.

Which amongst the following provided a common factor for tribal insurrection in India in the 19th century?

- (a.) Introduction of a new system of land revenue and taxation- of

tribal products

- (b.) Influence of foreign religious missionaries in tribal areas
- (c.) Rise of a large number of money lenders, traders and revenue farmers as middlemen in tribal areas
- (d.) The complete disruption of the old agrarian order of the tribal communities

21.

Consider the following statements

1. The Zabarwan Range is a short sub-mountain range between Pir Panjal and the Great Himalayan Range
2. The highest peak of Zabarwan range is Mahadev Peak.
3. Dachigam National Park is the main feature of the range.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3.
- (b) 2 and 3.

(c) 1 and 2.

(d) 1, 2 and 3

22.

Doklam plateau lies to the

(a) East of Gangtok.

(b) West of Thimphu.

(c) North-East of Silguri.

(d) All the above.

23.

Consider the following statements

1. Windfall taxes are designed to tax the profits a company derives from an external & unprecedented event.
2. These are profits include attributed to something the firm actively did, like an investment strategy or an expansion of business.
3. Windfall taxes are primarily levied on the companies in the targeted industry that have benefited the most from the economic windfall, most often commodity-

based businesses.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2.

(b) 2 and 3.

(c) 1 and 3.

(d) 1, 2 and 3.

24.

Consider the following statements

1. Lokpal consists of one chairperson and a maximum of 6 members.
2. The term of office for Lokpal Chairman and Members is 6 years or till the age of 65 years.
3. The members are appointed by the president on the recommendation of a Selection Committee.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2.

(b) 3 only.

(c) 1 and 3.

(d) 1, 2 and 3.

25.

With reference to India's satellite launch vehicles, consider the following statements:

1. PSLVs launch the satellites useful for Earth resources monitoring whereas GSLVs are designed mainly to launch communication satellites.
2. Satellites launched by PSLV appear to remain permanently fixed in the same position in the sky, as viewed from a particular location on Earth.
3. GSLV Mk III is a four-staged launch vehicle with the first and third stages using solid rocket motors, and the second and fourth stages using liquid rocket engines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3

(c) 1 and 2

(d) 3 only

26.

Consider the following statements

1. Countervailing duties imposed to prevent low-priced foreign goods from damaging the local market.
2. An anti-dumping duty is valid for a period of five years from the date of imposition unless revoked earlier.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only.

(b) 2 only.

(c) Both 1 and 2.

(d) Neither 1 nor 2.

27.

Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary is located in

- (a) Kerala.
- (b) Karnataka.
- (c) Andhra Pradesh.
- (d) Goa.

28.

Consider the following statements regarding Lokpal

1. Lokpal has the power to recommend the transfer or suspension of public servants.
2. Lokpal cannot inquire allegations against the PM relating to international relations, external and internal security, public order, atomic energy and space.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

29.

Consider the following statements regarding Crohn's Disease

1. It is a chronic digestive disorder that affects parts of the digestive system.
2. It may stem from an abnormal reaction of the immune system.
3. Currently there's no known cure for Crohn's disease.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2.
- (b) 2 and 3.
- (c) 1 and 3.
- (d) 1, 2 and 3.

30.

Consider the following statements regarding Nathu La pass.

1. Nathu La connects the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.
2. It is one of the three open trading border posts

between India and China

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

31.

The term 'Hikikomori' denotes

- (a) a term used to describe people who have withdrawn from society.
- (b) a group of indigenous people of the Americas living in Mexico.
- (c) indigenous Polynesian people of mainland New Zealand.
- (d) a traditional sport originating from the Sūmi Naga people of Nagaland.

32.

Consider the following statements

1. Lord Mahavir was the twenty-third and the last Tirthankara of the Jain religion.

2. He delivered his first sermon at Pava.
3. Mahavira's symbol was a lion.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) 1 and 2.
- (d) 2 and 3.

33.

Consider the following statements regarding Kurmis

1. Kurmis are mostly located in Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand.
2. They are categorized as ST in Jharkhand and West Bengal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.

- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.
- 34.** 'Checkered keelback' which is recently seen in news is
- (a) Reptile.
- (b) Amphibian.
- (c) an endemic sucker fish of Parambikulam.
- (d) Medicinal plant.
- 35.** Consider the following statements regarding Subansiri River
1. It originates in the Tibet Plateau.
 2. It is the Second largest tributary of the Brahmaputra River.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

36.

How is permaculture farming different from conventional chemical farming?

1. Permaculture farming discourages monocultural practices but in conventional chemical farming, monoculture practices are predominant.
2. Conventional chemical farming can cause an increase in soil salinity but the occurrence of such phenomenon is not observed in permaculture farming.
3. Conventional chemical farming is easily possible in semi-arid regions but permaculture farming is not so easily possible in such regions.
4. Practice of mulching is very important in permaculture farming but not necessarily so in conventional chemical farming.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 3

(b) 1, 2 and 4

(c) 4 only

(d) 2 and 3

(c) 4 only

(c) 4 only

37.

Which of the following is the chief characteristic of 'mixed farming'?

(a) Cultivation of both cash crops and food crops

(b) Cultivation of two or more crops in the same field

(c) Rearing of animals and cultivation of crops together

(d) None of the above

38.

As per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 in India, which one of the following statements is correct?

(a) Waste generator has to segregate waste into five

categories.

(b) The Rules are applicable to notified urban local bodies, notified towns and all industrial townships only

(c) The Rules provide for exact and elaborate criteria for the identification of sites for landfills and waste processing facilities.

(d) It is mandatory on the part of the waste generator that the waste generated in one district cannot be moved to another district.

39.

With reference to the water on the planet Earth, consider the following statements:

1. The amount of water in the rivers and lakes is more than the amount of groundwater.

2. The amount of water in polar ice caps and glaciers is more than the amount of groundwater.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

40.

Consider the following phenomena:

1. Light is affected by gravity.
2. The Universe is constantly expanding.
3. Matter warps its surrounding space-time.

Which of the above is/are the prediction/predictions of Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, often discussed in media?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

41.

Consider the following statements

1. LGRBs(Long-duration

gamma-ray bursts) last for more than two seconds and are thought to be caused by the collapse of massive stars.

2. SGRBs(Short-duration gamma-ray bursts) last for less than two seconds and are thought to be caused by the collision of two compact objects, such as neutron stars or a neutron star and a black hole.
3. LGRBs are much rarer than SGRBs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2.
- (b) 2 and 3.
- (c) 1 and 3.
- (d) 1, 2 and 3.

42.

Recently, scientists observed the merger of giant 'blackholes' billions of light-years away from the Earth. What is the significance of this observation?

- (a) 'Higgs boson particles' were detected.
- (b) 'Gravitational waves' were detected.
- (c) Possibility of inter-galactic space travel through 'wormhole' was confirmed.
- (d) It enabled the scientists to understand 'singularity'.

43.

Convertibility of rupee implies

- (a) being able to convert rupee notes into gold
- (b) allowing the value of rupee to be fixed by market forces
- (c) freely permitting the conversion of rupee to other currencies and vice versa
- (d) developing an international market for currencies in India

44.

With reference to Balance of Payments, which of the following constitutes/constitute the Current Account?

1. Balance of trade
2. Foreign assets
3. Balance of invisibles
4. Special Drawing Rights

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 1, 2 and 4

45.

With reference to the 'Trans-Pacific Partnership', consider the following statements:

1. It is an agreement among all the Pacific Rim countries except China and Russia.
2. It is a strategic alliance for the purpose of maritime security only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

46.

Which of the following countries share borders with Moldova?

1. Ukraine
2. Romania
3. Belarus

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

Code:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

47.

Consider the following protected areas:

1. Bandipur
2. Bhitarkanika
3. Manas
4. Sunderbans

Which of the above are declared Tiger Reserves?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1, 3 and 4 only

(c) 2, 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

48.

From the ecological point of view, which one of the following assumes importance in being a good link between the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats?

(a) Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve

(b) Nallamala Forest

(c) Nagarhole National Park

(d) Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve

49.

Consider the following statements in respect of Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC)

1. TRAFFIC is a bureau under United Nations

Environment Programme (UNEP).

2. The mission of TRAFFIC is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

50.

Consider the following statements

1. The institution of ombudsman was First inaugurated officially in New Zealand.
2. India became the first developing nation to adopt the concept of the ombudsman.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only.

(b) 2 only.

(c) Both 1 and 2.

(d) Neither 1 nor 2.

51.

Which one of the following pairs of islands is separated from each other by the 'Ten Degree Channel'?

- (a) Andaman and Nicobar
- (b) Nicobar and Sumatra
- (c) Maldives and Lakshadweep
- (d) Sumatra and Java

52.

Consider the following statements regarding Vembanad Lake.

1. It is the second largest lake in India after Chilika.
2. It is the largest Ramsar site in India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only.

(b) 2 only.

(c) Both 1 and 2.

(d) Neither 1 nor 2.

53.

When the annual Union Budget is not passed by the Lok Sabha

(a.) the Budget is modified and presented again

(b.) the Budget is referred to the Rajya Sabha for suggestions

(c.) the Union Finance Minister is asked to resign,

(d.) the Prime Minister submits the resignation of Council of Ministers

54.

Three of the following criteria have contributed to the recognition of Western Ghats-Sri Lanka and Indo-Burma regions as hotspots of biodiversity:

1. Species richness
2. Vegetation density
3. Endemism
4. Ethno-botanical

importance

5. Threat perception

6. Adaptation of flora and fauna to warm and humid conditions

Which three of the above are correct criteria in this context?

(a.) 1, 2 and 6

(b.) 2, 4 and 6

(c.) 1, 3 and 5

(d.) 3, 4 and 6

55.

Which one of the following pairs does not form part of the six systems of Indian Philosophy?

(a) Mimamsa and Vedanta

(b) Nyaya and Vaisheshika

(c) Lokayata and Kapalika

(d) Sankhya and Yoga

56.

Under the Constitution of India, which one of the following is not a fundamental duty?

- (a.) To vote in public elections
- (b.) To develop the scientific temper
- (c.) To safeguard public property
- (d.) To abide by me Constitution and respect its ideals

57.

Two important rivers — one with its source in Jharkhand (and known by a different name in Odisha), and another, with its source in Odisha — merge at a place only a short distance from the coast of Bay of Bengal before flowing into the sea. This is an important site of wildlife and biodiversity and a protected area.

Which one of the following could be this?

- (a.) Bhitarkanika
- (b.) Chandipur-on-sea
- (c.) Gopalpur-on-sea
- (d.) Simlipal

58.

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

59.

Variations in the length of daytime and night time from season to season are due to

- (a) the earth’s rotation on its axis
- (b) the earth’s revolution round the sun in an elliptical manner
- (c) latitudinal position of the place
- (d) revolution of the earth on a tilted axis

60.

The demand for the Tebhaga Peasant Movement in Bengal was for:

- (a) the reduction of the share of the landlords from one-half of the crop to one-third

- (b) the grant of ownership of land to peasants as they were the actual cultivators of the land
- (c) the uprooting of Zamindari system and the end of serfdom
- (d) writing off all peasant debts

61.

With reference to India, consider the following statements:

1. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in India is available on a monthly basis only.
2. As compared to Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI(IW)), the WPI gives less weight to food articles.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

62.

Consider the following statements:

1. The weightage of food in Consumer Price Index (CPI) is higher than that in Wholesale Price Index (WPI).
2. The WPI does not capture changes in the prices of services, which CPI does.
3. The Reserve Bank of India has now adopted WPI as its key measure of inflation and to decide on changing the key policy rates.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

63.

Consider the following statements regarding Kibithoo Village

1. It is located in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. The Meyors tribe form bulk

of its population.

Select the correct answer using
the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

64.

Consider the following statements
Gond Tribe

1. The Gonds are the Second largest tribal Community in India.
2. They can be traced to the pre-Aryan era.

Select the correct answer using
the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

65.

With reference to the Finance

Commission of India, which of the
following statements is correct?

- (a.) It encourages the inflow of foreign capital for infrastructure development
- (b.) It facilitates the proper distribution of finances among the Public Sector Undertakings
- (c.) It ensures transparency in financial administration
- (d.) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is correct in this context

66.

With reference to the Delimitation Commission, consider the following statements :

1. The orders of the Delimitation Commission cannot be challenged in a Court of Law.
2. When the orders of the Delimitation Commission are laid before the Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly, they cannot effect any

modifications in the orders.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

67.

The Prime Minister of India, at the time of his/her appointment:

- (a) need not necessarily be a member of one of the Houses of the Parliament but must become a member of one of the Houses within six months
- (b) need not necessarily be a member of one of the Houses of the Parliament but must become a member of the Lok Sabha within six months
- (c) must be a member of one of the Houses of the Parliament
- (d) must be a member of the Lok Sabha

68.

In India, other than ensuring that public funds are used efficiently and for intended purpose, what is the importance of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)?

1. CAG exercises exchequer control on behalf of the Parliament when the President of India declares national emergency/financial emergency.
2. CAG reports on the execution of projects or programmes by the ministries are discussed by the Public Accounts Committee.
3. Information from CAG reports can be used by investigating agencies to press charges against those who have violated the law while managing public finances.
4. While dealing with the audit and accounting of government companies, CAG has certain judicial

powers for prosecuting those who violate the law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

69.

Balikatan is a military exercise between

- (a) India - Indonesia.
- (b) India - Mongolia.
- (c) India - France
- (d) None of the above.

70.

Consider the following statements

1. Jupiter has the second highest number of moons after Saturn.
2. Messenger mission discovered Jupiter's faint ring system.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

71.

Which of the following come under the fatal four of vultures?

1. Diclofenac.
2. Fipronil
3. Acelofenac.
4. Ketroprofene.
5. Atrazine
6. Nimesulfide.

- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- (b) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6
- (c) 1, 3, 4 and 6
- (d) 1, 3, 5 and 6

72.

'Ease of Doing Business Index' is released by

- (a) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

(OECD)

(b) World Economic Forum

(c) World Bank

(d) World Trade Organization
(WTO)

73.

Consider the following statements

1. Helium-3 is a rare isotope that is abundant on the moon.
2. It can be used as fuel for nuclear fission reactors.
3. Helium-3 is in solid state

Select the incorrect answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2.

(b) 2 and 3.

(c) 1 and 3.

(d) 1, 2 and 3.

74.

Consider the following statements

1. World air quality report released by an intergovernmental forum,

IQ Air.

2. Delhi is the second most pollutant city.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only.

(b) 2 only.

(c) Both 1 and 2.

(d) Neither 1 nor 2.

75.

Which of the following elements are present in green crackers

1. Pottasium nitrate.
2. Barium nitrate.
3. Aluminium
4. Arsenic

(a) 1 and 2.

(b) 3 and 4.

(c) 1 and 3.

(d) 2 and 4.

76.

According to the Constitution of India, it is the duty of the President of India to cause to be

laid before the Parliament which of the following?

1. The Recommendations of the Union Finance Commission
2. The Report of the Public Accounts Committee
3. The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General
4. The Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

77.

A sandy and saline area is the natural habitat of an Indian animal species. The animal has no predators in that area but its existence is threatened due to the destruction of its habitat. Which one of the following could be that

animal?

- (a.) Indian wild buffalo
- (b.) Indian wild ass
- (c.) Indian wild boar
- (d.) Indian gazelle

78.

The Jain philosophy holds that the world is created and maintained by

- (a.) Universal Law
- (b.) Universal Truth
- (c.) Universal Faith
- (d.) Universal Soul

79.

The annual range of temperature in the interior of the continents is high as compared to coastal areas. What is / are the reason / reasons?

1. Thermal difference between land and water
2. Variation in altitude between continents and oceans

3. Presence of strong winds in the interior
4. Heavy rains in the interior as compared to coasts

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

80.

Quit India Movement was launched in response to:

- (a) Cabinet Mission Plan
- (b) Cripps Proposals
- (c) Simon Commission Report
- (d) Wavell Plan

81.

'Omdurman', is a place which is recently seen in news is located in

- (a) Sudan.
- (b) Turkey.

- (c) Ukraine.
- (d) Russia.

82.

A deadlock between the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha calls for a joint sitting of the Parliament during the passage of

1. Ordinary Legislation
2. Money Bill
3. Constitution Amendment Bill

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

83.

The Himalayan Range is Very rich in species diversity. Which one among the following is the most appropriate reason for this phenomenon?

- (a.) It has a high rainfall that supports luxuriant vegetative

growth

(b.) It is a confluence of different bio-geographical zones

(c.) Exotic and invasive species have not been introduced in this region

(d.) It has less human interference

84.

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

1. Avoidance of extremities of penance and enjoyment
2. Indifference to the authority of the Vedas
3. Denial of efficacy of rituals

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

85.

Which of the following is/are among the Fundamental Duties of citizens laid down in the Indian Constitution?

1. To preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture
2. To protect the weaker sections from social injustice
3. To develop the scientific temper and spirit of inquiry
4. To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

86.

Consider the following statements regarding Bhitarkanika National Park

1. It is the second largest

Mangrove ecosystems of India.

2. It is located in Assam.
3. It is the largest colony of the Olive Ridley Sea Turtles.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3.
- (b) 2 and 3.
- (c) 1 and 2.
- (d) 1, 2 and 3.

87.

Which of the following is/are among the Fundamental Duties of citizens laid down in the Indian Constitution?

1. To preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture
2. To protect the weaker sections from social injustice
3. To develop the scientific temper and spirit of inquiry
4. To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual

and collective activity

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

88.

Bio-based asphalt (bioasphalt). What is the importance of this material?

1. Unlike traditional asphalt, bio-asphalt is not based on fossil fuels.
2. Bioasphalt can be made from non-renewable resources.
3. Bioasphalt can be made from organic waste materials.
4. It is eco-friendly to use bioasphalt for surfacing of the roads.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a.) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b.) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c.) 2 and 4 only
- (d.) 1, 2, 3 and 4

89.

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

(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

90.

The Brahmaputra, Irrawady and

Mekong rivers originate in Tibet and flow through narrow and parallel mountain ranges in their upper reaches. Of these rivers, Brahmaputra makes a "U" turn in its course to flow into India. This "U" turn is due to

(a.) Uplift of folded Himalayan series

(b.) Syntaxial bending of geologically young Himalayas

(c.) Geo-tectonic disturbance in the tertiary folded mountain chains

(d.) Both (a) and (b) above

91.

The term 'Khayal' which is recently seen in news refers to

(a) It is a genre of Hindustani classical music.

(b) A ritual done during four days long auspicious Chhath festival worship.

(c) An mathematician and Vedic priest who lived in ancient India.

(d) An classical dance which was

primarily a temple or village performance wherein the dancers narrated stories from ancient scriptures.

92.

In India, it is legally mandatory for which of the following to report on cyber security incidents?

1. Service providers
2. Data centres
3. Body corporate

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

93.

Consider the following statements regarding Trojan asteroids

1. They are located between Mars and Jupiter.
2. The Trojan asteroids are believed to be formed from the same material that led

to the formation of planets

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

94.

Consider the following statements regarding Supercritical carbon dioxide

1. It is a solid state of carbon dioxide
2. Supercritical carbon dioxide helps to flush out oil from depleting oil and gas reservoirs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

95.

Non-recognition of same-sex marriage violates which of the following

1. Article 14
2. Article 15
3. Article 17
4. Article 21
5. Article 19

(a) 1, 2, 3, and 5

(b) 1, 3 and 4

(c) 1, 2, 4 and 5

(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

96.

Consider the following statements regarding Toque Macaque

1. They are native and endemic exclusively to India.
2. They are classified as Endangered in IUCN red list.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only.

(b) 2 only.

(c) Both 1 and 2.

(d) Neither 1 nor 2.

97.

Consider the following statements regarding Structure of FSSAI

1. The FSSAI comprises of a Chairperson and twenty two members
2. The members are one – third are to be women.
3. The Chairperson of FSSAI is appointed by the Central Government.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 3.

(b) 2 and 3.

(c) 1 and 3.

(d) 1, 2 and 3.

98.

Consider the following statements regarding Transfer of judges

1. The proposal for

transferring a HC judge
(including a Chief Justice)
should be initiated by the
CJI

2. The consent of the particular judge is required.
3. The recommendation is directly sent to the President of India.

Select the correct answer using
the code given below:

- (a) 3 only.
- (b) 2 and 3.
- (c) 1 only.
- (d) 1, 2 and 3.

99.

Consider the following statements:

1. The Parliament of India can place a particular law in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
2. The validity of a law placed in the Ninth Schedule cannot be examined by any court and no judgement

can be made on it.

Which of the statements given
above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

100.

Consider the following statements
regarding Dharwar System

1. They are the first rocks that undergo metamorphism.
2. Found in great quantity in Ganga basin.

Select the correct answer using
the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

101.

Consider the following statements

regarding

1. The first Lagrange point (L1) is located between the Earth and the Sun.
2. A satellite in Third Lagrange point (L3) position would not be able to communicate with Earth.
3. The first Lagrange point (L1) is a good location for space telescopes

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2.
- (b) 2 and 3.
- (c) 1 and 3.
- (d) 1, 2 and 3.

102.

INIOCHOS-23 which is recently seen in news is a military exercise between

- (a) India - U.S.A
- (b) India - U.K
- (c) India - Turkey

(d) India - Greece

103.

In addition to fingerprint scanning, which of the following can be used in the biometric identification of a person?

1. Iris scanning
2. Retinal scanning
3. Voice recognition

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

104.

In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of G20?

- (a) Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey
- (b) Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand
- (c) Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and

Vietnam

(d) Indonesia, Japan, Singapore
and South Korea

105.

Increase in absolute and per capita real GNP do not connote a higher level of economic development, if

(a) Industrial output fails to keep pace with agricultural output.

(b) Agricultural output fails to keep pace with industrial output.

(c) Poverty and unemployment increase.

(d) Imports grow faster than exports.

106.

The distribution of powers between the Centre and the States in the Indian Constitution is based on the scheme provided in the

(a) Morley-Minto Reforms, 1909

(b) Montagu-Chelmsford Act, 1919

(c) Government of India Act, 1935

(d) Indian Independence Act, 1947

107.

What is the provision to safeguard the autonomy of the Supreme Court of India?

1. While appointing the Supreme Court Judges, the President of India has to consult the Chief Justice of India.

2. The Supreme Court Judges can be removed by the Chief Justice of India only.

3. The salaries of the Judges are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India to which the legislature does not have to vote.

4. All appointments of officers and staffs of the Supreme Court of India are made by the Government only after consulting the Chief Justice of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 3 and 4 only
- (c) 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

108.

Consider the following :

1. Right to education.
2. Right to equal access to public service.
3. Right to food.

Which of the above is/are Human Right/Human Rights under “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”?

- (a.) 1 only
- (b.) 1 and 2 only
- (c.) 3 only
- (d.) 1, 2 and 3

109.

A “closed economy” is an economy in which

- (a) the money supply is fully controlled

- (b) deficit financing takes place
- (c) only exports take place
- (d) neither exports or imports take place

110.

Cope India is a military exercise between

- (a) India - USA.
- (b) India - UK.
- (c) India - Australia
- (d) India - France

111.

Consider the following statements
Hakki Pikki tribes

1. They are nomadic tribes originated in the forest of Maharashtra
2. They are classified as PVTGs in India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.

(c) Both 1 and 2.

(d) Neither 1 nor 2.

112.

Consider the following statements regarding Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act & Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act.

1. These acts are administered by Ministry of Home affairs.
2. Order of detention under these acts can only be done by Central government.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only.

(b) 2 only.

(c) Both 1 and 2.

(d) Neither 1 nor 2.

113.

The Parwanoo is the disputed region between which of the following states?

(a) Haryana-Himachal Pradesh.

(b) Himachal Pradesh-Ladakh.

(c) Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

(d) Assam-Nagaland.

114.

With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:

1. Sthaviravadins belong to Mahayana Buddhism.
2. Lokottaravadin sect was an offshoot of Mahasanghika sect of Buddhism.
3. The deification of Buddha by Mahasanghikas fostered the Mahayana Buddhism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

115.

Consider the following statements:

1. The Parliament of India can place a particular law in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
2. The validity of a law placed in the Ninth Schedule cannot be examined by any court and no judgement can be made on it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

116.

Why is there a great concern about the 'microbeads' that are released into environment?

- (a) They are considered harmful to marine ecosystems.
- (b) They are considered to cause skin cancer in children.
- (c) They are small enough to be absorbed by crop plants in

irrigated fields.

- (d) They are often found to be used as food adulterants.

117.

Which of the following countries are known as 'Horn of Africa'?

1. Sudan
2. Eritrea
3. Ethiopia
4. Djibouti

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1, 2 and 4
- (c) 1, 3 and 4
- (d) 2, 3 and 4

118.

Satkosia wildlife sanctuary is located in

- (a) Odisha.
- (b) Assam.
- (c) Arunachal Pradesh.
- (d) Himachal Pradesh.

119.

Consider the following statements

regarding Zafar Mahal

1. Zafar Mahal was built by Emperor Akhbar Shah II.
2. It contains cenotaphs of the later Mughal Emperors.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

120.

Consider the following statements
Artificial ripening of fruits

1. Ethylene gas (fruit ripening agent) has been prohibited as per the provision in the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulation, 2011.
2. Artificial ripening allows a longer shelf life for the fruits.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

121.

'Darfur' which is recently seen in news, is a place located in

- (a) Sudan
- (b) Ukraine
- (c) Russia
- (d) Iran

122.

Nauradehi wildlife sanctuary is located in

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Rajasthan

123.

Consider the following statements

1. Warmer air can hold more moisture than cooler air.

2. Relative humidity of warmer air will be lower than that of cooler air.
3. A relative humidity of 10-20% is generally considered to be comfortable.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3.
- (b) 2 and 3.
- (c) 1 and 2.
- (d) 1, 2 and 3.

124.

Consider the following statements

1. When the governor reserved certain types of bills passed by the state legislature for the consideration of the President. Then, the Governor will not have any further role in the enactment of the bill.
2. The President can withhold his assent to bills (state legislation) passed by governor for the consideration of the

President. not only in the first instance but also in the second instance.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

125.

What is the difference between “vote-on-account” and “interim budget”?

1. The provision of a “vote-on-account” is used by a regular Government, while an “interim budget” is a provision used by a caretaker Government.
2. A “vote-on-account” only deals with the expenditure in Government’s budget, while an “interim budget” includes both expenditure and receipts.

Which of the statements; given

above is/are correct?

- (a.) 1 only
- (b.) 2 only
- (c.) Both 1 and 2
- (d.) Neither 1 nor 2

126.

Which of the following is/are the likely consequences of synchronized monetary tightening by countries across the world?

1. Widening of current account deficit
2. Fall in bond yields
3. Outflow of foreign investments

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1,2 and 3

127.

Which of the following steps can help in controlling inflation in an economy?

1. Increase in repo rates by RBI.
2. Decline in excise and custom duties
3. Restricting export of essential products

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1,2 and 3

128.

Mukundra Tiger Reserve is located in

- (a) Gujarat.
- (b) Rajasthan.
- (c) Maharashtra.

(d) Madhya Pradesh.

129.

Consider the following statements:

1. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted against the Governor of a State in any court during his term of office.
2. The emoluments and allowances of the Governor of a State shall not be diminished during his term of office.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

130.

Which of the following are the discretionary powers given to the Governor of a State?

1. Sending a report to the President of India

for imposing the President's rule

2. Appointing the Ministers
3. Reserving certain bills passed by the State Legislature for consideration of the President of India
4. Making the rules to conduct the business of the State Government

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

131.

Which of the following activities are not prohibited Around Eco Sensitive Zones?

1. Establishment of hotels and resorts
2. Commercial use of natural water
3. Erection of electrical cables
4. Establishment of major

- hydroelectric projects
5. Use of renewable energy sources

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1, 2, 3 and 5.

(b) 2, 3, 4 and 5.

(c) 5 only.

(d) None of the above.

132.

Mahanadi River flows through which of the following states ?

(a) Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha.

(b) Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

(c) Telangana, Odisha, Chhattisgarh.

(d) Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West bengal

133.

Consider the following statements

1. constitution explicitly prohibits states from imposing any taxes or

duties on supply of goods or services or on both where the supply takes place outside the state.

2. State government has power to impose tax on generation of electricity.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only.

(b) 2 only.

(c) Both 1 and 2.

(d) Neither 1 nor 2.

134.

Consider the following statements regarding Konark Sun Temple

1. It was given the status of a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.
2. It was built by King Anantavarman of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty
3. The temple is built from Khondalite rocks
4. It is also known as 'WHITE PAGODA'

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2.
- (b) 2, 3 and 4.
- (c) 1 and 3.
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4.

135.

Consider the following statements:

1. The Nuclear Security Summits are periodically held under the aegis of the United Nations.
2. The International Panel on Fissile Materials is an organ of International Atomic Energy Agency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

136.

Which of the following is the

major contributor for Sea level Rise

- (a) Thermal Expansion of water
- (b) Melting of Glaciers
- (c) Loss of Ice sheets
- (d) Changes in land water storage

137.

Consider the following statements

1. The Yogachara School of Buddhism incorporated the Cham dance.
2. Cham dance is used in all four schools of Tibetan Buddhism

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

138.

Consider the following statements

1. The Drukpa Lineage is a

branch of the Kagyu school of Chinese *Buddhism*.

2. It is known for its efforts to empower women

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

139.

Consider the following statements regarding Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET) Initiative

1. It is integrated planning for responding to any respiratory pathogen such as influenza or coronaviruses.
2. It is launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

140.

In which one among the following categories of protected areas in India are local people not allowed to collect and use the biomass?

- (a) Biosphere Reserves
- (b) National Parks
- (c) Wetlands declared under Ramsar Convention
- (d) Wildlife Sanctuaries

141.

Consider the following statements:

1. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted against the Governor of a State in any court during his term of office.
2. The emoluments and allowances of the Governor of a State shall not be diminished during his term

of office.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

142.

Consider the following statements regarding the Debt profile of Union government in FY 2022;

1. The total liabilities of the union government increased to over 70 of GDP.
2. External liability accounts for more than 10 percent of public debt.
3. Public debt in India is primarily contracted at floating interest rates.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 3 only

d) None

143.

Arrange the following in decreasing order of their share in the Union government's tax profile for the FY 2023.

1. Goods and services tax
2. Union excise duty
3. Corporate income tax
4. Customs

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 3-1-2-4
- b) 1-3-4-2
- c) 1-3-2-4
- d) 4-2-3-1

144.

Consider the following statements regarding recent trends in the fiscal position of the union government

1. Fiscal deficit as a

percentage of GDP has increased during the last two years.

2. In FY 2022, India's primary deficit surpassed its fiscal deficit.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

145.

Consider the following statements regarding recent trends in the fiscal position of the union government

1. Fiscal deficit as a percentage of GDP has increased during the last two years.
2. In FY 2022, India's primary deficit surpassed its fiscal deficit.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only.
- (b) 2 only.
- (c) Both 1 and 2.
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

146.

Which of the following could lead to an increase in non-debt receipts of the government?

1. Expansion of tax base
2. Reduction of excise duty on fuel
3. Increase in corporate tax rates

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

147.

The Preamble to the Constitution of India is

- (a) a part of the Constitution but

has no legal effect

(b) not a part of the Constitution and has no legal effect either

(c) part of the Constitution and has the same legal effect as any other part

(d) a part of the Constitution but has no legal effect independently of other parts

148.

Achanakmar Tiger Reserve is located in

(a) Bihar

(b) Kerala

(c) Chhattisgarh

(d) Madhya Pradesh

149.

Consider the following statements regarding International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)

1. It was established in 1947 by the Chicago Convention.
2. ICAO is an intergovernmental agency associated with the United

Nations (UN).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only.

(b) 2 only.

(c) Both 1 and 2.

(d) Neither 1 nor 2.

150.

Consider the following statements regarding

1. ED can not take an action suo motu.
2. Cases under FEMA and PMLA will lie in criminal courts.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only.

(b) 2 only.

(c) Both 1 and 2.

(d) Neither 1 nor 2.

ANSWERS

1.	a	<p>India is recorded to have around 7,517 km of coastline but only 6,100 km represents the mainland coastline. The three major types of coral reefs found in India are fringing, barrier and atolls.</p> <p>Coral reefs in India are found in a lot of areas including the Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands. The Gulf of Kutch in the northwest has some of the most northerly reefs in the world.</p> <p>Patches of coral reefs are also found in Ratnagiri, Malvan and Redi, south Bombay and at the Gaveshani Bank located in the west of Mangalore.</p> <p>Corals running parallel to the shore are found at Quilon near the Kerala coast to Enayem in Tamil Nadu. On the east coast, between Parangipettai (south of Cuddalore) and Pondicherry, corals are found in abundance. When it comes to island corals, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep Islands are rich with flourishing corals.</p>
2.	d	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Great Indian Hornbills are large and wide-ranging birds and most species are dependent on tropical forest habitats that contain large and tall trees.● India has nine Hornbill species, of which four are found in the Western Ghats – Indian Grey Hornbill (endemic to India), Malabar Grey Hornbill (endemic to the Western Ghats), Malabar Pied Hornbill (endemic to India and Sri Lanka) and endangered Great Indian Hornbill.● India also has one species that has one of the smallest ranges of any Hornbill – the Narcondam Hornbill, found only on the

		island of Narcondam in Andaman Sea.
3.	a	<p>The Air Forces of India and the U.S. are set to conduct the Cope India exercise from April 10 to 21 at the Kalaikunda airbase in West Bengal, with Japan as an observer. Cope India Exercise is a bilateral combined training session involving the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the US Air Force (USAF). Cope India started out as a fighter-training drill in 2004. The most recent iteration of the practice took place in 2019. The exercise has developed to include, in addition to fighter-training exercises, subject matter expert exchanges, air mobility training, airdrop training, and large-force exercises.</p> <p>Other joint defense drills between India and the US include Yudh-Abhyas (Military Exercise), Vajra Parhar, and Dharma Guardian with Japan. And a Trilateral Maritime Exercise Malabar is scheduled between the navies of India, Japan, and the USA.</p>
4.	d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microbial Fuel Cells (MFCs) are devices that use bacteria as the catalysts to oxidize organic and inorganic matter and generate current. Electrons produced by the bacteria from these substrates are transferred to the anode (negative terminal) and flow to the cathode (positive terminal). • Microbes are found in great numbers in sewage, and the conditions of a waste water treatment plant are ideal for the types of bacteria that can be used in an MFC. Thus, they can be installed in waste water treatment plants to cleanse water and produce electricity.
5.	b	<p>Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG): Great Andamanese are one of five PVTGs that reside in Andamans archipelago. The</p>

		<p>other four are: Jarwas, Onges, Shompens and North Sentinelese.</p> <p>Shompen is the only PVTG in the region with Mongoloid features. The other PVTGs have negroid features. Some of them interact with 'Great Nicobarese' - a Scheduled Tribe.</p>
6.	c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Currently, only those communities notified under section 2(c) of the NCM (National Commission for Minorities) Act, 1992, by the central government are regarded as minority. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Despite the Supreme Court's 11-judge bench judgment in T.M.A Pai case, which clearly determined that linguistic and religious minorities must be identified at the state level rather than at the national level, section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act 1992 gave the Centre "unbridled power" to inform minorities. ● In 1992, with the enactment of the NCM Act, 1992, the MC became a statutory body and was renamed as the NCM. ● In 1993, the first Statutory National Commission was set up and five religious communities viz. The Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) were notified as minority communities. ● In 2014, Jains were also notified as a minority community. <p>What are the Constitutional Provisions for Minority?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article 29: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It provides that any section of the citizens residing in any part of India having a distinct language, script or culture of its own, shall have the right to conserve the same. ○ It grants protection to both religious minorities as well as linguistic minorities.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ However, the SC held that the scope of this article is not necessarily restricted to minorities only, as use of the word 'section of citizens' in the Article includes minorities as well as the majority. ● Article 30: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. ○ The protection under Article 30 is confined only to minorities (religious or linguistic) and does not extend to any section of citizens (as under Article 29). ● Article 350-B: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The 7th Constitutional (Amendment) Act 1956 inserted this article which provides for a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities appointed by the President of India. ○ It would be the duty of the Special Officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under the Constitution.
7.	d	<p>Soil is the basis for all terrestrial lives including humans. Thus, through the ways of Soil formation and Prevention of soil erosion, Biodiversity forms the basis of human existence. Biological diversity performs the vital function of recycling waste which is necessary for the maintenance of Human life. Pollination of crops is critical for food production and human livelihoods. In these ways, Biodiversity forms the basis of human existence.</p>
8.	d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pollution from Coal-Based Thermal Power Stations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coal-based thermal power stations contribute over half

		<p>sulphur dioxide (SO₂), 30% oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), about 20% particulate matter (PM), etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Persistent burning of coal in thermal power stations and a delay in implementation of latest carbon capture storage technology are among major reasons of air pollution in India.
9.	c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Three phases of IVC are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Early Harappan Phase from 3300 to 2600 BCE, ○ the Mature Harappan Phase from 2600 to 1900 BCE, and ○ the Late Harappan Phase from 1900 to 1300 BCE. ● The Early Harappan Phase is related to the Hakra Phase, identified in the Ghaggar-Hakra River Valley. ● The earliest examples of the Indus script date back to 3000 BC. ● This phase stands characterized by centralized authority and an increasingly urban quality of life. ● Trade networks had been established and there are also evidences of the cultivation of crops. Peas, sesame seeds, dates, cotton, etc, were grown during that time. ● Kot Diji represents the phase leading up to Mature Harappan Phase. ● By 2600 BC, the Indus Valley Civilization had entered into a mature stage. ● The early Harappan communities were turning into large urban centers, like Harappa and Mohenjodaro in Pakistan and Lothal in India. ● The signs of a gradual decline of the Indus River Valley Civilization are believed to have started around 1800 BC and by 1700 BC, most of the cities were abandoned.

- However, one can see the various elements of the Ancient Indus Valley Civilization in later cultures.
- Archaeological data indicates the persistence of the Late Harappan culture till 1000-900 BC.

Town Planning and Structures

- The Harappan culture was **distinguished by its system of town planning**.
- Harappa and Mohenjodaro each had its **own citadel or acropolis**, which was possibly occupied by members of the ruling class.
- Below the citadel in each city lay a **lower town containing brick houses**, which were inhabited by the common people.
- The remarkable thing about the arrangement of the houses in the cities is that they followed the **grid system**.
- **Granaries** constituted an important part of the Harappan cities.
- The **use of burnt bricks** in the Harappan cities is remarkable, because in the contemporary buildings of Egypt mainly dried bricks were used.
- The **drainage system** of Mohenjodaro was very impressive.
- In almost all cities every big or small house had its own **courtyard and bathroom**.
- In Kalibangan many houses had their **wells**.
- At sites such as Dholavira and Lothal (Gujarat), the entire settlement was **fortified, and sections within the town were also separated by walls**.

Agriculture

- The Harappan villages, **mostly situated near the flood plains**, produced sufficient foodgrains.
- Wheat, barley, rai, peas, sesame, lentil, chickpea and mustard

were produced. Millets are also found from sites in Gujarat. While rice uses were relatively rare.

- The Indus people were the **earliest people to produce cotton**.
- While the prevalence of agriculture is indicated by finds of grain, it is more **difficult to reconstruct actual agricultural practices**.
- Representations on seals and terracotta sculpture indicate that the **bull was known, and archaeologists extrapolate shows oxen were also used for ploughing**.
- Most Harappan sites are located in **semi-arid lands**, where irrigation was probably required for agriculture.
- **Traces of canals** have been found at the Harappan site of Shortughai in Afghanistan, but not in Punjab or Sindh.
- Although the Harappans practised agriculture, **animals were also reared on a large scale**.
- **Evidence of the horse comes from a superficial level of Mohenjodaro** and from a doubtful terracotta figurine from Lothal. In any case the Harappan culture was not horse centred.

Economy

- The importance of trade in the life of the Indus people is witnessed by the **presence of numerous seals, uniform script and regulated weights and measures** in a wide area.
- The Harappans carried on considerable **trade in stone, metal, shell**, etc.
- Metal money was not used and trade was carried by **barter system**.
- They practised navigation on the coast of the Arabian Sea.
- They had set up a **trading colony in northern Afghanistan** which evidently facilitated trade with Central Asia.

- They also carried commerce with those in the land of the **Tigris and the Euphrates**.
- The Harappans carried on long distance trade in **lapis lazuli**; which may have contributed to the social prestige of the ruling class.

Crafts

- The Harappans were very well acquainted with the **manufacturing and use of Bronze**.
- Copper was obtained from the **Khetri copper mines** of Rajasthan and **Tin was possibly brought from Afghanistan**.
- **Textile impressions** have also been found on several objects.
- Huge brick structure suggest that **brick-laying** was an important craft. This also attests the existence of **a class of masons**.
- The Harappans practised **boat-making, bead making and seal-making**. **Terracotta manufacture** was also an important craft.
- The goldsmiths made **jewellery** of silver, gold and precious stones.
- The potter's wheel was in full use, and the Harappans produced their **own characteristic pottery**, which was glossy and shining.

Institutions

- **Very few written materials** have been discovered in the Indus valley and the scholars have not been able to decipher the Indus script so far.
- As a result, there is **difficulty in understanding** the nature of the state and institutions of the Indus Valley Civilization.
- **No temples** have been found at any Harappan sites. Therefore the possibility of priests ruling Harappa can be eliminated.

- Harappa was possibly **ruled by a class of merchants**.
- If we look for a centre of power or for depictions of people in power, **archaeological records provide no immediate answers**.
 - Some archaeologists are of the opinion that Harappan society had **no rulers**, and that everybody enjoyed equal status.
 - Another theory argues that there was no single ruler, but **a number of rulers** representing each of the urban centers.

Religion

- In Harappa **numerous terracotta figurines of women** have been found. In one figurine a plant is shown growing out of the embryo of a woman.
 - The Harappans, therefore, looked upon the earth as a **fertility goddess** and worshipped her in the same manner as the Egyptians worshipped the Nile goddess Isis.
- The **male deity is represented on a seal with three horned heads**, represented in the sitting posture of a yogi.
 - This god is surrounded by an elephant, a tiger, a rhinoceros, and has a buffalo below his throne. At his feet appear two deer. The depicted god is identified as **Pushupati Mahadeva**.
- Numerous symbols of the **phallus and female sex organs** made of stone have been found.
- The people of the Indus region **also worshipped trees and Animals**.
- The most important of them is the **one horned unicorn** which may be identified with the rhinoceros and the next important

		<p>was the humped bull.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Amulets have also been found in large numbers. <p style="text-align: center;">Decline of the Indus Valley Civilization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The IVC declined around 1800 BCE but the actual reasons behind its demise are still debated. ● One theory claims that Indo-European tribe i.e. Aryans invaded and conquered the IVC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In later cultures various elements of the IVC are found which suggest that civilization did not disappear suddenly due to an invasion. ● On the other hand, many scholars believe natural factors are behind the decline of the IVC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The natural factors could be geological and climatic. ○ It is believed that the Indus Valley region experienced several tectonic disturbances which causes earthquakes. Which also changed courses of rivers or dried them up. ○ Another natural reason might be changes in patterns of rainfall. ● There could be also dramatic shifts in the river courses, which might have brought floods to the food producing areas. ● Due to combination of these natural causes there was a slow but inevitable collapse of IVC.
10.	b	
11.	b	<p>The Consolidated Fund of India means the account of the revenue the Government of India receives from income tax, Customs, central excise, and the non-tax revenue, and the expenses it incurs, excluding</p>

		<p>extraordinary items. It was established under Article 266(1) of the Indian Constitution. In other words, the Consolidated Fund of India is made up of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All revenues received by the government of India; • All loans raised by the government through the issue of treasury bills, loans, or other ways and means of advances; and • All money received by the government in repayment of loans. This fund is used to make all legally authorized payments on behalf of the Indian government. • All government expenditure is made from this fund, except exceptional items which are met from the Contingency Fund or the Public Account. • No money from this fund can be allocated (issued or drawn) unless a parliamentary statute authorizes it. • It is constituted under Article 266 (1) of the Constitution of India. • Each state can establish its own Consolidated Fund with identical features. • The Comptroller and Auditor General of India audits the consolidated funds and reports on their management to the appropriate legislatures.
12.	b	
13.	c	
14.	b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ocean currents are the continuous, predictable, directional movement of seawater. It is a massive movement of ocean water that is caused and influenced by various forces. They are like river flows in oceans. • Ocean water moves in two directions: horizontally and

vertically.

- Horizontal movements are referred to as currents, while vertical changes are called upwellings or downwellings.
- Ocean currents impact humankind and the biosphere due to their influence on climate.

Which are the Factors that Influences Ocean Current?

- Ocean currents are influenced by two types of forces namely:
 - **Primary forces:**
 - **Heating by solar energy:** Heating by solar energy causes the water to expand. That is why, near the equator the ocean water is about 8 cm higher in level than in the middle latitudes. This causes a very slight gradient and water tends to flow down the slope.
 - **Wind:** Wind blowing on the surface of the ocean pushes the water to move. Friction between the wind and the water surface affects the movement of the water body in its course.
 - **Gravity:** Gravity tends to pull the water down the pile and create gradient variation.
 - **Coriolis force.** The Coriolis force intervenes and causes the water to move to the right in the northern hemisphere and to the left in the southern hemisphere.
 - These large accumulations of water and the flow around them are called Gyres.
 - These produce large circular currents in all the ocean basins.
 - **Secondary forces:**
 - **Differences in water density:** It affects vertical mobility of ocean currents.
 - Water with high salinity is denser than water with low

		<p>salinity and in the same way cold water is denser than warm water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Denser water tends to sink, while relatively lighter water tends to rise. ■ Temperature of water: Cold-water ocean currents occur when the cold water at the poles sinks and slowly moves towards the equator. ■ Warm-water currents travel out from the equator along the surface, flowing towards the poles to replace the sinking cold water.
15.	b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On 8 August 1942, Mahatma Gandhi called to end British rule and launched the Quit India Movement at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai. ● Gandhiji gave the call “Do or Die” in his speech delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan, now popularly known as August Kranti Maidan. ● Aruna Asaf Ali popularly known as the 'Grand Old Lady' of the Independence Movement is known for hoisting the Indian flag at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai during the Quit India Movement. ● The slogan ‘Quit India’ was coined by Yusuf Meherally, a socialist and trade unionist who also served as Mayor of Mumbai. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meherally had also coined the slogan “Simon Go Back”. <p style="text-align: center;">What caused the Movement?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Failure of Cripps Mission: The immediate cause for the movement was the collapse of Cripps Mission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Under Stafford Cripps, the mission was sent to resolve

the Indian question of a new constitution and self-government.

- It failed because it **offered India not complete freedom but the Dominion Status** to India, along with the **partition.**
- **Indian Involvement in World War II without prior consultation:**
 - The British assumption of unconditional support from India to the British in **World War II** was not taken well by the **Indian National Congress.**
- **Prevalence of anti-British Sentiment:**
 - The anti-British sentiments and **demand for full-independence had gained popularity** among indian masses.
- **Centralisation of Many Small Movements:**
 - The two decades of mass movement which were being conducted on a much more radical tone under the leadership of the various associated and affiliated bodies of the Congress, like All India Kisan Sabha, Forward Bloc etc. **had already prepared the ground for the movement.**
- **Shortage of Essential Commodities:**
 - The economy was **also in shatters as a result of World War II.**

What were the Demands of the Movement?

- The demand was **to end the British rule in India with immediate effect** to get the cooperation of Indians in World War-II against fascism.
- There was a demand **to form a provisional government** after the withdrawal of the Britishers.

		<p style="text-align: center;">What were the Phases of Movement?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Phase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First Phase, urban revolt, marked by strikes, boy cott and picketing (protesting), which were quickly suppressed. ○ There were strikes and demonstrations all over the country and workers provided the support by not working in the factories. ○ Gandhiji was soon imprisoned at Aga Khan Palace in Pune and almost all leaders were arrested. ● Second Phase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The focus shifted to the countryside, which witnessed a major peasant rebellion, marked by destruction of communication systems, such as railway tracks and stations, telegraph wires and poles, attacks on government buildings or any other visible symbol of colonial authority. ● Third Phase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The last phase witnessed the formation of national governments or parallel governments in isolated pockets (Ballia, Tamluk, Satara etc.)
16.	c	<p style="text-align: center;">Consolidated Fund of India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It was constituted under Article 266 (1) of the Constitution of India. ● It is made up of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All revenues received by the Centre by way of taxes (Income Tax, Central Excise, Customs and other receipts) and all non-tax revenues.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All loans raised by the Centre by issue of Public notifications, treasury bills (internal debt) and from foreign governments and international institutions (external debt). ● All government expenditures are incurred from this fund (except exceptional items which are met from the Contingency Fund or the Public Account) and no amount can be withdrawn from the Fund without authorization from the Parliament. ● The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) audits the fund and reports to the relevant legislatures on the management.
17.	c	
18.	c	
19.	d	
20.	d	
21.	d	<p style="text-align: center;">Tulip garden</p> <p>The tulip garden is located at the foothills of the Zabarwan range. It is Asia's largest tulip garden, spreading over an area of about 30 hectares.</p> <p>This garden is home to more than 64 varieties of tulips in bloom. Further, it was started in 2007 to boost floriculture and tourism in Kashmir Valley.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">About Zabarwan Range:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a short sub-mountain range between Pir Panjal and Great Himalayan Range. It is located in the central part of the

		<p>Kashmir Valley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Highest Peak: The highest peak of this range is Mahadev Peak at 13,013 feet (3,966 m). It forms the distant background of the eastern mountain wall. ● Temple: The Shankaracharya Temple is built on the edge of the central part of the Zabarwan Range. ● Significance: On the northern slopes of the central part of the range there are three Mughal gardens built by Emperor Shah Jahan. These include Chashma Shahi, Nishat Bagh, and Shalimar Garden alongside the Pari Mahal. ● Wildlife: The Zabarwan mountain range possesses great Himalayan features with rich wildlife. The Dachigam National Park is the main feature of the range. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Dachigam National Park holds the last viable population of Kashmir stag (Hangul). Further, the National Park also has the largest population of black bear in Asia.
22.	b	
23.	c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Windfall taxes are designed to tax the profits a company derives from an external, sometimes unprecedented event—for instance, the energy price-rise as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. These are profits that cannot be attributed to something the firm actively did, like an investment strategy or an expansion of business. A windfall is defined as an “unearned, unanticipated gain in income through no additional effort or expense”. Governments typically levy a one-off tax retrospectively over and above the normal rates of tax on such profits, called windfall tax. One area where such taxes have routinely been discussed is oil markets, where

price fluctuation leads to **volatile or erratic profits for the industry.**

- **Rationale:**

- There have been varying rationales for governments worldwide to introduce windfall taxes, from **redistribution of unexpected gains when high prices benefit producers at the expense of consumers**, to funding social welfare schemes, and as a **supplementary revenue stream** for the government.

Why are Countries Levying Windfall Taxes Now?

- Prices of oil, **gas**, and **coal** have seen sharp **increases since late last year** and in the first two quarters of the current year, **although they have reduced recently.**
- The increase stems from a combination of factors, **including a mismatch between energy demand and supply** during the economic recovery from **Covid-19**, further amplified by the **Russian war in Ukraine.**
- Pandemic recovery and supply issues resulting from the Russia-Ukraine conflict shore up energy demands, **in turn driving up global prices.**
- The rising prices meant huge and record profits for energy companies while **resulting in hefty gas and electricity bills for household bills** in major and smaller economies.
- The levies came as refiners made major gains by **boosting fuel exports to countries that were in a deficit like Europe**, which has now boycotted oil imports from Russia.
- The **U.N.(United Nations)** chief urged all **governments to tax these excessive profits** “and use the funds to support the **most vulnerable people** through these difficult times.”
- The calls to introduce windfall taxes also found support in

		organisations like the IMF, which released an advice note as to how such a tax should be levied.
24.	b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 1809, the institution of ombudsman was inaugurated officially in Sweden. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the 20 century, Ombudsman as an institution developed and grew most significantly after the Second World War. th ○ New Zealand and Norway adopted this system in the year 1962 and it proved to be of great significance in spreading the concept of the ombudsman. ● In 1967, on the recommendations of the Whyatt Report of 1961, Great Britain adopted the institution of the ombudsman and became the first large nation in the democratic world to have such a system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In 1966, Guyana became the first developing nation to adopt the concept of the ombudsman. Subsequently, it was further adopted by Mauritius, Singapore, Malaysia, and India as well. ● In India, the concept of constitutional ombudsman was first proposed by the then law minister Ashok Kumar Sen in parliament in the early 1960s. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The term Lokpal and Lokayukta were coined by Dr. L. M. Singhvi. ● In 1966, the First Administrative Reforms Commission recommended the setting up of two independent authorities- at the central and state level, to look into

complaints against public functionaries, including MPs.

- In 1968, Lokpal bill was passed in Lok Sabha but lapsed with the dissolution of Lok Sabha and since then it has lapsed in the Lok Sabha many times.
 - Till 2011 eight attempts were made to pass the Bill, but all met with failure.
 - In 2002, the Commission to **Review the Working of the Constitution headed by M.N. Venkatachaliah recommended the appointment of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas**, also recommended that the PM kept out of the ambit of the authority.
 - In 2005, the **Second Administrative Reforms Commission chaired by Veerappa Moily** recommended that the office of Lokpal should be established without delay.
- In 2011, the government formed a Group of Ministers, chaired by Pranab Mukherjee to suggest measures to tackle corruption and examine the proposal of a Lokpal Bill.
 - "India Against Corruption movement" led by Anna Hazare put pressure on the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government at the Centre and resulted in the passing of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill, 2013, in both the Houses of Parliament.
 - It received assent from President on 1 January 2014 and came into force on 16 January 2014.

What are the Key Provisions of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Act, 2016?

- It amended the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013.
- It also amended section 44 of the 2013 Act that deals with the provision of furnishing of details of assets and liabilities of

public servants within 30 days of joining the government service.

- It replaces the time limit of 30 days, now the public servants will make a declaration of their assets and liabilities in the form and manner as prescribed by the government.

What is the Structure of Lokpal?

- Lokpal is a multi-member body, that consists of one chairperson and a maximum of 8 members.
- Chairperson of the Lokpal should be either the former Chief Justice of India or the former Judge of Supreme Court or an eminent person with impeccable integrity and outstanding ability, having special knowledge and expertise of minimum 25 years in the matters relating to anti-corruption policy, public administration, vigilance, finance including insurance and banking, law and management.
- Out of the maximum eight members, half will be judicial members and minimum 50% of the Members will be from SC/ ST/ OBC/ Minorities and women.
- The judicial member of the Lokpal either a former Judge of the Supreme Court or a former Chief Justice of a High Court.
- The non-judicial member should be an eminent person with impeccable integrity and outstanding ability, having special knowledge and expertise of minimum 25 years in the matters relating to anti-corruption policy, public administration, vigilance, finance including insurance and banking, law and management.
- The **term of office for Lokpal Chairman and Members is 5 years or till the age of 70 years.**
- The **members are appointed by the president** on the recommendation of a Selection Committee.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The selection committee is composed of the Prime Minister who is the Chairperson, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Chief Justice of India or a Judge nominated by him/her and One eminent jurist. • For selecting the chairperson and the members, the selection committee constitutes a search panel of at least eight persons.
25.	a	
26.	b	<p style="text-align: center;">countervailing duty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countervailing duties or CVDs are tariffs on imported goods that are imposed to offset subsidies given by the exporting country's government. • It is a special measure used to neutralize the negative effects that subsidies for the production of a good in one country have on that same industry in another country, in which the production of that good is not subsidized. • While the Department of Commerce recommends the CVD, the Department of Revenue in the finance ministry acts upon the recommendation within three months and imposes such duties. <p style="text-align: center;">countervailing duty (CVD) v/s Anti-dumping duty (AD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AD is imposed to prevent low-priced foreign goods from damaging the local market. On the other hand, CVD will apply to foreign products that have enjoyed government subsidies, which eventually leads to very low prices. • While the AD duty amount depends on the margin of dumping, the CVD amount will completely depend upon the subsidy value of the foreign goods.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WTO's Provisions Related to Anti-Dumping Duty: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Validity: An anti-dumping duty is valid for a period of five years from the date of imposition unless revoked earlier. ○ Sunset Review: It can be extended for a further period of five years through a sunset or expiry review investigation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A Sunset review/ expiry review is an evaluation of the need for the continued existence of a program or an agency. It allows for an assessment of the effectiveness and performance of the program or agency. ■ Such a review can be initiated suo moto or on the basis of a duly substantiated request received from or on behalf of the domestic industry.
27.	d	<p style="text-align: center;">Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is situated in the Sanguem Taluka in Eastern Goa. ● River Netravali or Neturli originates in this sanctuary which is an important tributary of the Zuari River. ● To the north of the Netravali wildlife sanctuary lie the Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary and the Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary lies to its ● It has two all-season waterfalls, namely Savri and Mainapi. ● Flora: The forest is a predominantly moist deciduous type with patches of semi-evergreen forest in the valleys. The high-altitude areas in the hills have natural grassy patches that provide ideal habitat for the herbivorous population. ● Fauna: Indian gaur, spotted deer, sambar deer, barking deer, wild boar, and black-faced langur. the Great Pied Hornbills,

		Black Panther, Slender Loris and the Giant Squirrel.
28.	c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Powers of Lokpal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It has powers to superintendence over and to give direction to CBI. ○ If it has referred a case to CBI, the investigating officer in such case cannot be transferred without the approval of Lokpal. ○ Powers to authorize CBI for search and seizure operations connected to such cases. ○ The Inquiry Wing of the Lokpal has been vested with the powers of a civil court. ○ Lokpal has powers of confiscation of assets, proceeds, receipts and benefits arisen or procured by means of corruption in special circumstances. ○ Lokpal has the power to recommend the transfer or suspension of public servants connected with the allegation of corruption. ○ Lokpal has the power to give directions to prevent the destruction of records during the preliminary inquiry ● Exceptions for Prime Minister: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lokpal cannot inquire allegations against the PM relating to international relations, external and internal security, public order, atomic energy and space. ○ Also, complaints against the PM are not to be probed unless the full Lokpal bench considers the initiation of inquiry and at least 2/3rds of the members approve it.

29.	d	<p style="text-align: center;">Crohn's Disease:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a type of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). ● It is a chronic, or long-term condition that causes inflammation in the digestive tract. ● Causes: It is not clear what causes Crohn's disease. Experts suggest that it may stem from an abnormal reaction of the immune system. ● Although it typically starts in childhood or early adulthood, Crohn's disease can develop at any age. ● Inflammation caused by Crohn's disease can involve different areas of the digestive tract in different people, most commonly the small intestine. ● Symptoms: The most common symptoms of Crohn's disease are diarrhoea, cramping and pain in your abdomen, anaemia, altered appetite, and weight loss. ● Treatment: There's no known cure for Crohn's disease, but therapies can greatly reduce its signs and symptoms.
30.	b	<p style="text-align: center;">Nathu La Pass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Location: It is a mountain pass in the Himalayas in the East Sikkim district. ● Altitude: It is situated at an altitude of 4302 m and is one of the highest motorable roads in the world. ● Nathu means "listening ears", and La means "pass" in Tibetan. It forms a part of an offshoot of the ancient Silk Road. ● Nathu La connects the Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region. ● It is guarded on both sides by Chinese and Indian soldiers. ● Nathu La is one of the three open trading border posts

		<p>between India and China; the other two are in Himachal Pradesh (Shipkila) and Uttarakhand (Lipulekh).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sealed by India after the 1962 Sino-Indian War, Nathu La was re-opened in 2006 following numerous bilateral trade agreements.
31.	a	<p>What is Hikikomori, the phenomenon that has 1.5 million Japanese living in isolation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a term used to describe people who have withdrawn from society, often for a period of six months or longer. ● It is associated with feelings of anxiety, depression, and social phobia. ● It is thought to be a response to the pressures of modern society, including high academic expectations, intense competition, and social isolation. ● Effects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It can lead to further mental health problems, including depression and anxiety, and can make it difficult for individuals to reintegrate into society. ○ Hikikomori can also have long-term effects on individuals' social and economic prospects, making it harder for them to find work or form relationships. ○ Hikikomori can lead to reduced productivity and can make it harder for individuals to contribute to the wider economy. ○ It can also exacerbate demographic challenges, including an aging population and a declining birth rate. <p>What is Hikikomori, the phenomenon that has 1.5 million Japanese living in isolation?</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a term used to describe people who have withdrawn from society, often for a period of six months or longer. ● It is associated with feelings of anxiety, depression, and social phobia. ● It is thought to be a response to the pressures of modern society, including high academic expectations, intense competition, and social isolation. ● Effects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It can lead to further mental health problems, including depression and anxiety, and can make it difficult for individuals to reintegrate into society. ○ Hikikomori can also have long-term effects on individuals' social and economic prospects, making it harder for them to find work or form relationships. ○ Hikikomori can lead to reduced productivity and can make it harder for individuals to contribute to the wider economy. ○ It can also exacerbate demographic challenges, including an aging population and a declining birth rate.
32.	d	<p style="text-align: center;">Mahavir Jayanti: Birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lord Mahavir was the twenty-fourth and the last Tirthankara of the Jain religion. ● He was born in 599 B.C. as a prince in Bihar, India. ● At the age of 30, he left his family and royal household, gave up his worldly possessions, including clothing and become a monk. ● He organized his followers, into a four fold order, namely monk (Sadhu), nun (Sadhvi), layman (Shravak), and laywoman (Shravika). Later on they are known as Jains.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ultimate objective of his teaching is how one can attain the total freedom from the cycle of birth, life, pain, misery, and death, and achieve the permanent blissful state of one's self. This is also known as liberation, nirvana, absolute freedom, or Moksha. • He explained that from eternity, every living being (soul) is in bondage of karmic atoms, that are accumulated by its own good or bad deeds. • He preached that right faith (samyak-darshana), right knowledge (samyak-jnana), and right conduct (samyak-charitra) together will help attain the liberation of one's self. <p style="text-align: center;">Tirthankaras</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Jainism, those who have conquered their passions are called Jins. • Those Jins who have founded religious orders are called Tirthankaras.
33.	a	<p style="text-align: center;">Kurmi community protests in West Bengal: Train services disrupted in Bankura, Purulia and West Midnapore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kurmi is traditionally a non-elite tiller caste in the lower Gangetic plain of India, especially southern regions of Awadh, eastern Uttar Pradesh and parts of Bihar. • The Kurmis came to be known for their exceptional work ethic, superior tillage and manuring, and gender-neutral culture, bringing praise from Mughal and British administrators alike. • Currently, in Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand, the Kurmi community is classified under the Other Backward Classes group with the Odisha government also recognising

		<p>the community under the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State governments in Jharkhand and West Bengal have repeatedly recommended the inclusion of this community in the ST list.
34.	a	<p>Three persons arrested for killing water snake near Arakkonam</p> <p>Asiatic water snake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is also known as the checkered keelback. It is a common species in the subfamily Natricinae of the family Colubridae. Habitat: It is primarily found in freshwater bodies like rivers, lakes, and ponds. It is semi-aquatic and rarely ventures far from water. They lead a solitary life and are active both during the day and at night. It is non-venomous and is generally considered harmless to humans. It is oviparous which means that they lay their eggs. Distribution: The species is endemic to Asia and found in countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia etc, Conservation status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IUCN: Least concern CITES: Appendix III Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule II
35.	a	<p>Subansiri River</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It originates in the Tibet Plateau and is the largest tributary of

		<p>the Brahmaputra River.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The high topographic variation makes this river a potential zone for harnessing it for the hydropower
36.	c	
37.		
38.	c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 replaced the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000. • The Rules are applicable beyond: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Municipal areas and extend to urban agglomerations, ○ Census towns, notified industrial townships, ○ Areas under the control of Indian Railways, airports, airbase, port and harbour, ○ Defence establishments, ○ Special economic zones, ○ State and Central Government organizations, ○ Places of pilgrims, religious and historical importance. • The responsibility of generators has been introduced to segregate waste into three categories – Wet, Dry and Hazardous Waste. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The generator will have to pay 'User Fee' to waste collector and for 'Spot Fine' for littering and nonsegregation. • Waste processing facilities will have to be set up by all local bodies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Further the landfill site shall be 100 metres away from a river, 200 metres from a pond and 20 km away from airports/airbase. ○ Hence, the rules provide for exact and elaborate criteria for identification of landfill sites and waste processing

		<p>facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bio-degradable waste should be processed, treated and disposed of through composting or biomethanation within the premises as far as possible. The residual waste shall be given to its waste collectors or agency as directed by the local authority. • There is no such provision that makes it mandatory on the part of waste generator that the waste generated in one district cannot be moved to another district.
39.	b	
40.	d	
41.	a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-duration gamma-ray bursts (LGRBs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LGRBs last for more than two seconds and are thought to be caused by the collapse of massive stars, known as supernovae. ○ These explosions release a tremendous amount of energy and create a black hole at their center. ○ LGRBs are the most common type of GRB and can be observed from distant galaxies. • Short-duration gamma-ray bursts (SGRBs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SGRBs last for less than two seconds and are thought to be caused by the collision of two compact objects, such as neutron stars or a neutron star and a black hole. ○ SGRBs are much rarer than LGRBs, are more difficult to observe and typically located closer to our galaxy.
42.	b	
43.	c	Current account convertibility implies that the Indian rupee can be

		<p>converted to any foreign currency at existing market rates for trade purposes for any amount. It allows for easy financial transactions for the export and import of goods and services.</p>
44.	c	<p>The current account tracks actual transactions, such as import and export goods. The capital account tracks the net balance of international investments. In other words, it keeps track of the flow of money between a nation and its foreign partners. Any deficit in current account is met by equal financial inflows in capital account to keep the BoP in balance.</p> <p>The Balance of invisibles are that part of the balance of trade that refers to services and other products that do not result in the transfer of physical objects. Examples include consulting services, shipping services, tourism, and patent license revenue</p>
45.	d	
46.	a	
47.	b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project Tiger was launched by the Government of India in the year 1973 to save the endangered species of tiger in the country. Starting from nine reserves in 1973- 2016, the number has grown up to fifty. A total area of 71027.10 km² is covered by these project tiger areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bandipur Tiger Reserve: It was formed by including most of the forest areas of the then Venugopala Wildlife Park, established under government notification dated 19th February 1941 and the area was enlarged in 1985 extending over an area of 874.20 sq km and named as Bandipur National Park. This reserve was brought under Project Tiger in 1973. It is situated in the contiguous

landscape spread in the districts of Southern Karnataka namely the Mysore and Chamarajanagar. It is a distinctive landmass located at the trijunction area of the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Faunal biodiversity includes common leopard, royal Bengal tiger, jungle cat, sloth bear, Asian elephant, wild boar, grey heron, shaheen falcon, little bustard-quail, common cobra, green vine snake etc.

- **Sunderbans Tiger Reserve:** In 1875 under the Forest Act, 1865 (Act VIII of 1865), a large part of Sunderbans forest was declared as “reserved” Post-independence, it was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1977 and established as a national park on 4th May, 1984. In the year 1978, Sundarbans was declared a national park, and in 1973, it was declared a tiger reserve under Project Tiger. It is located in the state of West Bengal. Some of the common species of plants which are found include sundari tree, golpati, champa, dhundul, genwa and hatal. There are about 78 species of mangroves in these forests. This reserve is home to Royal Bengal Tiger along with other animals such as fishing cats, macaques, leopard cats, Indian grey mongoose, wild boar, flying fox, pangolin, and Indian grey mongoose.
- **Manas Tiger Reserve:** In the year 1907 the forest was declared as Reserve forest. Post independence, in 1950, Manas Reserve forest was declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary. With the launch of Project Tiger in 1973, Manas Tiger Reserve was officially declared. UNESCO declared it as a World Heritage Site (Natural) in 1985 and further designated as Biosphere Reserve under Man and Biosphere Programme of UNESCO in 1989. It is located at the merger of terai grasslands and the bhabar

		<p>grasslands ascending to semi-evergreen forests and then to Bhutan Himalayas in the state of Assam. This tiger reserve is an example of inter country tiger conservation and it extends from Assam in India to Royal Manas in Bhutan. It is very rich in the population of Royal Bengal Tigers. The last population of the pygmy survives in the wilds of Manas and nowhere else in the world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bhitarkanika Wetland: It is represented by as many as 3 protected Areas, namely “the Bhitarkanika National Park”, “the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary” and “the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary”. The Bhitarkanika National Park is a prime habitat of leopard cat, fishing cat, wild boar, spotted deer, sambar, dolphin, salt water crocodile. However, Bhitarkanika has not been declared as a tiger reserve.
48.	a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary and Tiger Reserve is a protected area along the Western Ghats in the Indian State of Tamil Nadu. ● Sathyamangalam forest range is a significant wildlife corridor in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve between the Western Ghats and the rest of the Eastern Ghats and a genetic link between the four other protected areas which it adjoins, including the Biligiriranga Swamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary, Sigur Plateau, Mudumalai National Park and Bandipur National Park. ● First declared as a wildlife sanctuary in 2008 and enlarged in 2011, it covers a forest area of 1,411.6 sq km and is the largest wildlife sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. In 2013, it became the fourth tiger reserve as a part of Project Tiger in the State of Tamil Nadu. ● Nallamala Forest is one of the largest undisturbed stretches of

		<p>forest in South India. It is located in the Nallamala Hill, which is a part of the Eastern Ghats. It is spread over 5 districts, namely Kurnool, Guntur, Kadapa, Mahabubnagar and Prakasam. The forest has a good tiger population and a part of the forest belongs to the Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagarhole National Park is situated in two districts of Mysore and Kodagu in the State of Karnataka. Nagarhole National Park forms a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and together with Bandipur National Park and Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary to its South-East and Wayanad to the South-West, is one of the last remaining and best protected habitats for endangered species like the Elephant and the Tiger. • Seshachalam hills are the hill ranges spread in parts of Chittoor and Kadapa districts of Andhra Pradesh and have been designated as Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve in 2010. The Biosphere Reserve has large reserves of red sandalwood.
49.	b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC), the wildlife trade monitoring network, is a joint program of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and IUCN – the International Union for Conservation of Nature. It was founded in 1976. It is not a bureau under UNEP. • TRAFFIC works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature. • TRAFFIC focuses on leveraging resources, expertise and awareness of the latest globally urgent species trade issues such as tiger parts, elephant ivory and rhino horn. Large scale commercial trade in commodities like timber and fisheries products is also addressed and linked to work on developing

		rapid results and policy improvements.
50.	d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 1809, the institution of ombudsman was inaugurated officially in Sweden. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the 20 century, Ombudsman as an institution developed and grew most significantly after the Second World War. ○ New Zealand and Norway adopted this system in the year 1962 and it proved to be of great significance in spreading the concept of the ombudsman. ● In 1967, on the recommendations of the Whyatt Report of 1961, Great Britain adopted the institution of the ombudsman and became the first large nation in the democratic world to have such a system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In 1966, Guyana became the first developing nation to adopt the concept of the ombudsman. Subsequently, it was further adopted by Mauritius, Singapore, Malaysia, and India as well. ● In India, the concept of constitutional ombudsman was first proposed by the then law minister Ashok Kumar Sen in parliament in the early 1960s. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The term Lokpal and Lokayukta were coined by Dr. L. M. Singhvi. ● In 1966, the First Administrative Reforms Commission recommended the setting up of two independent authorities- at the central and state level, to look into complaints against public functionaries, including MPs. ● In 1968, Lokpal bill was passed in Lok Sabha but lapsed with the dissolution of Lok Sabha and since then it has lapsed in the Lok Sabha many times. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Till 2011 eight attempts were made to pass the Bill, but

		<p>all met with failure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In 2002, the Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution headed by M.N. Venkatachaliah recommended the appointment of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas, also recommended that the PM kept out of the ambit of the authority. ○ In 2005, the Second Administrative Reforms Commission chaired by Veerappa Moily recommended that the office of Lokpal should be established without delay. ● In 2011, the government formed a Group of Ministers, chaired by Pranab Mukherjee to suggest measures to tackle corruption and examine the proposal of a Lokpal Bill. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "India Against Corruption movement" led by Anna Hazare put pressure on the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government at the Centre and resulted in the passing of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill, 2013, in both the Houses of Parliament. ○ It received assent from President on 1 January 2014 and came into force on 16 January 2014.
51.	a	
52.	a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This is the largest lake in Kerala and the longest Lake in India. ● Vembanad Lake is also known as Vembanad Kayal, Vembanad Kol, Punnamada Lake (in Kuttanad) and Kochi Lake (in Kochi). ● The lake has its source in four rivers, Meenachil, Achankovil, Pampa and Manimala. ● It is separated from the Arabian Sea by a narrow barrier island

		<p>and is a popular backwater stretch in Kerala.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2002, it was included in the list of wetlands of international importance, as defined by the Ramsar Convention. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the second-largest Ramsar site in India only after the Sundarbans in West Bengal.
53.	d	
54.	c	
55.	c	
56.	a	
57.	a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bhitarkanika National Park is spread in a vast area of 672 Kms in Orissa. It is the second largest Mangrove ecosystems of India. The National Park is essentially a network of creeks and canals which are inundated with waters from rivers Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra and Patasala forming a unique ecosystem. Its proximity to Bay of Bengal makes the soil of the area enriched with salts, the vegetation and the species of the sanctuary is comprised of those which are mainly found in the tropical and subtropical inter tidal regions. It is the breeding place for the Salt Water Crocodiles. The Gahirmatha Beach which forms the boundary of the sanctuary in the east is the largest colony of the Olive Ridley Sea Turtles. The other unique phenomenon is the Bagagahana or the heronry near Surajpore creek. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thousands of birds colonise the creek for nesting and the aerial acrobatics performed prior to mating make for an impressive sight.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bhitarkanika is also home to eight varieties of Kingfisher birds which is also a rarity.
58.	d	
59.	d	
60.	a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tebhaga movement (1946–1947) was significant peasant agitation, initiated in Bengal by the All India Kisan Sabha of peasant front, of the Communist Party of India. It was an intense peasant movement in the history of India. It was a fierce peasant uprising on the eve of India's independence and the partition of Bengal. Tebhaga, simply put, meant that two-thirds of the crops, tilled by the bargadars and adhiars would have to go to them. <p style="text-align: center;">Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bargadar was a person, who under the system generally known as adhi, barga or bhag cultivated the land of another person, on condition of delivering a share of the produce of such land to that person. The link between the zamindars and the British government was that zamindars would pay a yearly tax fixed by the government depending on the quantity and quality of the lands owned by the zamindars. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Below them was the class of jotedars to whom the zamindars distributed lands through a system called Pattani. The jotedars class was directly connected with lands and cultivation. Jotedars fixed the total yield from land, to be shared equally

between the cultivator and the owner of the land i.e. jotedar. This system of cultivation of land was commonly known as **Adhiary Pratha (half-half system)**, mostly prevalent in north Bengal.

- Jotedars used to exploit the labour of a cultivator in various forms, the **poor bargadar** becoming almost a slave of the landowner.
- There was always a **constant threat** that, if he did not obey the jotedar he would take away the land and the bargadar would have to starve. This was a system of exploitation
- The grievances of peasants grew as the **economic situation in the country worsened** in the post War period that immediately followed a **terrible famine (1942)** throughout Bengal.
- The economic situation, political unrest, and unbearable social conditions of the peasants led to the movement later known as **Tebhaga Andolan (Movement)**.

The Movement

- The **Communist leaders** and Krishak Samity leaders took full advantage of the unrest, prevailing among the poor peasants and landless agricultural laborers.
 - The movement sparked off in an area under PS Chiribandar in the district of **Dinajpur**.
 - The assembled farmers **refused** to give fifty per cent; instead, they **offered thirty-three per cent** out of the total yield.
 - A **serious quarrel** flared up between the jotedars' armed men and the adamant peasants causing injuries to both parties
 - However, Police took control of the region, by arresting

the supporters and leaders.

- Further, after the **Bengal famine in 1943**, the **Bengal Provincial Kishan Sabha**, which was guided by the Communist Party, called for a **mass movement** among sharecroppers in September 1946 to keep **Tebhaga (two-thirds)** of the harvested crops.
 - This demand had figured since the thirties in the programmes of the Kishan Sabha, and had also been recognized as just by the **Floud Commission**, which in 1939-1940 had reviewed the miserable state of Bengal's agriculture.
 - **The Floud Commission**, a land revenue commission established by the Govt. of Bengal in 1938, had exposed the maladies in the prevailing system which obliged sharecroppers to relinquish half of their harvest as rent, and on top of that, they had to pay scores of illegal cesses.
- **Communists** went out to the countryside to organize peasants to take the harvested crop to their own threshing floor and make the **two-thirds' share a reality**.
- The slogan, "adhi noy, tebhaga chai" (we want two-thirds to share not 1/2) reverberated.
- They started taking harvested crops to their own yards.
- They offered only 1/3 crop share to jotedars.
- This led to innumerable clashes and subsequent arrest, lathi charges and firing.
- Further, in late 1946, the **sharecroppers** (bargadars, bhagchasis or adhiar) of Bengal **began to assert**, that they would pay not a half share of their crop to the jotedars, **but only one-third** and that before the division of the crop, it would be stored in their own **khamars** (godowns) and not that of the jotedars.

- In September 1946, Bengal Provincial Kishan Sabha gave a call to implement through **mass struggle** the **Floud Commission recommendation** of tebhaga.
- Communist cadres, including many students from the urban areas, went out into the countryside to organize bargadars, who had become a major and growing section of the rural population.
- Later, the movement received a boost in **January 1947**, when the **Muslim League Ministry** led by Suhrawarddi published **the Bengal Bargadars Temporary Legislation Bill**, in the Calcutta Gazette on 22 January 1947.
 - The jotedars appealed to the Government, and the police attempted to suppress the peasants.
 - But other political developments handicapped the government to get the Barga Bill enacted into a law.
 - The Partition of Bengal and the promises of the new government led to the **suspension of the movement**.
- Further, the movement **continued till 1950**, when the **Bargadari Act** was enacted.
 - The Act recognised the right of the sharecropper to two-thirds of the produce when he provided the inputs.
 - Although the **Bargadari Act of 1950** recognised the rights of bargadars to a higher share of crops from the land that they tilled, it was **not implemented**.
 - Large tracts, beyond the prescribed limit of land ceiling, remained with the rich landlords.
- In 1967, West Bengal witnessed peasant uprising, against non-implementation of land reforms legislation.
- **From 1977** onwards **major land reforms** took place in West Bengal under the Left Front government.
 - Land in excess of land ceiling was acquired and distributed amongst the peasants.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subsequently, “Operation Barga” began that was aimed at securing tenancy rights for the peasants. <p>On the whole, the movement reflected the development of the political consciousness of the poor peasants and tribal sharecroppers, and it may safely be opined that it marked a turning point in the history of agrarian movements in India. Hence, the Tebhaga movement is probably the greatest peasant movement in the history of India.</p>
61.	b	
62.	a	
63.	c	<p>Kibithoo Village:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Location: It is located in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh. ● It lies on the right bank of the Lohit River. ● Elevation: 1305 meters. ● The Meyors tribe form bulk of its population. ● It is one of the most remote Circle Headquarters in Arunachal Pradesh and the only Circle Headquarters facing the border of India and China. ● It has also been the witness of the war between India and China in the year 1962.
64.	b	<p>Gond Tribe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Gonds are the largest tribal Community in India and can be traced to the pre-Aryan era. ● The word Gond comes from Kond, which means green

		<p>mountains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are a heterogeneous group spreading over large areas from the Godavari gorges in the south to the Vindhya Mountains in the north. • They live in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha. • The majority speak various mutually unintelligible dialects of Gondi.
65.	d	
66.	c	<p style="text-align: center;">Functions of the Delimitation Commission</p> <p>The Delimitation Commission is a powerful organisation, and its decisions are binding. Its decisions cannot be contested in court. The copies of the orders are presented to the Lok Sabha and the relevant legislative assemblies, but no modifications are allowed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Delimitation Commission must choose the number and boundaries of the constituencies in such a way that, as practically possible, the population of each seat is the same. • The Commission also specifies which seats in areas with sizable scheduled castes and scheduled tribes population are to be reserved for those communities. • If there is disagreement among the Commission members, the decision of the majority will be considered. • The Commission publishes draught proposals for public comment in regional language newspapers as well as the Indian Gazette and official state gazetted. • Additionally, it holds open meetings where the general public can voice their opinions orally or in writing. • The draught proposal is amended if deemed necessary.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final order is published in the Gazettes and takes effect on the day that the President specifies. <p style="text-align: center;">Duties of the Delimitation Commission</p> <p>On the basis of the most recent population census data, the Commission shall be responsible for readjusting the representation of the various territorial constituencies in the House of the People and of the various territorial constituencies in the Legislative Assembly of each state.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Delimitation Commission – Significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Delimitation Commission of India has been regarded as having absolute jurisdiction, and any court or piece of legislation can never overturn a decision made by this commission. • However, it has been demonstrated that these instructions from the Indian Delimitation Commission are being followed as of a specific date provided by the Indian President. • A legislatively supported body that functions independently of the executive branch and political parties is the Delimitation Commission. • To ensure that the population is roughly equal throughout all constituencies, it establishes the number and boundaries of constituencies. • Identifies seats in areas with a significant population that are reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
67.	a	
68.	c	CAG?

- CAG is an independent authority under the Constitution of India.
- He is the head of the Indian audit & account department and chief Guardian of Public purse.
- It is the institution through which the accountability of the government and other public authorities (all those who spend public funds) to Parliament and State Legislatures and through them to the people is ensured.
- Shri Girish Chandra Murmu is the incumbent CAG of India.

How did the Office of the CAG come into Being?

- Office of the Accountant General was established in 1858 (the year the British took over administrative control of India from the East India Company). In 1860 Sir Edward Drummond was appointed as the first Auditor General.
 - Meanwhile after some restructuring the Auditor General of India came to be called the Auditor and Accountant General to the Government of India.
- In 1866, the position was renamed Comptroller General of Accounts, and in 1884, it was re-designated as Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
- Under the Government of India Act 1919, the Auditor General became independent of the government as statutory backing was given for the position.
 - The Government of India Act 1935 further strengthened the position of the Auditor General by providing for Provincial Auditors General in a federal set-up.
 - The act also described the appointment and service procedures and gave a brief overview of the duties of the Auditor General of India.
- The Accounts and Audits Order of 1936 provided detailed

accounting and auditing functions of the auditor general.

- This arrangement remained unchanged until India's independence in 1947. After independence, Article 148 of the 1949 Indian Constitution provided for the establishment of a Comptroller and Auditor General to be appointed by the President of India.
 - CAG jurisdiction was extended to Jammu and Kashmir in 1958.
- In 1971 the central government enacted the Comptroller and Auditor General (Duties, Powers, and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971. The act made CAG responsible for both accounting and auditing duties for central and state governments.
 - In 1976 CAG was relieved from accounting functions.
- CAG has undergone rapid computerization and modernization since the 1990s and pervasive nature of Indian corruption has kept CAG vigilant and it has audited and investigated some of the worst and most controversial corruption scandals in Indian history.

What are the Constitutional Provisions regarding the CAG?

- **Article 148** broadly deals with the CAG appointment, oath and conditions of service.
- **Article 149** deals with Duties and Powers of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.
- **Article 150** says that the accounts of the Union and of the States shall be kept in such form as the President may, on the advice of the CAG, prescribe.
- **Article 151** says that the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India relating to the accounts of the Union shall be submitted to the president, who shall cause them to be

laid before each House of Parliament.

- The reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India relating to the accounts of a State shall be submitted to the Governor of the State, who shall cause them to be laid before the Legislature of the State.
- **Article 279** – Calculation of "net proceeds" is ascertained and certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, whose certificate is final.
- **Third Schedule** – Section IV of the Third Schedule of the Constitution of India prescribes the form of oath or affirmation to be made by the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India at the time of assumption of office.
- **Sixth Schedule** – According to this schedule, the District Council or Regional Council should be kept in such form as the CAG prescribes with the approval of the President. In addition these bodies account are audited in such manner as CAG may think fit, and the reports relating to such accounts shall be submitted to the Governor who shall cause them to be laid before the Council.

How is the CAG in India Different from the CAG in Britain?

- **CAG of India is only performing the role of an Auditor General and not of a Comptroller** but in Britain it has the power of both Comptroller as well as Auditor General.
- In India, **the CAG audits the accounts after the expenditure is committed** i.e., ex post facto. In the UK no money can be drawn from the public exchequer without the approval of the CAG.
- **In India, CAG is not a member of the parliament** while in

Britain; CAG is a member of house of the Commons.

How Independently does the Office of CAG Function?

- There are several provisions in the Constitution for safeguarding the independence of CAG.
- CAG is appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal and provided with tenure of 6 years or 65 years of age, whichever is earlier.
- **CAG can be removed by the President only in accordance with the procedure** mentioned in the Constitution that is the manner same as removal of a Supreme Court Judge.
- He is ineligible to hold any office, either under the Government of India or of any state, once he retires/resigns as a CAG.
- CAG is one of the bulwarks of the democratic system of government in India. The others being the Supreme Court, the Election Commission and the UPSC.
 - No minister can represent the CAG in Parliament.
- His salary and other service conditions cannot be varied to his disadvantage after appointment.
- His administrative powers and the conditions of service of persons serving in the **Indian Audit and Accounts Department** are prescribed by the President only after consulting him.
- The administrative expenses of the office of CAG, including all salaries, allowances and pensions are charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India that is not subject to vote.

What are the Functions and Power of CAG?

- CAG derives its audit mandate from different sources like–
 - **Constitution (Articles 148 to 151)**
 - **The Comptroller and Auditor General's (Duties,**

Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971

- **Important Judgments**
- **Instructions of Government of India**
- **Regulations on Audit & Accounts-2007**
- CAG audits the accounts related to all expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, Consolidated Fund of each state and UT's having a legislative assembly.
- He audits all expenditure from the Contingency Fund of India and the Public Account of India as well as the Contingency Fund and Public Account of each state.
- He audits all trading, manufacturing, profit and loss accounts, balance sheets and other subsidiary accounts kept by any department of the Central Government and the state governments.
- He audits the receipts and expenditure of all bodies and authorities substantially financed from the Central or State revenues; government companies; other corporations and bodies, when so required by related laws.
- He audits the accounts of any other authority when requested by the President or Governor e.g. Local bodies.
- He advises the President with regard to prescription of the form in which the accounts of the Centre and States shall be kept.
- He submits his audit reports relating to the accounts of the Centre to the President, who shall, in turn, place them before both the houses of Parliament.
- He submits his audit reports relating to the accounts of a State to the Governor, who shall, in turn, place them before the state legislature.
- CAG also acts as a guide, friend and philosopher of the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament.

69.	d	<p>Recently, the US and the Philippines have launched their annual "Balikatan" military exercises, and aimed at improving the respective militaries' ability to respond jointly to threats in the Indo-Pacific. The exercises were first staged in 1991. Balikatan means "shoulder-to-shoulder". The Philippines' foreign policy is moving towards the US and away from its previous China-friendly stance.</p> <p>Overall, the joint military exercises reflect the Philippines' efforts to increase its military capabilities and defend against China's assertiveness in the region.</p>
70.	d	<p style="text-align: center;">Jupiter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fifth in line from the Sun, Jupiter is, by far, the largest planet in the solar system – more than twice as massive as all the other planets combined. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are called Jovian or Gas Giant Planets. These have thick atmosphere, mostly of helium and hydrogen. ● Jupiter's iconic Great Red Spot is a giant storm bigger than Earth that has raged for hundreds of years. ● Jupiter rotates once about every 10 hours (a Jovian day), but takes about 12 Earth years to complete one orbit of the Sun (a Jovian year). ● Jupiter has more than 75 moons. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The planet Jupiter's four largest moons are called the Galilean satellites after Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei, who first observed them in 1610. ○ These large moons, named Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto, are each distinctive world.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1979, the Voyager mission discovered Jupiter's faint ring system. • Nine spacecraft have visited Jupiter. Seven flew by and two have orbited the gas giant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Galileo probe (NASA) which orbited the planet between 1995 and 2003. ○ Juno (NASA) has been circling the planet since 2016.
71.	c	
72.	c	
73.	a	<p>A rare isotope that is abundant on the moon and can be used as fuel for nuclear fusion reactors.</p> <p>https://www.gatewayhouse.in/looking-for-helium-3-a-futile-moonwalk/</p>
74.	d	<p>According to the World Air Quality Report prepared by IQAir, Delhi ranked 4th out of 50 of the world's most polluted cities in terms of PM2.5 levels in 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of 131 countries, India ranked 8 with a population weighted average PM2.5 level of 53.3 µg/m3 in 2022. • About: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IQAir, a Swiss air quality technology company, prepares the annual world air quality reports based on data from monitoring stations operated by governments and other institutions and organisations across the world. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The 2022 report is based on PM2.5 data from 7,323 cities and 131 countries. • Findings:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chad, Iraq, Pakistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh are the 5 most polluted countries in 2022. ○ Delhi had an average PM2.5 level of 92.6 µg/m3 in 2022, a little below the average of 96.4 µg/m3 in 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The report makes a distinction between New Delhi and Delhi, with New Delhi having an annual average PM2.5 level of 89.1 µg/m3. ■ The WHO guideline for annual PM2.5 levels is 5 µg/m3. ○ Lahore was the most polluted city in the world, followed by Hotan in China, and Bhiwadi in Rajasthan. ○ New Delhi is the second most polluted capital city in the world, with N'Djamena in Chad topping the list. ○ A total of 39 Indian cities (including 'Delhi' and 'New Delhi') are on the list of 50 of the world's most polluted cities based on annual average PM2.5 levels in 2022.
75.	c	<p style="text-align: center;">Green Crackers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Green crackers are dubbed as 'eco-friendly' crackers and are known to cause less air and noise pollution as compared to traditional firecrackers. ● These crackers were first designed by the National Environmental and Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), under the aegis of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in 2018. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NEERI is a constituent of CSIR to conduct research and developmental studies in environmental science and engineering. ● These crackers replace certain hazardous agents in traditional crackers with less polluting substances with the aim to reduce

the noise intensity and emissions.

- Most green crackers **do not contain barium nitrate**, which is the most dangerous ingredient in conventional crackers.
- Green crackers **use alternative chemicals such as potassium nitrate and aluminium** instead of magnesium and barium as well as carbon instead of arsenic and other harmful pollutants.
- Regular crackers also produce 160-200 decibels of sound, while that from green crackers are limited to about 100-130 decibels.

How can one Identify Green crackers?

- Presently, three brands of green crackers are available for purchase:
 - **SWAS - Safe Water Releaser:** These crackers do not use sulphur or potassium nitrate, and thus release water vapour instead of certain key pollutants. It also deploys the use of diluents, and thus is able to control particulate matter (PM) emissions by upto 30%.
 - **STAR – Safe Thermite Cracker:** Just like SWAS, STAR also does not contain sulphur and potassium nitrate, and besides controlling particulate dust emissions, it also has lower sound intensity.
 - **SAFAL – Safe Minimal Aluminium:** It replaces aluminium content with magnesium and thus produces reduced levels of pollutants.
- All three brands of green crackers **can currently only be produced by licensed manufacturers, approved by the CSIR.** Additionally, the **Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)** is tasked with certifying that the crackers are made without arsenic, mercury, and barium, and are not loud beyond a certain threshold.
- Furthermore, green crackers can be differentiated from

		conventional crackers in retail stores by a green logo printed on their boxes , along with a Quick Response (QR) coding system.
76.	c	
77.	b	<p style="text-align: center;">Indian Wild Ass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a sub-species of Asian Wild Ass, i.e., Equus hemionus. ● Scientific name: Equus hemionus khur ● It is characterized by distinctive white markings on the anterior part of the rump and on the posterior part of the shoulder and a stripe down the back that is bordered by white. ● Distribution: World's last population of Indian WildAss is restricted to Rann of Kachchh, Gujarat. ● Habitat: Desert and grassland ecosystems. ● Conservation Status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IUCN: Near threatened. ○ CITES: Appendix II ○ Wildlife Protection Act (1972): Schedule-I
78.	a	
79.	a	
80.	b	
81.	a	
82.	a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All executive power is vested in the President of India. The Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister aids and advises the President who exercises his powers in accordance

		<p>with such advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Constitutional Provision: Article 87 of the constitution provides two instances when the President specially addresses both Houses of Parliament. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The President of India addresses both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha at the beginning of the first Session after each general election when the reconstituted lower house meets for the first time. ○ The President also addresses both the houses at the beginning of the first session of each year. ● The President's speech essentially highlights the government's policy priorities and plans for the upcoming year. The address provides a broad framework of the government's agenda and direction. ● The Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951: Article 87 was amended. In article 87 of the Constitution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In clause (1), for the words "every session", the words "the first session after each general election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first session of each year" is substituted. In clause (2), the words "and for the precedence of such discussion over other business of the House" is omitted. ● Apart from this, the joint sitting of both the houses is also held to resolve the deadlock over the passing of key legislation. Not all bills can be referred to a joint sitting of Parliament. There are two exceptions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Money bill under Article 110. ○ Constitution amendment bill under Article 368.
83.	b	
84.	b	

85.	c	
86.	a	
87.	c	
88.	b	<p style="text-align: center;">Bioasphalt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bioasphalt is an asphalt alternative made from non-petroleum based renewable resources. ● These sources include sugar, molasses and rice, corn and potato starches, natural tree and gum resins, natural latex rubber and vegetable oils, lignin, cellulose, palm oil waste, coconut waste, peanut oil waste, canola oil waste, dried sewerage effluent and so on. ● Bitumen can also be made from waste vacuum tower bottoms produced in the process of cleaning used motor oils, which are normally burned or dumped into land fills. ● Non-petroleum based bitumen binders can be colored, which can reduce the temperatures of road surfaces and reduce the Urban heat islands. ● Because of concerns over Peak oil, pollution and climate change, as well the oil price increases since 2003, non-petroleum alternatives have become more popular. This has led to the introduction of biobitumen alternatives that are more environmentally friendly and nontoxic. ● Asphalt made with vegetable oil based binders was patented by Colas SA in France in 2004.
89.	b	
90.	b	

91.	a	<p>Khayal is a genre of Hindustani classical music, which originated in the late 16th century in Sufi communities in the region between Delhi and Jaunpur.</p> <p>It was orginated in Persia (now Iran), The word “khayal” comes from Persian and means “imagination” or “idea“. It is also known as Bandish</p> <p>Founder: Amir Khusrau</p>
92.	d	
93.	b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Trojan asteroids are believed to be formed from the same material that led to the formation of planets nearly 4 billion years ago when the solar system was formed. Therefore, the mission is designed to understand the composition of the diverse asteroids that are a part of the Trojan asteroid swarms, to determine the mass and densities of the materials and to look for and study the satellites and rings that may orbit the Trojan asteroids. Studying them will help scientists understand its origins and evolution, and why it looks the way it does. <p style="text-align: center;">Asteroids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● About: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Asteroids are rocky objects that orbit the Sun, much smaller than planets. They are also called minor planets. ● Categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Main Belt of Asteroids: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ First, those found in the main asteroid belt,

		<p>between Mars and Jupiter. This region is estimated to contain somewhere between 1.1-1.9 million asteroids.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trojan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The second group is that of trojans (the name comes from Greek mythology), which are asteroids that share an orbit with a larger planet. ■ NASA reports the presence of Jupiter, Neptune and Mars trojans. In 2011, they reported an Earth trojan as well. ■ The Jupiter asteroids can be found in what are referred to as “swarms” that lead and follow the planet Jupiter along its orbit around the Sun. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ‘Lucy’ will reach the first swarm of these asteroids that precede Jupiter by August 2027. ■ These asteroids are believed to be the remnants of the early solar system.
94.	b	<p>A supercritical carbon dioxide Brayton test loop facility has been developed at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) , Bangalore. Technology has the potential to replace nuclear and thermal power plants. Loop technology reduces the water consumption, with less emissions of greenhouse gases. <i>Supercritical Brayton Cycle</i> What is Supercritical CO2? • The term supercritical describes the state of carbon dioxide above its critical temperature of 31°C and critical pressure of 73 atmospheres making it twice as dense as steam. How Does It Work? • In the supercritical state, carbon dioxide expands like a gas with the density of a liquid, thus pumping power needed for the compressor is reduced significantly. Combining the supercritical carbon dioxide and Brayton cycle would dramatically increase the energy conversion</p>

		<p>efficiency. • Thermal Power plants use steam to generate power, but with supercritical CO₂ which is a working fluid, rather than steam could generate more power. Efficiency could be increased by 50 % or more. • Indian scientists have developed this technology that would help generation of clean energy from power plants including solar thermal. Where Was the Model Setup? • The research group at Interdisciplinary center for energy research (ICER) at IISc. Bangalore has set up a S-CO₂ Brayton cycle based solar thermal test loop at the laboratory scale. • The group has also developed thermodynamic cycle designs, heat transfer, and fluid codes for designing the test loop. Why this Technology is Important? • The Supercritical Carbon dioxide Brayton cycle test loop facility is already being identified as a national initiative for development of next generation solar thermal power plants. This would give India the opportunity to become a world leader in the technology and also fulfil one the objectives of National solar mission. • First such technology, and a test bed of India for next generation, efficient, compact, waterless supercritical loop for power generation. • This is the first technology of test loop coupled with solar heat source in the world. • The energy needs of the country are rapidly increasing. India is aiming for renewable energy generation of 175 GW by 2022, for clean energy production. This research and early stage developments of the technology would be beneficial to meet the energy demands of the country. • The breakthrough research would be a game changer to meet the energy needs of the country, with higher efficiency and capacity, and low operating costs and size. This development will result in demonstration of state of the art tool, techniques and product which are of critical importance for energy security</p>
95.	c	

96.	b	<p style="text-align: center;">Toque Macaque:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a reddish-brown-coloured Old World monkey endemic to Sri Lanka, where it is locally known as the "rilewa" or "rilawa". ● Scientific Name: Macaca sinica ● Distribution: They are native and endemic exclusively to Sri Lanka. ● Habitat: They generally occupy three types of habitat; hence can be divided into three subspecies. These are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Common toque macaque (<i>Macaca sinica sinica</i>), occurring in dry habitat; ○ the Pale-fronted toque macaque (<i>Macaca sinica aurifrons</i>), inhabiting wet areas; ○ the Hill-zone toque macaque (<i>Macaca sinica opisthomelas</i>), found at high elevations; ● Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The most characteristic feature of this primate is the toque-like swirl of hair on its head top. ○ Males are physically larger than females. ○ They are fitted with exceptionally long, thin tails. They have the distinction of being the smallest species belonging to the genus Macaca with the longest tails relative to their body size. ○ They are highly social animals, living in units of up to 40 individuals. ● : Conservation Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IUCN: Endangered
97.	d	FSSAI

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is an autonomous statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act).
- **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**, Government of India is the administrative Ministry of FSSAI.
- **Headquarters:** Delhi.
- FSS Act, 2006 consolidates various acts & orders that had earlier handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments, such as–
 - Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954
 - Fruit Products Order, 1955
 - Meat Food Products Order, 1973
 - Vegetable Oil Products (Control) Order, 1947
 - Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order 1988
 - Milk and Milk Products Order, 1992
- These were repealed after commencement of FSS Act, 2006.
- FSSAI was consequently established in 2008 but work within the Food Authority effectively began in 2011 after its Rules and key Regulations were notified.
- This marked a shift from a multi-level to a single line of control with focus on self-compliance rather than a pure regulatory regime.

7 Key Processes FSSAI

- Set standards of food products
- Develop safe food practices
- License food businesses
- Ensure compliance through inspections
- Test food for standards
- Train and build capacity
- Citizens Outreach

		<p style="text-align: center;">FSSAI Legislative Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlights of the Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Act aims to establish a single reference point for all matters relating to food safety and standards, by moving from multi- level, multi-departmental control to a single line of command. ○ The Act established FSSAI and the State Food Safety Authorities for each State. ● Highlights of Food Safety and Standards Rule, 2011. The Rules provides for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Food Safety Appellate Tribunal and the Registrar of the Appellate Tribunal, for adjudication of food safety cases. <p style="text-align: center;">Structure of FSSAI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The FSSAI comprises of a Chairperson and twenty two members out of which one – third are to be women. ● The Chairperson of FSSAI is appointed by the Central Government. ● The Food Authority is assisted by Scientific Committees and Panels in setting standards and the Central Advisory Committee in coordinating with enforcement agencies. ● The primary responsibility for enforcement is largely with the State Food Safety Commissioners.
98.	c	<p style="text-align: center;">Procedure for transfers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The proposal for transferring a HC judge (including a Chief Justice) should be initiated by the CJI and the consent of the judge is not required. All transfers are to be made in the public

		<p>interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For transferring a judge other than the Chief Justice, the CJI should take the views of – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Chief Justice of the court concerned, as well as the Chief Justice of the court to which the transfer is taking place. ○ One or more SC judges ● The views, expressed in writing, should be considered by a full Collegium of five – the CJI + 4 senior-most judges of the SC. ● The recommendation is sent to the Union Law Minister → the Prime Minister → the President.
99.	a	<p>Chhattisgarh Chief Minister wrote to the Prime Minister seeking the inclusion of two amendment Bills allowing for a higher quota of reservation in jobs and educational institutions, in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What are these Bills?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In Chhattisgarh, the State Assembly unanimously approved the two amendment bills, creating a 76% quota for members of the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Governor has not yet approved the bills. <p style="text-align: center;">Why is there a Need to Include these Bills in Ninth Schedule?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Ninth Schedule of the Constitution includes a list of Central and State laws that cannot be challenged in courts. Including the two amendment Bills in the Ninth Schedule would make them immune to legal challenges.

- Chhattisgarh government argues that including the amended provisions in the Ninth Schedule is **crucial for providing justice to the backward and deprived classes in the State.**
- Previously, the Chhattisgarh High Court had struck down a government order **allowing 58% quota, stating that the reservation cannot exceed 50% as it unconstitutional.**
 - However, **two amendment Bills were passed by the State Assembly to provide 76% quota for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes.**

What is the Ninth Schedule?

- The Schedule contains a list of **central and state laws which cannot be challenged in courts** and was added by the **Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951.**
 - The first Amendment added **13 laws to the Schedule.** Subsequent amendments in various years have taken the number of protected laws to 284 currently.
- It was created by the new Article 31B, which along with Article 31A was brought in by the government to protect laws related to **agrarian reform and for abolishing the Zamindari system.**
 - While Article 31A extends protection to 'classes' of laws, Article 31B shields **specific laws or enactments.**
 - While most of the laws protected under the Schedule concern agriculture/land issues, the list includes other subjects.
- Article 31B also has a retrospective operation which means that if laws are inserted in the Ninth Schedule after they are declared unconstitutional, they are **considered to have been in the Schedule** since their commencement, and thus valid.
- Although Article 31B excludes judicial review, the **Supreme**

		<p>court has said in the past that even laws under the Ninth Schedule would be open to scrutiny if they violated Fundamental Rights or the basic structure of the Constitution.</p>
100.	a	<p style="text-align: center;">Dharwar System</p> <p>The Earth has formed 4 billion years ago, less than a billion years ago.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elevated metamorphic sedimentary rock system. [developed as a result of the metamorphism of Archaean gneisses and schists] ● They are the first rocks that undergo metamorphism. ● Found in great quantity in the Karnataka district of Dharwar. ● The most significant rocks in terms of economics are those that contain precious minerals like high-grade iron ore, manganese, copper, lead, gold, etc.
101.	a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The first Lagrange point is located between the Earth and the Sun, giving satellites at this point a constant view of the Sun. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO), a NASA and European Space Agency satellite tasked to monitor the Sun, orbits the first Lagrange point, about 1.5 million kilometres away from Earth. ● The second Lagrange point is about the same distance from the Earth but is located behind the Earth. Earth is always between the second Lagrange point and the Sun. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Since the Sun and Earth are in a single line, satellites at this location only need one heat shield to block heat and light from the Sun and Earth. ○ It is a good location for space telescopes, including the future James Webb Space Telescope.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The third Lagrange point is opposite the Earth on the other side of the Sun so that the Sun is always between it and Earth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A satellite in this position would not be able to communicate with Earth. • The extremely stable fourth and fifth Lagrange points are in Earth's orbital path around the Sun, 60 degrees ahead of and behind Earth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The twin Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (STEREO) spacecraft will orbit at the fourth and fifth Lagrange points to provide a three-dimensional view of the Sun.
102.	d	<p style="text-align: center;">IAF to join multilateral exercise in Greece</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian Air Force (IAF) will be participating in Exercise INIOCHOS-23, • A multi-national air exercise hosted by the Greece Air Force from April 24 to May 4.
103.	d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biometric verification is any means by which a person can be uniquely identified by evaluating one or more distinguishing biological traits. • Unique identifiers include fingerprints, hand geometry, earlobe geometry, retina and iris patterns, voice waves, DNA, and signatures. The oldest form of biometric verification is fingerprinting. • All the given processes, namely, Iris scans, Voice recognition, and Retinal scanning can be used for biometric identification. Hence, 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer

104.	a	
105.	c	
106.	c	
107.	a	
108.	d	
109.	d	
110.	a	
111.	d	
112.	d	<p>Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act & Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The home ministry governs the Narcotics Control Bureau, the Department of Revenue (DoR) in the finance ministry administers the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act of 1985 and the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act of 1988. • The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is a central law enforcement and intelligence agency that has been tasked with combating drug trafficking and the use of illegal substances under the provisions of the NDPS Act. • The NDPS Act, prohibits a person from the production/manufacturing/cultivation, possession, sale, purchase transport, storage, and/or consumption of any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance. • The PITNDPS Act, 1988 provides for detention in certain cases for the purpose of preventing illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The transfer was being considered under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961. Transferring administration of the NDPS Act and PITNDPS to MHA will lead to a single command chain and unification of all matters related to narcotics.
113.	a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parwanoo region has had the spotlight over the border dispute between the two states. It is next to the Panchkula district of Haryana and the state has claimed parts of the land in Himachal Pradesh as its own.
114.	b	
115.	a	
116.	a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microbeads are small, solid, manufactured plastic particles that are less than 5mm and do not degrade or dissolve in water. Mainly made of polyethylene, microbeads can also be prepared from petrochemical plastics such as polystyrene and polypropylene. They may be added to a range of products, including rinse-off cosmetics, personal care and cleaning products. Because of their small size, microbeads pass unfiltered through the sewage treatment system and reach the water bodies. The untreated microbeads in the waterbodies are taken up by the marine animals, thus producing toxicity and causing harm to the marine ecosystem. In 2014, Netherland became the first country to ban cosmetics microbeads.

117.	d	<p style="text-align: center;">Horn of Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Horn of Africa is a peninsula in Northeast Africa. • Located on the easternmost part of the African mainland, it is the fourth largest peninsula in the world. • It lies along the southern boundary of the Red Sea and extends hundreds of kilometres into the Guardafui Channel, Gulf of Aden, and Indian Ocean. • The Horn of Africa is equidistant from the equator and the Tropic of Cancer. • The Horn contains such diverse areas as the highlands of the Ethiopian Plateau, the Ogaden desert, and the Eritrean and Somalian coasts. • The Horn of Africa denotes the region containing the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia. • The area has experienced imperialism, neo-colonialism, Cold War, ethnic strife, intra-African conflict, poverty, disease, famine and much else.
118.	a	
119.	c	
120.	b	<p style="text-align: center;">Calcium Carbide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a compound with the chemical formula CaC_2. • It is also known as 'masala' which is used as a fruit ripening agent. • It is manufactured by heating a lime and carbon mixture to 2000 to 2100°C (3632 to 3812°F) in an electric arc furnace. • It has been prohibited as per the provision in the sub-

		<p>regulation of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulation, 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is used in mining and metal industries as well as in the production of acetylene gas. • It is a highly reactive compound and releases acetylene gas which is used to artificially ripen fruits <p style="text-align: center;">What is Artificial ripening?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial ripening of fruits is done in a controlled manner to achieve the optimum level of ripening before time which would be then accepted by consumers • It also allows a longer shelf life for these fruits.
121.	a	
122.	b	
123.	c	<p>A relative humidity of 30-60% is generally considered to be comfortable. Environments that have lower levels than this typically use humidifiers to increase the humidity. When the level is higher, a fan will help move the air around you and help sweat evaporate better.</p> <p>Warmer air can hold more moisture than cooler air. So at the same absolute humidity, the relative humidity of warmer air will be lower than that of cooler air. It is like saying two vessels can hold the same amount of water — just that the bigger vessel will be less full than the smaller vessel.</p> <p>This is why, for example, while Chennai had an absolute humidity of 70% at 2.30 pm on April 23, its relative humidity was lower, around 60%, because it had an ambient temperature of 32°C. The change in the capacity for moisture as the air warms is also non-linear, meaning</p>

		<p>it doesn't increase by the same amount as the air warms. For example, the difference as it warms over 20° C from -20° C to 0° C is small, but there is an enormous improvement in its vapour-carrying capacity as it warms over 20° C from 30° C to 50° C.</p> <p>https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/relative-humidity-psychrometric-chart-wet-bulb-temperature-heatwaves/article66772463.ece</p>
124.	c	<p style="text-align: center;">Veto Power of the President and the Governor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Veto Power of the President of India is guided by Article 111 of the Indian Constitution. ● Article 200 of the Indian Constitution deals with the powers of the Governor with regard to assent given to bills passed by the State legislature and other powers of the Governor such as reserving the bill for the President's consideration. ● Article 201 pertains to 'Bills Reserved for Consideration'. ● The Governor of India enjoys absolute veto, suspensive veto (except on money bills) but not the pocket veto. ● Three Types of Veto Power: Absolute veto, Suspensive veto and Pocket veto. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exception: The President has no veto power when it comes to the constitutional amendment bills. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Constitutional amendment bills cannot be introduced in the state legislature. ● Absolute Veto: It refers to the power of the President to withhold his assent to a bill passed by the Parliament. The bill then ends and does not become an act. ● Suspensive Veto: The President uses a suspensive veto when he returns the bill to the Indian Parliament for its reconsideration.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the Parliament resends the bill with or without amendment to the President, he has to approve the bill without using any of his veto powers. ○ Exception: The President cannot exercise his suspensive veto in relation to the Money Bill. ● Pocket Veto: The bill is kept pending by the President for an indefinite period when he exercises his pocket veto. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ He neither rejects the bill nor returns the bill for reconsideration. ○ Unlike the American President who has to resend the bill within 10 days, the Indian President has no such time-rule. ● Veto over State Bills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The governor is empowered to reserve certain types of bills passed by the state legislature for the consideration of the President. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Then, the Governor will not have any further role in the enactment of the bill. ○ The President can withhold his assent to such bills not only in the first instance but also in the second instance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Thus, the President enjoys absolute veto (and not suspensive veto) over state bills. ○ Further, the President can exercise pocket veto in respect of state legislation also.
125.	b	
126.	c	
127.	d	
128.	b	

129.	c	
130.	b	
131.	a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Activities Around ESZs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prohibited Activities: Commercial mining, saw mills, industries causing pollution (air, water, soil, noise etc), establishment of major hydroelectric projects (HEP), commercial use of wood. ○ Regulated Activities: Felling of trees, establishment of hotels and resorts, commercial use of natural water, erection of electrical cables, drastic change of agriculture system, e.g., adoption of heavy technology, pesticides etc, widening of roads. ○ Permitted Activities: Ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, use of renewable energy sources, adoption of green technology for all activities.
132.	a	
133.	a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Entry-53 of List-II (State List) authorizes states to put taxes on consumption or sale of electricity in its jurisdiction. This does not include the power to impose any tax or duty on the generation of electricity. ● Article 286 of the constitution explicitly prohibits states from imposing any taxes or duties on supply of goods or services or on both where the supply takes place outside the state. ● Articles 287 and 288 prohibit the imposition of taxes on consumption or sale of electricity consumed by the central government or sold to the central government for consumption by the government or its agencies.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any imposition of tax on the non-consumptive use of water of these rivers for electricity generation is in violation of provisions of the Constitution
134.	c	<p style="text-align: center;">Konark Sun Temple:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: It is located on the coastline of Odisha in Puri district. It was built by King Narasimha Deva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty in 1244. It was given the status of a World Heritage Site in 1984 by UNESCO. Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also called the Surya Devalaya, the temple is dedicated to the Hindu god Surya. It is a classic example of the Odisha style of Architecture or Kalinga Architecture. The temple complex has the appearance of a 100-foot high solar chariot, with 24 wheels and pulled by six horses, all carved from stone. It is oriented towards the east so that the first rays of the sunrise strike the main entrance. The wheels of the temple are sundials, which can be used to calculate time accurately to a minute. Around the base of the temple, there are images of animals, foliage, warriors on horses and other interesting structures. On the walls and roof of the temple, beautiful sensual figures are carve The temple, built from Khondalite rocks, is also known as 'BLACK PAGODA' due to its dark colour.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The temple remains a site of contemporary worship for Hindus, during the annual Chandrabhaga Festival, around the month of February.
135.	d	
136.	a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sea Level Rise (SLR): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SLR is an increase in the level of the world's oceans due to the effects of climate change, especially global warming, induced by three primary factors: Thermal Expansion, Melting Glaciers and Loss of Greenland and Antarctica's ice sheets. ○ Sea level is primarily measured using tide stations and satellite laser altimeters. ● SLR is Linked to Three Primary Factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thermal Expansion: When water heats up, it expands. About half of the sea-level rise over the past 25 years is attributable to warmer oceans simply occupying more space. ○ Melting Glaciers: Higher temperatures caused by global warming have led to greater-than-average summer melting of large ice formations like mountain glaciers as well as diminished snowfall due to later winters and earlier springs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ That creates an imbalance between runoff and ocean evaporation, causing sea levels to rise. ○ Loss of Greenland and Antarctic Ice Sheets: As with mountain glaciers, increased heat is causing the massive ice sheets that cover Greenland and Antarctica to melt more quickly, and also move more quickly into the sea.

137.	c	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Cham dance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An enigmatic and energetic mask dance. • The Yogachara School of Buddhism was founded in Kashmir in the 4th century by Asanga and Vasubandhu. This developed into the sophisticated Vajrayana form of Buddhism, which incorporated the Cham dance. From Ladakh till Mongolia, the Cham is the deepest form of meditation of the Lamas. • Cham dance is used in all four schools of Tibetan Buddhism—Nyingma, Sakya, Kagyu and Gelug—in their rituals as a sacred dance that is reflective of the Buddhist tantric practices.
138.	b	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Drukpa Lineage Buddhism</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was founded in the 12th century by Gyalwa Gotsangpa, a disciple of the famous Tibetan master Phagmo Drupa. • It is particularly prominent in Bhutan. • This is known for its efforts to empower women, and their nuns are allowed to receive the same level of training and education as their male counterparts.
139.	a	<p style="text-align: center;">WHO launches initiative to make world better prepared for future pandemics</p> <p>The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a new initiative to be better prepared for future outbreaks of a similar scale and devastation as the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>PRET</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET)

		<p>Initiative is aimed at providing “guidance on integrated planning for responding to any respiratory pathogen such as influenza or coronaviruses”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It was announced at the Global Meeting for Future Respiratory Pathogen Pandemics held on 24-26 April 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. ● The first module focuses on respiratory pathogens, including influenza, coronaviruses, and respiratory syncytial virus. ● It involves three-pronged approach which includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update preparedness plans that affirm priority actions and that have considered learnings from past events. ○ Increase connectivity among stakeholders in pandemic preparedness planning through systematic coordination and cooperation. This includes building equitable systems; conducting joint exercises; and sharing information on good practices, challenges, and opportunities. ○ Dedicate sustained investments, financing and monitoring of pandemic preparedness with a particular focus on addressing the gaps identified during past pandemics and epidemics.
140.	b	
141.	c	
142.	d	
143.	c	
144.		
145.	d	

146.	c	
147.	d	
148.	c	<p style="text-align: center;">Achanakmar Tiger Reserve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Location: It is located in the Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh. ● It was declared a tiger reserve in 2009. ● It is a part of the huge Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve. ● Maniyari River flows right from the centre of this reserve, which is the forest's lifeline. ● It has a corridor connecting to Kanha and Bandhavgarh Tiger reserves and plays a critical role in the dispersal of tigers among these reserves. ● Vegetation: Tropical deciduous forest. ● Flora: Sal, bija, saja, haldu, teak, tinsa, dhawara, lendia, khamar and bamboo bloom here along with over 600 species of medicinal plants. ● Fauna: Wild fauna includes the tiger, leopard, bison, flying squirrel, Indian giant squirrel, chinkara, wild dog, hyena, sambar, chital and over 150 species of birds.
149.	c	<p style="text-align: center;">International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ICAO is an intergovernmental specialized agency associated with the United Nations (UN). ● It was established in 1947 by the Convention on International Civil Aviation (1944) known as Chicago Convention. ● Headquarters: Montreal, Canada ● Functions:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ICAO is dedicated to developing safe and efficient international air transport for peaceful purposes and ensuring a reasonable opportunity for every state to operate international airlines. ○ It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security and facilitation, efficiency, and economic development of air transport as well as to improve the environmental performance of aviation. ○ It also serves as a clearinghouse for cooperation and discussion on civil aviation issues among its 193 member states. ○ It also promotes regional and international agreements aimed at liberalizing aviation markets. ○ It helps to establish legal standards to ensure that the growth of aviation does not compromise safety, and encourages the development of other aspects of international aviation law.
150.	a	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Directorate of Enforcement (ED)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) is a multi-disciplinary organization mandated with investigation of offences of money laundering and violations of foreign exchange laws. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It functions under the Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance. ● As a premier financial investigation agency of the Government of India, the Enforcement Directorate functions in strict compliance with the Constitution and Laws of India. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Genesis of ED</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The origin of this Directorate goes back to 1 May, 1956, when

an '**Enforcement Unit**' was **formed in the Department of Economic Affairs** for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under **Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1947**.

- It was headquartered in Delhi, headed by a **Legal Service Officer as the Director of Enforcement**.
- It had two branches – at Bombay and Calcutta.
- In the year 1957, this Unit was **renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate'**, and another branch was opened at Madras (now Chennai).
- In 1960, the **administrative control of the Directorate was transferred** from the Department of Economic Affairs **to the Department of Revenue**.
- With the passage of time, FERA 1947 was repealed and replaced by FERA, 1973.
 - With the onset of the process of economic liberalisation, FERA, 1973, which was a regulatory law, was repealed and in its place, a new law viz. the **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)** came into operation w.e.f. 1 June 2000.
- Further, in tune with the **International Anti Money Laundering regime**, the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)** was enacted and ED was entrusted with its enforcement w.e.f. 1 July 2005.

Structure of ED

- **Hierarchy:** The Directorate of Enforcement, with its headquarters at New Delhi, is **headed by the Director of Enforcement**.
 - There are **five regional offices at Mumbai, Chennai, Chandigarh, Kolkata** and **Delhi** headed by Special

Directors of Enforcement.

- The Directorate has **10 Zonal offices** each of which is **headed by a Deputy Director** and **11 sub Zonal Offices** each of which is headed by an **Assistant Director**.
- **Recruitment: Recruitment of the officers is done directly** and by drawing officers from other investigation agencies.
 - It comprises officers of **IRS** (Indian Revenue Services), **IPS** (Indian Police Services) and **IAS** (Indian Administrative Services) such as **Income Tax officer, Excise officer, Customs officer, and police**.
- **Tenure:** In November 2021, the President of India promulgated two ordinances allowing the **Centre to extend the tenures of the directors** of the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** and the Enforcement Directorate **from two years to up to five years**.
 - The **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946** (for ED) and the **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act, 2003** (for CV Commissioners) have been amended to give the government the power to keep the two chiefs in their posts for **one year after they have completed their two-year terms**.
 - The chiefs of the Central agencies **currently have a fixed two-year tenure**, but **can now be given three annual extensions**.
 - However, no further extension can be granted after the completion of a period of five years in total including the period mentioned in the initial appointment.

Statutory Functions of ED

The statutory functions of the Directorate include **enforcement of following Acts:**

- **COFEPOSA:** Under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 (COFEPOSA), this Directorate is **empowered to sponsor cases of preventive detention** with regard to contraventions of FEMA.
- **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA):** It is a civil law enacted to consolidate and amend the laws relating to facilitate external trade and payments and to promote the orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India.
 - **ED has been given the responsibility to conduct investigation** into suspected contraventions of foreign exchange laws and regulations, to **adjudicate and impose penalties** on those adjudged to have contravened the law.
- **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA):** Following the recommendations of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** India enacted PMLA.
 - The ED has been entrusted with the responsibility of **executing the provisions of PMLA by conducting investigation** to trace the assets derived from proceeds of crime, to provisionally attach the property and to **ensure prosecution of the offenders and confiscation of the property** by the Special court.
- **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA):** Lately, with the increase in the number of cases relating to **economic offenders taking shelter in foreign countries**, the Government of India introduced the **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA)** and **ED is entrusted with its enforcement.**
 - This law was enacted to **deter economic offenders from evading the process of Indian law** by remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts.

- Under this law, the ED is mandated to **attach the properties of the fugitive economic offenders** who have escaped from India warranting arrest and provide for the **confiscation of their properties** to the Central Government.