

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

3rd Week April, 2025

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Union Territories & Scheduled Areas

1. With reference to the administration of Union Territories in India, consider the following statements:

1. In absence of exclusive provisions, the constitutional provisions applicable to Union Territories are also applicable to acquired territories.
2. An Administrator of a Union Territory is an agent of the President and not a constitutional head like a Governor.

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- In the absence of exclusive provisions, the *administration of acquired territories is governed by the same provisions that apply to Union Territories*, under Articles 239 to 241 of the Constitution.
- An Administrator (which may be designated as Lieutenant Governor, Chief Commissioner, or simply Administrator) is *not* a constitutional head like a Governor of a state. Rather, the Administrator acts as an *agent of the President*.

2. With reference to the administration of Union Territories in India, consider the following statements:

1. The President can appoint the Governor of a state as the administrator of an adjoining Union Territory.
2. The administrator of a Union Territory always functions under the aid and advice of the council of ministers of that territory.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The President has the power to appoint the Governor of a state as the administrator of an adjoining Union Territory. This provision helps in administrative efficiency and integration.
- When a **Governor** is appointed as the **Administrator** of a UT, **he acts independently** of the council of ministers of the concerned Union Territory. This is an exception to the usual system of working with the aid and advice of the council.

3. Which of the following Union Territories have a Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers headed by a Chief Minister?

1. Puducherry
2. Delhi
3. Jammu and Kashmir
4. Chandigarh

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2, and 4 only
- d) All of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Puducherry** – Legislative Assembly established in **1963**.
- **Delhi** – Legislative Assembly established in **1992** (under Article 239AA).
- **Jammu & Kashmir** – Became a Union Territory with a legislature in **2019** after the abrogation of Article 370 and reorganization.
- **Chandigarh** – **Does not have a legislative assembly** or elected government; it is directly administered by an Administrator appointed by the President.

4. Consider the following powers with respect to the Union Territories:

1. The Parliament can legislate on subjects in the State List for Union Territories.
2. The Legislative Assembly of Delhi can legislate on 'public order', 'police', and 'land'.
3. The President can make regulations with the force of law for some Union Territories.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Parliament has the power to make laws on **any subject in the State List or Concurrent List** for all Union Territories (as per Article 246 and Article 239).
- The **Delhi Legislative Assembly cannot legislate on "public order", "police", and "land"**, as these subjects are **reserved for the Central Government**.
- The **President can make regulations for peace, progress and good government** for Union Territories like **Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, and Ladakh**. These regulations have the **same effect as a law passed by Parliament**.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. The Jammu & Kashmir High Court serves as the common high court for both Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
2. Delhi is the only Union Territory to have a High Court of its own.

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The **Jammu and Kashmir High Court** serves as the **common High Court for both Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh** Union Territories after the reorganization of the state in 2019.
- **Delhi is the only Union Territory that has its own High Court**, established in **1966**. Other UTs are placed under the jurisdiction of nearby state High Courts.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the difference between States and Union Territories in India:

1. States have a federal relationship with the Centre, while Union Territories have a unitary relationship.
2. The Governor of a state is the constitutional head, whereas the head of a Union Territory is always called the Chief Commissioner.
3. Parliament can legislate on any subject in the State List for Union Territories, but not for States under normal circumstances.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- States enjoy a **federal** relationship with the Centre, whereas Union Territories have a **unitary** relationship, being directly governed by the Centre.
- The head of a Union Territory is **not always** called the Chief Commissioner; the title may vary — it could be an **Administrator, Lieutenant Governor, or Chief Commissioner**, depending on the UT.
- Parliament has the power to make laws on **any subject from the three lists** (including the State List) for **Union Territories**. However, for **States**, this can be done **only under extraordinary circumstances**.

7. With reference to the administration of Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The Governor can make regulations for peace and good governance in Scheduled Areas after consulting the Tribes Advisory Council.
2. Regulations made by the Governor for Scheduled Areas require the assent of the President.
3. The President is empowered to declare or alter the boundaries of a Scheduled Area only with the approval of the Parliament.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The **Governor** can indeed make regulations for the peace and good governance of Scheduled Areas **after consulting the Tribes Advisory Council**.
- Such regulations made by the Governor **require the assent of the President** to come into effect.
- The **President** has the power to declare or alter Scheduled Areas **in consultation with the Governor of the state concerned, not with the Parliament**.

8. Which of the following statements correctly explains the rationale behind the inclusion of only Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution?

- a) These states had the highest tribal population in India at the time of independence.
- b) The tribal communities in these states were entirely economically dependent on the forest produce.
- c) The tribal people in these states retained their distinct culture and customs, unlike other tribal communities in India.
- d) The British had declared these regions as Scheduled Areas during colonial rule.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The rationale for making special arrangements specifically for Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram is as follows:

- Unlike tribal communities in other parts of India who have largely assimilated into the dominant cultures around them, the tribes in these four states have retained a distinct cultural identity.
- They continue to uphold their traditional customs, practices, and way of life, with minimal integration into the mainstream societal framework. These regions have often been regarded as unique from an anthropological perspective.
- Recognizing this, the Constitution provides these states with distinct treatment and grants significant autonomy to their tribal populations for self-governance.

9. Consider the following powers of the Governor under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution:

1. Organizing and re-organizing autonomous districts
2. Dissolving the district or regional councils
3. Specifying the jurisdiction of High Court over suits and cases tried under village councils

Which of the above powers are correctly assigned to the Governor?

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Powers of the Governor under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution:

- The **Governor** can **organize/re-organize districts** (change name, boundaries).
- The **Governor** may **dissolve councils** based on a commission's recommendation.
- The **Governor** can **specify High Court jurisdiction** over cases tried in tribal courts.

10. With reference to the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Laws made by district and regional councils require the assent of the Governor.
 2. Acts of Parliament automatically apply to the autonomous districts under the Sixth Schedule.
 3. District councils have the power to assess and collect land revenue and impose certain taxes.
- a) 1 only
 - b) 1 and 3 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation:

The various features of administration contained in the Sixth Schedule are as follows:

- Laws by councils need **Governor's assent**.
- **Acts of Parliament do not automatically apply** to autonomous districts, they may apply with exceptions or modifications.
- Councils can **assess and collect land revenue and impose certain taxes**.

Constitutional bodies

1. Consider the following statements regarding the powers and functions of the Election Commission of India:

1. The Election Commission advises the President on matters relating to the disqualification of Members of Parliament.
2. The chief electoral officer at the state level is appointed by the President of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Election Commission advises the President regarding the disqualification of MPs.

- The chief electoral officer is appointed by the Chief Election Commissioner in consultation with the state government, not by the President.

2. With reference to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), consider the following statements:

1. The President can appoint an acting chairman of the UPSC if the chairman is absent or the position falls vacant.
2. A member of the UPSC can be removed by the President for misbehaviour only after an enquiry by the Supreme Court.
3. The conditions of service of the members of the UPSC are determined by the Parliament of India.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The President can appoint an acting chairman of UPSC when the post is vacant or the chairman is unable to perform duties.
- In cases of misbehaviour, the President must refer the matter to the Supreme Court, and can remove the member only after its recommendation.
- The conditions of service of the UPSC chairman and members are determined by the President, not by Parliament.

3. With reference to the State Public Service Commission (SPSC), consider the following statements:

1. The members of the SPSC are appointed by the President of India.
2. At least half of the members of the SPSC must have held office under the Central or State Government for a minimum of ten years.
3. The chairman and members of a State Public Service Commission hold office until the age of 62 years or for a term of six years, whichever is earlier.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Governor of the state, not the President, appoints the members of the State Public Service Commission.
- As per the Constitution, one-half of the members of the SPSC should have held office for at least ten years under the Government of India or a State Government.
- The members of the SPSC hold office for six years or until the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier.

4. With reference to the Finance Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It is a quasi-judicial body.
3. It is constituted every ten years by the President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The Finance Commission is a constitutional body, not a statutory body.
- The Finance Commission is a quasi-judicial body as per Article 280.
- It is constituted every five years or earlier, not ten years.

5. With reference to the Finance Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. The recommendations made by the Finance Commission are binding on the Government of India.
2. The Finance Commission recommends measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of a state to supplement the resources of panchayats and municipalities.

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The recommendations of the Finance Commission are advisory in nature and not binding on the Government of India.
- The Finance Commission recommends measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of a state to supplement the resources of panchayats and municipalities, based on the recommendations of the State Finance Commission.

6. With reference to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, consider the following statements:

1. The GST Council was constituted by the President under Article 279-A of the Constitution.
2. The Union Finance Secretary is the ex-officio Secretary to the GST Council.
3. The GST Council can recommend special rates for a specified period to raise resources during natural calamities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The GST Council was constituted by the President under Article 279-A, inserted by the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act.
- The Union Revenue Secretary, not the Finance Secretary, is the ex-officio Secretary to the Council.
- The Council can recommend special rates for a specified period to raise resources during natural calamities or disasters.

7. Consider the following statements regarding the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC):

1. It is a constitutional body established under Article 338 of the Constitution.
2. The members of the Commission are appointed by the Prime Minister of India.
3. It discharges similar functions for the Anglo-Indian community as it does for the Scheduled Castes.

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The NCSC is a constitutional body established under Article 338.

- They are appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal. Their conditions of service and tenure of office are also determined by the President
- The Commission performs similar functions for the Anglo-Indian community as for the SCs.

8. With reference to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), consider the following statements:

1. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) is a statutory body in India.
2. The Commission was created by inserting Article 338-A into the Constitution.
3. The NCST consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and five other members.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) is a **statutory** body in India. The 89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003 led to the establishment of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) by bifurcating the combined SC/ST commission. This Act inserted Article 338-A in the Constitution to provide for a **separate constitutional body for STs**.
- The NCST consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and **three** other members, not five. members of the Commission are appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

9. With reference to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), consider the following statements:

1. The NCBC is a constitutional body.
2. The members of the NCBC, including the chairperson and vice-chairperson, are appointed by the Prime Minister.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The **102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018** inserted **Article 338B** into the Constitution, thereby granting **constitutional status** to the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**. Prior to this, it was a statutory body established in **1993** following the **Mandal case** judgment (Indra Sawhney case, 1992).
- The **members of the NCBC**, including the **Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**, are **appointed by the President of India** by warrant under his hand and seal, **not by the Prime Minister**.

10. Consider the following statements regarding the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities as per the Constitution of India:

1. The Constitution originally provided for the appointment of a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities under Article 350B.
2. The Constitution lays down the qualifications, tenure, and service conditions of the Special Officer.
3. The reports of the Special Officer are laid before each House of Parliament and sent to the concerned state governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The Constitution did *not* originally provide for the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities. Article 350B was inserted by the **Seventh Constitutional Amendment Act, 1956**.
- The Constitution **does not specify** the qualifications, tenure, salaries, or removal procedure.
- Reports of the Special Officer are laid before **each House of Parliament** and sent to the **concerned state governments**.

Constitutional bodies (Part 2)

1. With reference to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India provides for the office of the CAG under Article 148, who heads the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.
2. Comptroller and Auditor General of India oversees the financial system at both the Central and State levels.

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Article 148 of the Constitution of India provides for the office of the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)**, who is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and functions as the guardian of the public purse.
- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is regarded as the guardian of the public purse, entrusted with overseeing the financial system at both the Central and State levels.

2. With reference to the appointment and term of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, consider the following statements:

1. The CAG holds office for a period of six years or until the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
2. The CAG can be removed by the President on the recommendation of the Union Council of Ministers.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- As per the Constitution, the CAG holds office for **six years** or until attaining the **age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier.
- The CAG **cannot be removed** by the President on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers. Instead, he can be removed **in the same manner as a judge of the Supreme Court**, which involves a **special majority resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament** on grounds of **proved misbehaviour or incapacity**.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the duties and powers of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India:

1. The CAG audits the receipts and expenditure of only those bodies that are completely financed by the Central Government.
2. The CAG submits three audit reports to the President, including the audit report on public undertakings.
3. The CAG certifies the net proceeds of any tax or duty, and his certificate is final.

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The CAG audits **all bodies and authorities substantially financed** (not only completely financed) from Central or State revenues.
- The CAG submits **three audit reports** to the President: audit report on appropriation accounts, audit report on finance accounts, and audit report on public undertakings.
- The CAG **ascertains and certifies the net proceeds of any tax or duty (Article 279)**, and his **certificate is final**.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the role of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in auditing public corporations and government companies:

1. The audit of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is conducted by the CAG under Article 149 of the Constitution.
2. Government companies are mainly audited by private auditors, but the CAG can also do an additional audit if needed.
3. An Audit Board was established under the office of the CAG to handle technical audits of specialised enterprises.

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The **RBI is not audited by the CAG**. It falls into the category of public corporations that are **audited exclusively by private auditors**, and the **CAG does not have a role** in their audit.
- Government companies are **audited by private auditors**, but the **CAG may conduct supplementary or test audits**, as stated.
- The **Audit Board** was created in **1968** within the office of the CAG on the recommendation of the **Administrative Reforms Commission** to assist in **technical audits** of specialized sectors like iron, steel, engineering, etc.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Attorney General of India:

1. The Constitution of India prescribes a fixed tenure for the Attorney General.
2. The Attorney General holds office during the pleasure of the President.
3. The remuneration of the Attorney General is determined by the Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The Constitution does **not** prescribe a fixed tenure for the Attorney General.
- He holds office during the **pleasure of the President**.
- His remuneration is **determined by the President**, not the Parliament.

6. With reference to the Attorney General of India, consider the following statements:

1. He has the right to participate in the proceedings of the Parliament and vote on bills.
2. He can appear in any court in India on behalf of the Government of India.
3. He is debarred from private legal practice as long as he holds the office.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The Attorney General can participate in parliamentary proceedings **without a right to vote**.
- He can appear in **any court** in India on behalf of the Government.
- He **is not debarred** from private legal practice.

7. Which of the following are limitations placed on the Attorney General of India to avoid conflict of interest?

1. He should not advise or hold a brief against the Government of India.
2. He should not defend accused persons in criminal cases without prior government approval.
3. He should not accept directorship in a private company without government permission.
4. He must advise any ministry or PSU directly without involving the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: A. 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation: Following limitations are placed on the Attorney General in order to avoid any complication and conflict of duty:

- He should not advise or hold a brief against the Government of India.
- He should not defend accused persons in criminal prosecutions without the permission of the Government of India.
- He should not accept appointment as a director in any company or corporation without the permission of the Government of India.
- He cannot directly advise ministries; all references must come through the Ministry of Law and Justice.

8. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Solicitor General of India?

1. The post of Solicitor General is created under Article 76 of the Constitution.
2. The Solicitor General assists the Attorney General in discharging his duties.
3. The Solicitor General is a member of the Central Cabinet.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Only the Attorney General's post is a constitutional post under Article 76. The Solicitor General's post is statutory/executive and not mentioned in the Constitution.
- The Solicitor General assists the AG in fulfilling official responsibilities.
- Neither the AG nor the Solicitor General is a member of the Central Cabinet.

9. With reference to the Advocate General of a State, consider the following statements:

1. The office of the Advocate General is created by the Constitution of India under Article 165.
2. He is the highest law officer in the State and corresponds to the Attorney General of India at the Union level.
3. The Advocate General is elected by the State Legislature for a term of five years.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Article 165 of the Constitution provides for the office of the Advocate General.
- He is the highest law officer in the state, analogous to the Attorney General of India.
- The Advocate General is appointed by the Governor and not elected by the legislature, and there is no fixed term mentioned in the Constitution.

10. With reference to the Advocate General of a State, consider the following statements:

1. He must be qualified to be appointed as a judge of a High Court.
2. He holds office during the pleasure of the Governor.
3. He has the right to speak and vote in the proceedings of the State Legislature.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The advocate general is appointed by the governor.
- He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of a high court. In other words, he must be a citizen of India and must have held a judicial office or been an advocate of a high court for ten years for ten years.
- He holds office during the pleasure of the governor. This means that he may be removed by the governor at any time. He may also quit his office by submitting his resignation to the governor.
- He has the right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the Houses of the state legislature or any committee of the state legislature of which he may be named a member, but without a right to vote. He enjoys all the privileges and immunities that are available to a member of the state legislature.

NON-CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES

1. Consider the following statements:

1. NITI Aayog is a constitutional body established by an amendment to the Constitution.
2. It replaced the Planning Commission of India in 2015.
3. Unlike the Planning Commission, NITI Aayog promotes cooperative federalism through a bottom-up approach.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- NITI Aayog was established by an **executive resolution** of the Union Cabinet and is **neither statutory nor constitutional**.
- It replaced the 65-year-old Planning Commission on **January 1, 2015**
- It aims to strengthen **cooperative federalism** with a **bottom-up approach**, in contrast to the **top-down** model of the Planning Commission.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the composition of NITI Aayog:

1. The Regional Councils of NITI Aayog are permanent bodies chaired only by the Prime Minister.
2. The Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog is appointed by the Prime Minister and enjoys the rank of a Cabinet Minister.
3. NITI Aayog can have up to four Union Ministers as ex-officio members nominated by the Prime Minister.

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The **Regional Councils** are **not permanent**; they are formed for a **specified tenure** to address regional issues and are chaired by the **Chairperson or his nominee**, not necessarily always the Prime Minister.
- The **Vice-Chairperson** is appointed by the Prime Minister and holds the **rank of a Cabinet Minister**.
- The **Prime Minister can nominate up to four Union Ministers** as **ex-officio members** of the NITI Aayog.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):

1. The CBI derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
2. The CBI was established based on the recommendations of the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.
3. The CBI is the primary agency for investigating terrorism-related crimes in India.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The CBI derives its powers from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946**.

- It was established following the recommendations of the **Santhanam Committee (1962–1964)**.
- The **National Investigation Agency (NIA)**, not the CBI, is the primary agency for **terrorism-related investigations**.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**:

1. The NHRC is a constitutional body established under Article 338 of the Constitution of India.
2. The chairperson must be a retired Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court

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

Answer: B.

Explanation:

- The NHRC is **not a constitutional body**. It is a **statutory body** established under the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**, not under Article 338 (which relates to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes).
- One of the key objectives of the NHRC is to **look into allegations of human rights excesses independently of the government**, thereby reinforcing the government's commitment to human rights protection.
- The chairperson must be a **retired Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court**.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013:

1. The Lokpal has jurisdiction over the Prime Minister, Ministers, Members of Parliament, and all categories of Central Government employees.
2. The Selection Committee for the Lokpal includes the Prime Minister, the Speaker of Lok Sabha, and the Chief Justice of India or a judge nominated by him.
3. The Act mandates every state to establish a Lokayukta within one year of its commencement.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

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

Answer: D. 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- The Lokpal covers a wide jurisdiction including the **Prime Minister (with exceptions), Ministers, MPs, and Group A to D officials**.
- The **Selection Committee** includes the **Prime Minister, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Leader of Opposition**, and **Chief Justice of India or a nominated Supreme Court judge**, along with an eminent jurist nominated by the President.
- The Act requires **states to establish Lokayuktas** through a law **within 365 days** of the Act's commencement.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the appointment and tenure of members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):

1. The chairperson and members are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee chaired by the Prime Minister.
2. The chairperson and members hold office for a term of five years.
3. After completion of their tenure, the chairperson and members are eligible for further employment under the Central or State Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The chairperson and members of the NHRC are **appointed by the President** on the **recommendation of a six-member committee** headed by the **Prime Minister**.
- The term is **three years** or until the age of **70 years**, whichever is earlier — not five years or 65 years.
- **They are not eligible for further employment** under the Central or State Government after their tenure.

7. With reference to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), consider the following statements:

1. The NIA was established under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008, in response to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.
2. The NIA functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence, Government of 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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was constituted in 2009 under the NIA Act, 2008, following the 2008 Mumbai attacks (26/11) to investigate terror-related crimes.
- The NIA functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, not the Ministry of Defence.

8. With reference to the *State Information Commission*, consider the following statements:

1. The State Chief Information Commissioner and the State Information Commissioners are appointed by the President of India.
2. The **selection committee** for appointing State Information Commissioners includes the Chief Minister, the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, and a State Cabinet Minister nominated by the Chief Minister.
3. A person currently holding an office of profit or associated with a political party can be appointed as a State Information Commissioner.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The **Governor**, not the President, appoints the State Chief Information Commissioner and the State Information Commissioners.

- The committee comprises the **Chief Minister (as Chairperson)**, the **Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly**, and a **State Cabinet Minister nominated by the Chief Minister**.
- The Act **prohibits appointment** of persons who are **holding any office of profit, connected with political parties, or pursuing any business or profession**.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):

1. The Central Vigilance Commission was established in 1964 on the recommendation of the Santhanam Committee.
 2. The CVC is the only designated agency to receive complaints under the Whistle Blowers Resolution (PIDPI).
- 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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The CVC was established in 1964 based on the recommendation of the **Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption**.
- Since 2004, the CVC has been the **only designated agency** to receive complaints under the **Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers' Resolution (PIDPI)**, also known as the **Whistle Blowers Resolution**.

10. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):

1. The Central Vigilance Commission consists of a Central Vigilance Commissioner and up to two Vigilance Commissioners.
2. The President can remove a Vigilance Commissioner for proved misbehaviour only after an enquiry by the Supreme Court.

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The CVC is a multi-member body with one Central Vigilance Commissioner and not more than two Vigilance Commissioners. They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a three-member committee comprising the **Prime Minister, Union Home Minister, and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha**.
- For removal on the grounds of **proved misbehaviour or incapacity**, the President must refer the matter to the **Supreme Court**, and can proceed with the removal only if the Court advises so after enquiry.

Weather, climate and seasons of India

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Southern areas of the Tropic of Cancer in India experience a higher daily and annual range of temperatures due to proximity to the equator.
2. The Himalayas act as a climatic divide by preventing cold winds from Central Asia and trapping the monsoon winds.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The region **south of the Tropic of Cancer** lies in the tropical zone and hence experiences **high temperatures with a small daily and annual range**, not higher.
- The Himalayas act as a **climatic divide** by shielding India from **cold northern winds** and **trapping monsoon winds**, causing them to shed their moisture within the subcontinent.

Source: India Physical Environment (Class 11th NCERT)

2. Consider the following statements:

1. The differential heating of land and water in and around India leads to a seasonal reversal in the direction of monsoon winds.
2. Darjeeling, despite being on the same latitude as Agra, is cooler due to its altitude.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The **differential heating of land and sea** indeed causes **seasonal air pressure variations**, leading to **monsoonal wind reversals**.
- Although **Agra and Darjeeling** are located on the **same latitude**, Darjeeling is **cooler** due to its **higher altitude**, where temperature decreases with height.

Source: India Physical Environment (Class 11th NCERT)

3. Consider the following statements regarding winter season weather mechanisms in India:

1. The southern branch of the jet stream, flowing south of the Himalayas, significantly influences the winter weather in India.
2. Western cyclonic disturbances, which affect northern India in winter, originate over the Caspian Sea and are carried by the easterly jet stream.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The **southern branch of the jet stream**, which flows **south of the Himalayas**, plays an important role in influencing **winter weather in India**, especially by steering western disturbances into the subcontinent.

- **Western cyclonic disturbances** originate over the **Mediterranean Sea**, **not** the Caspian Sea, and they are brought into India by the **westerly jet stream**, **not easterly**.

Source: India Physical Environment (Class 11th NCERT)

4. **With reference to the mechanism of weather during the Indian summer season, consider the following statements:**

1. The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) shifts northwards and aligns roughly parallel to the Himalayas by July.
2. The westerly jet stream strengthens over the Indian subcontinent during the summer monsoon.
3. The southwesterly winds responsible for the monsoon originate from a maritime tropical airmass crossing the equator.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The ITCZ shifts northward and aligns roughly parallel to the Himalayas between 20°N and 25°N by mid-July.
- The westerly jet stream *withdraws* from the Indian region during summer, it does not strengthen.
- The maritime tropical airmass from the southern hemisphere crosses the equator and moves in a southwesterly direction, bringing monsoon winds.

Source: India Physical Environment (Class 11th NCERT)

5. **Which of the following statements regarding monsoon trough is/are correct?**

1. It is a region of low pressure extending from northwest India to the Bay of Bengal.
2. The north-south oscillation of this trough affects rainfall distribution.
3. It remains stationary throughout the monsoon season.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The **monsoon trough** is an elongated area of **low pressure** that forms during the monsoon season. It typically extends from the **northwestern region of India (like Rajasthan)** to the **Bay of Bengal**.
- It is associated with the **intermittent movement of the monsoon low** and governs the **spatial distribution of rainfall** across the Indo-Gangetic plains and beyond.
- The **north-south movement** (oscillation) of the monsoon trough is a **key reason for the variability in rainfall**. When the trough shifts **northwards**, rainfall increases over the Himalayan foothills and plains. When it shifts **southwards**, rainfall intensifies over central and peninsular India.
- The monsoon trough is **not stationary**. It **shifts regularly** in response to pressure gradients, Himalayan heating, and monsoon depressions from the Bay of Bengal. Its **dynamic nature** is crucial for the **periodic rainfall episodes** during the June–September monsoon period.

Source: India Physical Environment (Class 11th NCERT)

6. Consider the following statements regarding the mechanism of the Indian Southwest Monsoon:

1. A high-pressure area forms over northwest India in summer, pulling in monsoon winds.
2. Winds from the southern hemisphere cross the equator and turn into southwest monsoon winds.
3. A special wind current (easterly jet stream) near 15°N helps trigger the start of the monsoon.

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- During the months of **April and May**, the **landmass** over the Indian subcontinent, especially the **northwestern plains**, becomes **highly heated** due to vertical solar insolation.
- This heating results in the **creation of a strong low-pressure system, not a high-pressure zone.**
- The **southeast trade winds** originate in the **Southern Hemisphere** and normally blow from southeast to northwest. As they cross the **Equator**, they get deflected due to the **Coriolis force**, which changes their direction to the **right** in the **Northern Hemisphere**, causing them to blow from **southwest to northeast**. This deflection converts the southeast trades into the **southwest monsoon winds**.
- The subtropical westerly jet retreats in late May–early June, allowing the ITCZ to shift northward. This shift enables the tropical easterly jet (TEJ) to form around 15°N. TEJ marks the monsoon onset and enhances vertical uplift and moisture inflow over India.

Source: India Physical Environment (Class 11th NCERT)

7. Consider the following statements regarding the El-Niño phenomenon:

1. El-Niño is associated with the replacement of the cold Peruvian (Humboldt) current by a warm equatorial current off the coast of Peru.
2. It leads to a rise in sea surface temperature, which reduces plankton availability and affects fish populations.
3. In India, El-Niño events have no impact on the timing of the southwest monsoon.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **El-Niño is a climatic phenomenon characterized by the** replacement of the cold Humboldt (Peruvian) current with a warm equatorial current **in the Pacific Ocean, especially off the coast of Peru and Ecuador.** This disrupts the normal upwelling of nutrient-rich cold water, significantly altering weather patterns.
- The rise in **sea surface temperatures** during El-Niño inhibits the **upwelling of nutrient-rich water**, leading to a **drop in plankton population**, which forms the base of the marine food chain. As a result, **fish populations, especially anchovies, decline** drastically, affecting fisheries.
- **El-Niño does impact the Indian southwest monsoon**, typically leading to **weaker monsoon rains** and, in some cases, **drought-like conditions.**

Source: India Physical Environment (Class 11th NCERT)

8. Consider the following statements regarding the South-West Monsoon winds in India:

1. The Western Ghats cause heavy rainfall on their windward side due to the Arabian Sea branch of the monsoon.
2. The Chotanagpur plateau receives heavy rainfall due to the Bay of Bengal branch of the monsoon.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The monsoon winds from the Arabian Sea are obstructed by the Western Ghats. The windward side (west-facing slopes) receives very heavy rainfall (250–400 cm).
- The Chotanagpur plateau receives only **15 cm** of rainfall from the Arabian Sea branch (not Bay of Bengal), which is **not** considered heavy rainfall.

Source: India Physical Environment (Class 11th NCERT)

9. Which of the following climatic regions are correctly matched as per Koppen's classification for India?

1. Am – Tropical monsoon (Western Coast of India)
2. Aw – Tropical wet and dry (Central India)
3. Cwg – Humid subtropical with dry winters (Himalayan Foothills)

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Am – Tropical Monsoon (Western Coast of India):** The Am climate is characterized by high temperatures throughout the year and heavy seasonal rainfall due to the southwest monsoon.
 - Western coast of India, particularly the Konkan coast, Goa, Kerala, and coastal Karnataka, receives very high rainfall (>200 cm annually).
- **Aw – Tropical Wet and Dry / Tropical Savanna (Central India):** The Aw climate is characterized by distinct wet and dry seasons, high temperatures year-round, but with marked seasonality in rainfall.
 - Central India, including areas like Madhya Pradesh, parts of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and eastern Karnataka, shows this pattern. These regions receive rainfall mainly during the monsoon and have dry winters.
- **Cwg – Humid Subtropical with Dry Winters (Himalayan Foothills):** The Cwg climate is characterized by moderate to cool winters and hot summers and dry winters. Most of the precipitation is received during the summer monsoon.
 - It is found in the northern plains and Himalayan foothills, including Delhi, parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Uttarakhand. These regions fit the Cwg type due to winter dryness and summer rainfall.

Source: India Physical Environment (Class 11th NCERT)

10. Which of the following factors primarily influences the Indian monsoon?

1. Differential heating of land and sea
2. Presence of high-pressure area over the Indian Ocean
3. Jet streams in the upper troposphere
4. Western disturbances

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Monsoon is primarily driven by the **differential heating of land and sea**. The **subtropical high-pressure area over the Indian Ocean** pushes moist winds toward India. **Jet streams**, particularly the Tropical Easterly Jet and Subtropical Westerly Jet, guide monsoon winds.
- **Western disturbances**, though a winter phenomenon, influence monsoon's northward movement and impact.

Source: India Physical Environment (Class 11th NCERT)

Soil & its distribution in India

1. With reference to Alluvial Soils in India, consider the following statements:

1. Khadar is a type of new alluvium deposited annually by floods, which enriches the soil.
2. The sand content in alluvial soils increases from west to east in the Ganga plain.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Khadar is the new alluvium, deposited by floods annually, enriching the soil with fine silts.
- The sand content decreases from west to east, but does not increase

Source: India Physical Environment

2. With reference to Khadar and Bhargar soils in India, consider the following statements:

1. Bhargar soils are found in the floodplains and are replenished annually by river floods.
2. Khadar soils are finer in texture and more fertile compared to Bhargar soils.
3. Both Khadar and Bhargar soils may contain calcareous concretions known as *kankars*.

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- *Bhargar* refers to **older alluvium**, deposited away from current floodplains, and it is **not replenished annually**.
- *Khadar* is **new alluvium**, deposited by annual floods, making it **finer and more fertile** than Bhargar.

- Both soil types can have **calcareous nodules** called *kankars*.

Source: India Physical Environment

3. With reference to Black Soil in India, consider the following statements:

1. Black soil is commonly found in the Deccan Plateau, particularly in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.
2. Black soils are rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, which makes them highly fertile for all types of crops.
3. The soil exhibits a characteristic of 'self-ploughing' due to the development of wide cracks during the dry season.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Black soil is predominantly found in the Deccan Plateau covering parts of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.
- Black soil is **deficient in phosphorus and nitrogen**, although it is rich in lime, iron, magnesia, alumina, and potash.
- Due to its shrink-swell capacity, black soil develops wide cracks in the dry season, which leads to a natural phenomenon called '**self-ploughing**'.

Source: India Physical Environment

4. Consider the following statements regarding Red and Yellow Soils in India:

1. Red soil develops predominantly over crystalline igneous rocks in regions receiving low rainfall.
2. Yellow coloration in soil indicates the presence of iron in a hydrated form.
3. Red and yellow soils are uniformly fertile across both fine-grained and coarse-grained types.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Red soil forms over **crystalline igneous rocks** in areas with **low rainfall**, especially in parts of the **Deccan Plateau**.
- **Yellow soil** is essentially **hydrated red soil**, where iron is in a hydrated form, giving it a yellowish appearance.
- Fertility is **not uniform**—**fine-grained soils are fertile**, but **coarse-grained soils in upland areas are poor in fertility**.

Source: India Physical Environment

5. With reference to Arid Soils in India, consider the following statements:

1. Arid soils are generally rich in nitrogen and phosphate content.
2. They are typically sandy and saline, and in some places, common salt is extracted by evaporating saline water.
3. The presence of 'kankar' layers in the lower horizons improves water infiltration and groundwater recharge.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Arid soils are **deficient in nitrogen**. Phosphate content is normal, but nitrogen deficiency rules out this statement.
- The soils are **sandy and saline**, and in some areas, salt is collected by **evaporating saline water**.
- The '**kankar**' layers **restrict water infiltration**, not improve it. They act as a barrier, although once irrigation is done, moisture retention improves in the topsoil.

Source: India Physical Environment

6. With reference to Saline Soils in India, consider the following statements:

1. Saline soils are rich in calcium and support good vegetative growth.
2. These soils are commonly found in the Rann of Kutch, Sunderbans, and deltas of the eastern coast.
3. Excessive irrigation in dry climatic conditions can lead to salinisation of alluvial soils.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Saline soils are **infertile, lack calcium and nitrogen**, and **do not support vegetative growth**.
- These soils are **widespread in the Rann of Kutch, eastern deltas, and Sunderbans**.
- **Excessive irrigation in dry climates** (e.g., Green Revolution areas like Punjab and Haryana) causes **capillary rise of salts**, leading to **salinisation** of even fertile alluvial soils.

Source: India Physical Environment

7. With reference to Peaty Soils in India, consider the following statements:

1. Peaty soils are rich in organic matter due to the accumulation of dead vegetation.
2. These soils are generally light in texture and red in colour.
3. They are commonly found in coastal areas of Odisha and Tamil Nadu, and northern Bihar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Peaty soils are formed from the accumulation of **large quantities of organic matter** due to heavy rainfall and dense vegetation, making them **rich in humus** (up to 40–50%).
- These soils are described as **heavy and black** in colour, **not light or red**.

- They are found in **northern Bihar, southern Uttarakhand, and coastal regions of West Bengal, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu.**

Source: India Physical Environment

8. With reference to Forest Soils in India, consider the following statements:

1. Forest soils are generally loamy and silty in the valley regions but become coarse-grained in the upper slopes.
2. In snow-bound Himalayan areas, forest soils are rich in humus and highly fertile.
3. Soils in the lower valleys of forested regions are more fertile compared to those on higher altitudes.

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- In forest regions, **loamy and silty soils** are found on **valley sides**, while **coarse-grained soils** are typical of **upper slopes**.
- In **snow-bound Himalayan regions**, the soils are **acidic** and have **low humus content** due to denudation, making them **less fertile**.
- Soils in the **lower valleys** are indeed **more fertile**, benefiting from better soil texture and organic matter.

Source: India Physical Environment

9. With reference to soil conservation in India, consider the following statements:

1. Shelter belts and agro-forestry are effective techniques to prevent sand dune encroachment in arid regions.
2. Integrated land use planning considers climatic conditions, land configuration, and social behaviour of people for effective soil conservation.

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Shelter belts and agro-forestry are used to prevent sand dune encroachment in arid areas.
- Integrated land use planning involves multiple factors including climate, land features, and people's behaviour for effective soil conservation.

Source: India Physical Environment

10. With reference to soils and their classification in India, consider the following statements:

1. Horizon A of a soil profile contains both organic matter and mineral nutrients essential for plant growth.
2. In ancient India, soils were classified primarily based on their fertility as *Urvara* and *Usara*.

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- *Horizon A* is the topmost layer that contains **organic matter, mineral matter, nutrients, and water**, all of which are essential for plant growth.

- In **ancient times**, Indian soils were classified into **Urvara (fertile)** and **Usara (infertile)**.
Source: India Physical Environment

