FOREIGN RELATION

- ❖ **Prime Minister's visit to Australia**
- ➢ **CONTEXT:** PM Modi is in Australia on the last leg of his three-nation tour during which he attended the G7 summit in Hiroshima where India was a guest country, and visited Papua New Guinea where the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation summit was held.

- ➢ Apart from thousands of Indians settled in Australia, the event, which was held at Sydney's Qudos Bank Arena, was attended by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, several members of his Cabinet and Parliament. The PM and his Australian Counterpart addressed and interacted with a gathering of over 20,000 people.
- ➢ The two leaders also unveiled a plaque for the foundation stone of a 'Little India' gateway in Harris Park, in western Sydney.
- ➢ **Highlights of PM's Address:**
  - INDIA'S VISION for global governance is guided by the credo **"Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayaas",** Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, the diaspora at a public event in Sydney where he underlined **"mutual trust and respect"** as the defining characteristic of India's "deepening" ties with Australia.
  - **PM talks about 3 C's, 3 D's, 3 E's**
    - ✓ Addressing the Indian diaspora, PM Modi said, "Earlier, it was said that the relations between India and Australia is defined by **3 Cs – commonwealth, cricket, and curry.**
    - ✓ Then it was said that our relationship is defined by **3 D's – democracy, diaspora, and dosti**.
    - ✓ Some people also said that our relationship is based on **3 E's – energy, economy, and education.**
    - ✓ But our historic ties are much bigger than that. They are based on **mutual trust and mutual respect**.
    - ✓ that mutual trust and mutual respect is not an outcome of diplomatic ties, but its biggest reason and strength is you, every single Indian living in Australia and over 2.5 crore Australian citizens,"
  - **Renaming of the Sydney suburb**
    - ✓ PM Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese renamed the Sydney suburb as 'Little India'.
    - ✓ For this, PM Modi joined his Australian counterpart for the foundation stone laying ceremony of 'Little India' Gateway.
    - ✓ The Gateway is to be built in Harris Park, Parramatta, Sydney, inhabited by a large Indian community.
    - ✓ Harris Park is a hub in Western Sydney where the Indian community celebrates festivals and events such as Diwali and Australia Day.
  - While he steered clear of references to domestic politics, focussing on India's achievements in various fields from financial technology to agriculture instead, Modi did point out how his 2014 visit to Australia was the first by an Indian PM in 28 years.
  - From cricketing ties between the two nations, to references to the popular culinary show MasterChef, PM Modi underlined that despite the geographical distance between India and Australia, there is no dearth of platforms that connect them. The death of Australian cricket great Shane Warne plunged not just Australians, but crores of Indians into mourning as well.
  - Stating that India has stamped its status as a **"force of global good",** it is but natural that the world is increasingly curious about the country's steps and achievements. India is a **"living civilisation"** dating back thousands of years and the **"mother of democracy",** which has not wavered from its fundamentals despite being in step with the times.
  - India's decision to theme its G20 presidency along the lines of **"One Earth, One Family, One Future"** shows that it considers the world as a family, listing the country's Covid vaccine outreach programme which touched "over 100 nations", its efforts to encourage the use of solar energy for environment conservation, and the creation of disaster resilient infrastructure as some examples of that principle.

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- PM Said "India has always worked as a binding force by bringing different nations together. Recently, when an earthquake rocked Turkey, India extended its help through 'Operation Dost'. While considering its own interests, India factors in the interests of others. **Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayaas** is the foundation of our domestic governance. This is also our vision for global governance,"

- He further added that , the strategic partnership between India and Australia is "constantly deepening", adding that the two countries are working on a **comprehensive economic cooperation agreement** and building **resilient and reliable supply chains**. Bilateral trade is estimated to double in the next five years, adding that air connectivity will also be strengthened with the addition of more flights.

- PM also announced that India will soon open a consulate in Brisbane to fulfill a long-pending demand of the diaspora.

- PM said "India has the world's **largest talent factory and youth power**. India ran the **world's quickest Covid vaccination programme**. India is the world's **fastest growing large economy**. India is the **world's number one smartphone data consumer**. India is the **world's largest in milk production**. India is the **second largest mobile manufacturer**… The IMF recognises India as the **bright spot of the global economy**. The World Bank says if there is any country that is challenging global headwinds, that is India,"

➢ India and Australia are partners in the trilateral **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)** arrangement along with Japan which seeks to enhance the resilience of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific Region.

➢ Further, India and Australia are also members of the **QUAD grouping** (India, the US, Australia and Japan), also comprising the US, and Japan, to further enhance cooperation and develop partnership across several issues of common concern.

➢ **About India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA):**
  - In September 2021, Australia and India formally re-launched CECA negotiations with the intention of quickly concluding an Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) to swiftly liberalise and deepen bilateral trade in goods and services, and to then use this foundation to resume negotiations on the more ambitious CECA. ECTA was signed on 2 April 2022 and entered into force on 29 December 2022.
  - India is Australia's sixth largest trading partner with two-way trade in goods and services valued at $46.5 billion in 2022.
  - It is the first Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that India has signed with a major developed country in over a decade.
  - The Agreement encompasses cooperation across the entire gamut of bilateral economic and commercial relations between the two friendly countries, and covers areas like:
    ✓ Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin
    ✓ Trade in Services
    ✓ Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)
    ✓ Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures
    ✓ Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural Persons
    ✓ Telecom, Customs Procedures
    ✓ Pharmaceutical products, and Cooperation in other Areas
  - ECTA provides for an institutional mechanism to encourage and improve trade between the two countries.
  - The ECTA between India and Australia covers almost all the tariff lines dealt in by India and Australia respectively. India will benefit from preferential market access provided by Australia on 100% of its tariff lines. This includes all the labour-intensive sectors of export interest to India such as Gems and Jewellery, Textiles, leather, footwear, furniture etc.
  - On the other hand, India will be offering preferential access to Australia on over 70% of its tariff lines, including lines of export interest to Australia which are primarily raw materials and intermediaries such as coal, mineral ores and wines etc.
  - Under the agreement, Indian graduates from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) will be granted extended post-study work visas.
  - It is also estimated that 10 lakh jobs will be created as a result of ECTA.

➢ **Defence Cooperation:**
  - During PM Modi's visit to Australia in November 2014, both sides decided to extend defence cooperation to cover research, development and industry engagement.
  - Arrangement concerning Mutual Logistics Support (MLSA) and Implementing Arrangement concerning cooperation in Defence Science and Technology were concluded during the Virtual Summit held in June 2020.
  - India and Australia conduct their bilateral naval exercise 'AUSINDEX' since 2015.

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- In 2018, Indian Air Force participated for the first time in the Exercise Pitch Black in Australia.
- In October-November 2020, the Australian Navy participated in Malabar Exercises.

➢ **Repatriation of Indian Cultural Artifacts:**
- A number of artifacts have been successfully repatriated to India in recent years. They include:
  - ✓ Bronze Idol of Nataraja from Art Gallery of South Australia (AGSA) (2019),
  - ✓ Nagaraja stone sculpture (2020),
  - ✓ two Dwarpala stone sculptures (2020).

NATIONAL ISSUES

❖ **The missing Census and its consequences**

➢ **CONTEXT:** Last month, an annual report by the UN Population Fund revealed that India was all set to become the world's most populous country by the middle of this year. It estimated that India's population would be 1,428 million (or 142.8 crore) by that time, slightly ahead of China's population of 1,425 million.

➢ India would have had a far more accurate number for its population had the 2021 Census exercise been carried out. The 2021 Census had to be postponed because of the Covid pandemic, the first time in the 150-year history of India's census operations that the exercise was not completed on time. Curiously, the Census has been pending even after the end of the pandemic and the restoration of normalcy.

➢ As of now, there is no clarity on the timeline. The enumeration work — the actual counting of people — has traditionally been done in February of the Census year, and if the same practice is to be followed, the earliest it can now be done is in February next year.

➢ **Ten-year cycle**
- A Census is **Constitutionally mandated in India**. There are repeated references to the Census exercise in the Constitution in the context of reorganisation of constituencies for Parliament and state Assemblies. But the Constitution does not say when the Census has to be carried out, or what the frequency of this exercise should be. The Census of India Act of 1948, which provides the legal framework for carrying out the Census, also does not mention its timing or periodicity.
- There is, therefore, no Constitutional or legal requirement that a Census has to be done every 10 years. However, this exercise has been carried out in the first year of every decade, without fail, since 1881. Most other countries also follow the 10-year cycle for their Census. There are countries like Australia that do it every five years.
- It is not the legal requirement but the utility of the Census that has made it a permanent regular exercise. The Census produces primary, authentic data that becomes the backbone of every statistical enterprise, informing all planning, administrative and economic decision-making processes. It is the basis on which every social, economic and other indicator is built. Lack of reliable data – 12-year-old data on a constantly changing metric is not reliable – has the potential to upset every indicator on India, and affect the efficacy and efficiency of all kinds of developmental initiatives.

➢ **Census schedule**
- The Census is essentially a two-step process involving a house-listing and numbering exercise followed by the actual population enumeration. The house-listing and numbering takes place in the middle of the year prior to the Census year. The population enumeration, as mentioned earlier, happens in two to three weeks of February.
- The numbers revealed by the Census represent the population of India as on the stroke of midnight on March 1 in the Census year. To account for the births and deaths that might have happened during the enumeration period in February, the enumerators go back to the households in the first week of March to carry out revisions.
- There are several intermediate steps as well, and preparations for the Census usually begin three to four years in advance. The compilation and publication of the entire data also takes months to a few years.
- A bulk of the work for the 2021 Census was completed before Covid-19 hit the country. It was initially proposed to be an entirely digital exercise, with all the information being fed into a mobile app by the enumerators. However, owing to 'practical difficulties', it was later decided to conduct it in 'mix mode', using either the mobile app or the traditional paper forms.
- Covid struck in India in March 2020 while the housing census was to begin on April 1. Lockdown was imposed just a week before the housing census was to start.
- What has been inexplicable, however, is the failure to resume the Census exercise in 2023, if not in 2022 itself. Most normal activities had been restored by the middle of 2022 after the dwindling of the third wave of the pandemic.

➢ **Timeline still uncertain**
- Interestingly, many other countries have carried out their Census either during, or after, the pandemic. These include the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Of course, the Indian Census is a

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much bigger and incredibly more complex exercise. Close to 30 lakh enumerators have to make visits to an estimated 33 crore households to count nearly 140 crore people and collect a host of other demographic and economic data. Still, 2023 could have been an ideal time to conduct the Census and prevent further delays.

- Last week, the Census office released a detailed document on India's Census exercises since 1981 to mark the 150th year of its operations (it began working in 1871).
- The responsibility of conducting census : Register General & Census Commissioner of India, Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Covid-19 pandemic created the disruption in many aspects of life including the postponement of Census of India. But it is hoped that the experiences gained during the period in developing and innovating digital products in the Census organisation would go a long way in carrying the unfinished task of the 16th digital Population Census of India soon

POLITY

❖ **Govt's power to promulgate, repromulgate Ordinances — why and how**

➢ **CONTEXT:** On May 19, the central government promulgated an Ordinance that undid the unanimous verdict of a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, which on May 11 gave the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government of Delhi control over the transfer and posting of officials in the National Capital Territory (NCT), except with regard to public order, police, and land.

➢ The Ordinance promulgated by President Droupadi Murmu gave the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, who is appointed by the Centre, power over services, and established a "National Capital Civil Service Authority" comprising the Chief Minister and two senior IAS officials, which would decide matters "by majority of votes of the members present and voting" — essentially creating a situation in which the view of the elected CM could potentially be overruled.

➢ **Ordinance in Constitution:**
   - **Under Article 123 of the Constitution** ("Power of President to promulgate Ordinances during recess of Parliament"), "if at any time, except when both Houses of Parliament are in session, the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action, he may promulgate such Ordinances as the circumstances appear to him to require."
   - An Ordinance **"shall have the same force and effect as an Act of Parliament".** But the government is required to bring an Ordinance before Parliament for ratification — and failure to do so will lead to its lapsing **"at the expiration of six weeks from the reassembly of Parliament".**
   - The Ordinance may lapse earlier if the President withdraws it — or if both Houses pass resolutions disapproving it. (Rejection of an Ordinance would, however, imply the government has lost majority.)
   - Also, if an Ordinance makes a law that Parliament is not competent to enact under the Constitution, it shall be considered void.
   - Since the President acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers, it is in effect the government that decides to bring the Ordinance. The President may return the recommendation of the Cabinet once if she feels it warrants reconsideration; if it is sent back (with or without reconsideration), she has to promulgate it.
   - **Article 213 deals** with the broadly analogous powers of the Governor to promulgate/ withdraw an Ordinance when the state legislature is not in session.
   - **An Ordinance is valid for six weeks, or 42 days, from the date on which the next session starts**. If the two Houses start their sessions on different dates, the later date will be considered, say the explanations in Articles 123 and 213.
   - Maximum duration of an ordinance issued by President of India can be 6 months & 6 weeks (In case of non-approval by the Parliament).

➢ **Repromulgation of Ordinance:**
   - If, for whatever reason, an Ordinance lapses, the only option for the government is to reissue or repromulgate it.
   - In 2017, the Supreme Court examined a case where the state of Bihar re-promulgated an Ordinance several times without placing it before the legislature**. (Krishna Kumar Singh and Another v. State of Bihar)**
   - A seven-judge Bench of the court, which included now Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud, reiterated that legislation should normally be done by the legislature, and **the Governor's power to issue an Ordinance is in the nature of an emergency power.**
   - The court clarified that there might be circumstances permitting the re-promulgation of an Ordinance — however, it said, repeated re-promulgations without bringing the Ordinance to the legislature would usurp the legislature's function, and will be unconstitutional.

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- The court declared the actions in that case to be **"a fraud on constitutional power",** and said that the Ordinances were repromulgated in violation of the SC judgment in Dr D C Wadhwa and Ors v. State of Bihar and Ors (1986).
- In D C Wadhwa, a challenge was mounted against the power of the Governor to repromulgate various Ordinances in Bihar, after 256 Ordinances were promulgated between 1967 and 1981, out of which 69 were repromulgated several times and kept alive with the permission of the President.
- A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court headed by then CJI P N Bhagwati held **that "an Ordinance promulgated by the Governor to meet an emergent situation shall cease to be in operation at the expiration of six weeks from the reassembly of the Legislature."**
- If the government wishes for the Ordinance to continue in force beyond the six-week period, it "has to go before the Legislature", which is the constitutional authority entrusted with law-making functions.
- The court also said that it would "most certainly be a colourable exercise of power for the Government to ignore the Legislature" and "repromulgate the Ordinance" while continuing to regulate the life and liberty of its citizens through Executive-made Ordinances.

PRELIMS

1. Operation Dhvast
➢ **IN NEWS:** Under Operation Dhvast, National Investigation Agency (NIA) recently arrested three in multi-state raids.
- The massive crackdown — codenamed 'Operation Dhvast' — had seen simultaneous, day-long raids by NIA, Punjab police and Haryana Police at 324 locations across Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan etc.
- The NIA has arrested three persons in connection with the multi-state raids conducted on in three cases relating to the nexus among terrorists, gangsters and drug dealers.
- The nexus has been linked to targeted killings, extortion and terror funding of pro-Khalistan outfits with earnings from smuggling of drugs and weapons.
- NIA investigations have so far revealed that conspiracies were being hatched in jails of different states and executed by an organized network of operatives based abroad.

2. National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)
➢ **IN NEWS:** Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is going to organize Two-day National Workshop on National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)
The focus of this workshop is to encourage all State/UT Legislatures to move towards NeVA platform and bring in transparency, accountability and responsiveness in their conduct of House business, through the use of technology.
➢ **About National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA):**
- National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) is one of the 44 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) under the "Digital India Programme" of Government of India which aims to make the functioning of all the State Legislatures paperless by transforming them into 'Digital House'.
- **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MPA)** is the "Nodal Ministry" for its implementation.
- e-Vidhan/e-Sansad have been re-designated as National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in all the 37 State/UT Legislatures and the 2 Houses of Parliament viz. Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha supported by National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- The objective of the National e-Vidhan Application is the electronic flow of information, electronic laying of documents on the Table of the House and electronic information exchange among all the stakeholders to create a paperless legislature in the country.

3. PARAKH
➢ **IN NEWS:** A workshop organised by the Ministry of Education aims to bring together the 60 school examination boards operating in various Indian states and Union territories under one umbrella. PARAKH, under the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is the main component of this plan, envisioned as the National Assessment Centre.
➢ Significance:
✓ To establish a coherent framework to ensure smooth transitions for students moving between boards or regions.
✓ This will involve harmonising curriculum, grading, and evaluation procedures to enhance the reliability and credibility of certificates and grades obtained.
✓ Unification also aims to address the prevailing rote examination culture and promote holistic assessments that encompass various dimensions of a student's abilities and potential.
➢ **About PARAKH:**

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✓ The PARAKH stands for The **Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development.**
✓ PARAKH has been launched as part of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 that envisaged a standard-setting body to advise school boards regarding new assessment patterns and latest research, and promote collaborations between them.
✓ It will be tasked with holding periodic learning outcomes tests like the National Achievement Survey (NAS) and State Achievement Surveys.

4. INS Sindhuratna

➢ **IN NEWS:** Recently, The Navy's INS Sindhuratna which underwent a major upgrade in Russia reached Mumbai after sailing for 97 days and almost 10,000 miles.

➢ **About INS Sindhuratna:**
  • INS Sindhuratna had gone for an upgrade in Severodvinsk, Russia after a major accident in February 2014.
  • INS Sindhuratna is a Russian Type 877EKM diesel-electric submarine also popularly called a NATO-defined Kilo-class sub.
  • Eight of the Navy's diesel-electric submarines are Kilo class or Sindhughosh class from Russia (and the former USSR), sourced between 1984 and 2000 and INS Sindhuratna is among the oldest Kilo-class submarines in the fleet.
  • It was commissioned into the Indian Navy in December 1988.

5. ISO Committee on Consumer Policy (COPOLCO)

➢ **IN NEWS:** India is hosting the 44th edition of the coveted annual ISO COPOLCO Plenary from 23-26 May 2023 in New Delhi.
  • This event is being organized by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the national standards body of India.
  • It is anticipated that the ISO COPOLCO Plenary is an event that has a significant impact on the global economy and on the lives of people.
  • ISO COPOLCO is reckoned as the major international event that brings together representatives from ISO member countries to discuss and develop strategies for accelerating the development of standards for the world.

➢ **About the Committee on Consumer Policy:**
  • It is a committee of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) responsible for promoting consumer interests in the standardization process and for ensuring that standards are developed with the needs of consumers in mind.
  • COPOLCO members are ISO members.
  • Objectives:
    ✓ To study means of helping consumers to benefit from standardization, and means of improving consumer participation in national and international standardization.
    ✓ To provide a forum for the exchange of information on the experience of consumer participation in the development and implementation of standards in the consumer field.
    ✓ To advise ISO Council as to the consolidated viewpoints of consumers on matters relevant to ISO's current and potential standardization and conformity assessment work.
    ✓ To advise ISO Council on the need for new or revised policies or actions within ISO as they relate to consumers' needs.

➢ **About International Standards Organisation (ISO):**
  • ISO is an independent, non-governmental international organization made up of members from the national standards bodies of 168 countries.
  • Central Secretariat is in Geneva, Switzerland.
  • India is one of the founding members of ISO.
  • It develops standards for the world impacting a diverse range of business and social sectors.

ANSWER WRITTING

Q. Discuss the salient features of the National Quantum Mission. What potential uses does Quantum Technology have in various areas?

The government approved a National Quantum Mission (NQM) with an allocation of Rs 6000 crores. The mission will mainly work towards strengthening India's research and development in the quantum arena alongside indigenously building quantum-based computers. Quantum computing is an area of computer science that uses the principles of quantum theory, which explains the behaviour of energy and material on the atomic and subatomic levels. These qubit computers are more powerful to perform the most complex problems in a highly secure manner.

Salient features of National Quantum Mission:

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- Quantum communication: The mission will look at the development of satellite-based secure communications between a ground station and a receiver located within 3,000 km during the first three years.
- For satellite-based communication within Indian cities, the mission will lay communication lines using Quantum Key Distribution for over 2,000 km.
- Developing Quantum computers: The mission will focus on developing quantum computers (qubit) with physical qubit capacities ranging between 50 and 1,000 qubits developed over the next eight years.
- Setting up of Thematic hubs: Four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) will be set up in top academic and National R&D institutes in the domains: Quantum Computing, Quantum Communication, Quantum Sensing & Metrology and Quantum Materials & Devices.
- Development of magnetometers: The mission will help develop magnetometers with high sensitivity in atomic systems and atomic clocks for precision timing, communications and navigation.
- Developing other quantum materials: It will also support the design and synthesis of quantum materials, such as superconductors, novel semiconductor structures and topological materials for the fabrication of quantum devices.
- The mission is planned for an eight-year period from 2023 to 2031 and will be implemented by the Department of Science and Technology.

Potential application of Quantum Technologies in various areas:

- Cybersecurity: Quantum technology offers enormous potential for secure and un-hackable communication lines. Using quantum technology, single-photon emitters and detectors can be developed which may aid in averting cyberattacks that damage the country's critical infrastructure.
- Communication and cryptography: The most intriguing use of quantum cryptography is in securing information routes against eavesdropping. For e.g.: quantum key distribution (QKD) is the most well-known and developed application of quantum cryptography.
- Disaster management: Quantum applications could help in better prediction of tsunamis, droughts, earthquakes and floods. Further, quantum sensing is precise quantum hardware that can be used to sense earthquakes and other geological events.
- Health sector: Quantum Machine Learning can be leveraged for drug discovery and chemical simulations. It can also be applied for early, accurate, and efficient diagnosis of diseases and in the field of genome sequencing.
- Energy sector: In the energy industry, quantum computing could prove valuable to reduce costs and risks, run powerful simulations, and help curb emissions.
- Quantum computing and Artificial Intelligence (AI): The vast amounts of data processed by AI systems require enormous computational power. Quantum computers have the potential to provide that power and thus enable AI to reach its full potential.

Therefore, NQM can take the technology development ecosystem in the country to a globally competitive level. The mission would greatly benefit the communication, health, financial and energy sectors. It will also provide a huge boost to National priorities like digital India, make in India, Skill India, Stand-up India, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

MCQs

1. With reference to the 'PARAKH', consider the following statements:
   1. It was launched as part of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020.
   2. It has been set up as an organisation under the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

   Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Consider the following statements:
   1. INS Sindhuratna is a Sindhughosh-class diesel-electric submarine of the Indian Navy.
   2. India has 15 conventional diesel-electric submarines.

   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

3. National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) is in News Recently. Consider the following statement regarding NeVA.
   1. The objective of the National e-Vidhan Application is the electronic flow of information, electronic laying of documents on the Table of the House and electronic information exchange among all the stakeholders to create a paperless legislature in the country.

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2.   Ministry of Paliamentary Affairs is the Nodal Ministry for its implementation.
Select the correct statement using the codes below
a) 1 only   b) 2 only   **c) Both 1 & 2**   d) Neither 1 nor 2

4.   Consider the following statement with reference to World Turtle Day.
   1.   World Turtle Day is observed on May 23 every year by IUCN.
   2.   Theme for World Turtle Day 2023 is 'I Love Turtles,'
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

5.   Recently two Indians Ganemat Sekhon and Darshna Rathore create history by winning medal in which of the following sports ?
   a)   Wrestling
   b)   Shooting
   c)   Chess
   d)   Badminton

6.   76th World Health Assembly(WHA) held recently ,Consider the following statement regarding WHA
   1.   World Health Assembly (WHA) is WHO's decision-making body attended by delegations from all of WHO's member states,
   2.   It is held yearly at UN Headquarter.
Select the correct statement using the codes below
a) 1 only   b) 2 only   c) Both 1 & 2   d) Neither 1 nor 2

7.   Recently e-Malkhana is in news, it is related to which of the following state police forces?
   a)   Telengana
   b)   Uttar Pradesh
   c)   Andhra Pradesh
   d)   Mumbai

8.   Recently, the first-ever sighting of the elusive Barkudia limbless skink has been reported within the Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary. It is located in which of the following states?
   a)   Himachal Pradesh
   b)   Assam
   c)   Arunachal Pradesh
   d)   Andhra Pradesh

9.   Recently ISO Committee on Consumer Policy (COPOLCO) is in news. Consider the following statement with reference to this.
   1.   It is a committee of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) responsible for promoting consumer interests in the standardization process and for ensuring that standards are developed with the needs of consumers in mind.
   2.   India is one of the founding members of ISO.
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. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is all set to launch the navigation satellite 'NVS-01' onboard its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
Consider the following statement regarding NVS-01
   1.   It is the first in the series of second-generation navigation satellites built by ISRO's UR Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru.
   2.   For the first time, an indigenous atomic clock will be flown in NVS-01.
   3.   At present, India uses its Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) series of satellites for civilian and defence navigation in the Indian mainland and even 1500 kms beyond India's borders.
Select the correct statements using the codes below.
   a)   1 & 2 only
   b)   2 & 3 only
   c)   1 & 3 only
   d)   1, 2 and 3