DATE: 06.11.2026

1) Consider the following statements regarding the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Indian Parliament:
   1. The term of office of the members elected to the Committee is not exceeding one year at a time.
   2. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) acts as a guide, friend, and philosopher of the Committee during its examination of public expenditure.
   3. The recommendations of the Committee are binding upon the government, and any non-acceptance requires a formal resolution passed in Parliament.

   How many of the statements given above are correct?
   (a) Only one
   (b) Only two
   (c) All three
   (d) None

2) With reference to the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) in India, consider the following statements:
   1. The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Law and Justice following the directions of the Supreme Court of India.
   2. The scheme aims to ensure the time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases relating to offences under the POCSO Act, 2012.
   3. The Central share of financial assistance for the scheme is drawn from the dedicated, non-lapsable Nirbhaya Fund.

   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

3) With reference to the Malabar Tree Toad (Pedostibes tuberculosus), consider the following statements:
   1. It is an endangered amphibian species endemic exclusively to the wet evergreen forests of the Western Ghats.
   2. Unlike most toads, it is arboreal in nature and is commonly found on trees and in tree cavities.
   3. It is primarily a ground-dwelling species found in fast-flowing rivers throughout the year.

   Which of the statements given above is/are ***incorrect***?
   (a) 1 and 3 only
   (b) 2 and 3 only
   (c) 1 and 2 only
   (d) 1, 2 and 3

4) With reference to the Pralay missile, consider the following statements:
   1. It is an indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile.
   2. It follows a quasi-ballistic trajectory.

3. It is powered by a liquid-fuel propulsion system.
4. It is capable of carrying multiple types of warheads.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5) What is the primary objective of the Anubhav Platform?

(a) To provide financial assistance to retired government employees through direct benefit transfers.
(b) To facilitate recruitment of retired civil servants into government departments.
(c) To monitor the performance of serving government employees through digital assessment
(d) To create an institutional knowledge repository by documenting the experiences and achievements of retiring government employees.

Explanation

1) Answer: (B)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The members of the Public Accounts Committee are elected by Parliament from amongst its members for a term of **not exceeding one year**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The CAG assists the PAC in its examination of accounts. By attending its meetings and scrutinizing the reports, the CAG acts as a **guide, friend, and philosopher** to the Committee.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The recommendations of the PAC are **advisory, not binding**, in nature. It highlights financial irregularities and lapses, and the government is expected to submit an Action Taken Report (ATR) explaining the steps taken or proposed, but the committee's findings do not carry statutory or binding executive force.
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

2) Answer: (D)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for establishing Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) was launched in October 2019 by the **Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice**, following the directions of the Supreme Court of India in Suo Motu Writ (Criminal) No. 1/2019.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** FTSCs aim to **ensure the time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases** relating to rape and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The scheme **also provides for exclusive POCSO Courts (ePOCSO Courts).**
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Central Government's share of financial assistance is drawn from the dedicated, **non-lapsable Nirbhaya Fund**, which was established to support initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security of women.
- Hence, all three statements are correct.
- **Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**

3) Answer: (A)

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Malabar Tree Toad (Pedostibes tuberculosus) is **endemic to the Western Ghats of India**. However, its latest IUCN Red List assessment (2020 assessment, published in 2023) classifies it as **Least Concern (LC)**, not Endangered. Further, it occurs in evergreen to moist deciduous forests and is not restricted exclusively to wet evergreen forests.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Malabar Tree Toad has an arboreal habit, unlike most ground-dwelling toads. It is commonly found on trees and in tree cavities, particularly along forest streams.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The species is not primarily ground-dwelling. It is largely arboreal and uses streamside habitats for reproduction. Its breeding activity is associated with the monsoon, rather than remaining in fast-flowing rivers throughout the year.
- Hence, statements 1 and 3 only are incorrect.
- **Therefore, option A is the correct answer**

4) Answer: (D)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Pralay is a short-range, **surface-to-surface tactical ballistic missile** developed **indigenously by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It employs a **quasi-ballistic trajectory**, meaning it flies at a lower altitude than traditional ballistic missiles and possesses mid-flight maneuverability to evade enemy air defense interceptors.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It is powered by a **solid-propellant rocket motor** (using a two-stage solid rocket system), not a liquid-fuel propulsion system. Solid fuel allows for quick launch readiness and easier transport.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** It is designed to carry **multiple types of conventional warheads**, allowing it to adapt to various tactical mission profiles such as destroying hardened bunkers or communication hubs.
- Therefore, **option D** is the correct answer.

5) Answer: (D)

- The objective is **to encourage retiring civil servants to document their achievements, successful governance models, and field experiences.**
- The Anubhav Portal was launched by the **Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW)**, Government of India,
- By logging these reflections, **the government builds a permanent "knowledge bank"** of administrative insights that serves as a learning resource to improve future public service delivery and administrative processes.
- Therefore, **option D** is the correct answer.