DATE: 16.11.2026

1) Consider the following statements regarding the Hague Service Convention, 1965:
   1. It standardizes cross-border service of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil and commercial matters.
   2. It provides for transmission through designated Central Authorities, subject to permitted alternative channels.
   3. India permits direct postal and email service by foreign private litigants without routing through its Central Authority.

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

2) Consider the following statements with regard to the Press Trust of India (PTI):
   1. PTI is a statutory body established under the Press Council Act, 1978, to regulate print media in India.
   2. It is a not-for-profit news cooperative owned by a group of Indian newspapers.
   3. It provides news coverage to newspapers, television channels and other media organisations.
   4. It is responsible for regulating and licensing newspapers in India.

   Select the answer using the code given below:
   (a) 1 and 2 only
   (b) 2 and 3 only
   (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
   (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

3) With reference to the Blue Flag Certification, consider the following statements:
   1. It is an international eco-label awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable tourism boats.
   2. The certification is granted by the Foundation for Environmental Education, Denmark.
   3. A certified beach must meet 33 criteria grouped under environmental education, bathing-water quality, environmental management, and safety and services.

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

4) With reference to the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar, consider the following statements:
   1. It is awarded to individuals for outstanding achievements in international sporting events.
   2. Corporate bodies, public sector undertakings, NGOs and educational institutions are eligible for the award.

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) The '100 Drums Wangala Festival', also known as the Festival of 100 Drums, is a major harvest festival celebrated by which of the following states?

(a) Nagaland
(b) Meghalaya
(c) Mizoram
(d) Tripura

Explanation

1) Answer: (B)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Hague Service Convention of 1965 standardizes the cross-border service of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil and commercial matters.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It establishes a primary system of transmission through designated Central Authorities in each contracting state, while allowing for specific alternative channels (subject to state reservations).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** India has explicitly rejected and objected to alternative service methods under Article 10 of the Convention—including postal service, email, and direct service by private litigants—requiring all service requests to go exclusively through its designated Central Authority (the Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Legal Affairs).
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

2) Answer: (B)

- The Press Trust of India (PTI) is not a statutory body established under the Press Council Act, 1978. It is an independent, not-for-profit news agency. The Press Council of India is the statutory body established under the Act to preserve press freedom and maintain standards of newspapers and news agencies. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- PTI is a not-for-profit news cooperative owned by a group of Indian newspapers. It operates as an independent news agency rather than as a government-owned organisation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- PTI gathers, processes and distributes news to various media organisations, including newspapers, television channels and other subscribers. Its services cover national and international news, photographs and other media content. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- PTI does not regulate or issue licences to newspapers in India. Its primary function is news gathering and distribution. Press regulation and related statutory functions are handled by other institutions, including the Press Council of India within its jurisdiction. **Hence, statement 4 is incorrect.**
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

3) **Answer: (D)**
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Blue Flag is a globally recognized voluntary eco-label awarded to three distinct categories: **beaches, marinas, and sustainable tourism boats** that meet strict environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility standards.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The programme is operated by the **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)**, an international non-governmental, non-profit organization headquartered in **Copenhagen, Denmark** (the original concept also originated in France in 1985 before becoming an FEE programme).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** To qualify for Blue Flag certification, a beach must comply with **33 stringent criteria** categorized under four major heads:
  1. Environmental Education and Information
  2. Bathing Water Quality
  3. Environmental Management
  4. Safety and Services
- **Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**

4) **Answer: (B)**
- **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar** is a national sports award given by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** to recognise institutions and organisations that have contributed to the **promotion and development of sports in India**.
- It is different from awards like the **Arjuna Award** or **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna**, which are given to individual sportspersons. Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar is mainly for organisations, institutions, corporates, NGOs, sports bodies and other entities that support sports development.

Objective and Eligibility
- The award was introduced to encourage non-government and institutional participation in sports promotion.
- It is given to entities that have played a visible role in areas such as talent identification, sports infrastructure, athlete welfare, corporate support and sports-based development.

Eligible entities include:
- corporate bodies
- public sector undertakings
- private sector organisations
- NGOs
- sports control boards
- educational institutions
- sports bodies at state or national level
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

5) **Answer: (B)**
- The **Wangala Festival**, also known as the **Festival of 100 Drums**, is the most prominent post-harvest thanksgiving festival of the **Garo (A'chik) tribe of Meghalaya**. It is celebrated to honour **Misi Saljong (the Sun God)** for agricultural fertility and marks the end of the harvest season and the onset of winter.

Key Features:

- **Region:** Primarily celebrated across the **Garo Hills of Meghalaya**, particularly at Wangala A'dam (Garo Heritage Village), Chibragre, near Tura.
- **Traditional Music:** Features rhythmic performances using traditional **Dama (wooden drums)**, brass gongs (Rang) and buffalo-horn flutes (Adil).
- **Sacred Rituals:** Begins with **Rugala**, involving offerings of rice and rice beer to Misi Saljong, followed by **Cha'chat So'a**, the ceremonial burning of incense.
- **Traditional Attire:** Participants wear colourful **Dakmanda and Gando garments**, along with feather-adorned **Do'me headgear**.
- **Wangala Dance:** Men perform rhythmic drumming while women participate in synchronised dances depicting agricultural activities and expressing gratitude for a bountiful harvest.
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**