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1. Which of the following statements are correct about the GNCTD Amendment Act 2021?

1. It changes the number of members of the legislative assembly of Delhi.
2. It clarifies that the term 'government' in law with reference to Delhi means the Council of Ministers headed by CM
3. It renders void legislative committees made on administrative issues

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021 modifies the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991.
- The Amendment Act clarifies that the expression "Government" in the context of legislation to be passed by the Legislative Assembly of Delhi to "mean the Lieutenant Governor" as consistent with the status of Delhi as a Union Territory.
- The amendment prohibits the Legislative Assembly from making any rule to enable itself or its Committees to:
 - ✓ consider the matters of day-to-day administration of the NCT of Delhi and
 - ✓ conduct any inquiry in relation to administrative decisions.

Further, the amendment provides that all such rules and committees made before its enactment will be void.

2. Which of the following is correct about the electoral bonds scheme?

1. The Electoral bonds" as interest-free bearer instruments that will be available for purchase from the State Bank of India within a designated window of 10 days in every quarter of the financial year.
2. It allows individuals and domestic companies to present these bonds – issued in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore – to political parties of their choice.
3. The beneficiary political party is not required to reveal the identity of the entity that has given it the bond(s) nor do buyers have to fulfil KYC details.

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

- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the Above

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Finance Bill, 2017 introduced “Electoral bonds” as interest-free bearer instruments (like Promissory Notes) that will be available for purchase from the State Bank of India within a designated window of 10 days in every quarter of the financial year.
- The scheme, which was notified on January 2, 2018, allows individuals and domestic companies to present these bonds – issued in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore – to political parties of their choice, which have to redeem them within 15 days.
- There is no limit on the number of bonds an individual or company can purchase. SBI deposits bonds that a political party hasn’t encashed within 15 days into the Prime Minister’s Relief Fund.
- Buyers of the bonds have to submit full KYC details at the time of buying. But the beneficiary political party is not required to reveal the identity of the entity that has given it the bond(s).
- Before the introduction of electoral bonds, political parties had to disclose details of all its donors, who have donated more than Rs 20,000. According to transparency activists, the change infringes the citizen’s ‘Right to Know’ and makes the political class even more unaccountable.

3. Which of the following are correct with respect to the Bihar Police Bill?

- 1. The Bill renames the Bihar Military Police as the Bihar Special Armed Police, and gives the force more teeth, on the lines of the Central Industrial Security Force.**
 - 2. The Bill allows the Special Armed Police officers to carry out searches and arrests without a warrant for security of notified premises only.**
- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- According to the Bihar government's press statement on the legislation, it "aims to develop the Bihar Military Police into a well-trained and fully equipped armed police force with multi-domain expertise to cater to the development needs and the larger interest of the state."
- The new Bill renames the Bihar Military Police as the Bihar Special Armed Police, and gives the force more teeth, on the lines of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), so it can better secure the commercial and industrial assets of the state.
- The press statement says the mandate of the force will be the "maintenance of public order, combating extremism, ensuring the better protection and security of specified establishments in such manner as may be notified and perform such other duties, as may be notified."
- The Bill allows the Special Armed Police officers to carry out searches and arrests without a warrant. This is on par with CISF, which can arrest people, including on suspicion, "without any order from a magistrate and without a warrant", according to The Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968.
- The powers of search and arrest without warrant are already available to the district police (in their jurisdiction) in all states as per provisions of section 41, 165 etc. of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.
- This Act however gives such powers of search and arrest without warrant to the Special Armed Police Officers only for the purposes of security of notified premises." The government statement also adds that provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 relating to searches will apply under the new legislation, ensuring that the "rights of citizens remain fully protected."

4. Which of the following are correct about the anti-defection law in India?

- 1. The law specifies that within six months of being nominated to the House, they can choose to join a political party, after which joining any party will lead to disqualification due to defection.**
- 2. For defection, the changing a party or joining another does not have to be a formal act but can also be interpreted through an MP's actions, on a case-by-case basis.**

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- In 1985 the Tenth Schedule, popularly known as the anti-defection law, was added to the Constitution. The law specifies the circumstances under which changing of political parties by MPs invite action under the law.
 - The law covers three types of scenarios with respect to an MP switching parties. The first is when a member elected on the ticket of a political party “voluntarily gives up” membership of such a party or votes in the House contrary to the wishes of the party.
 - The second possibility is when an MP who has won his or her seat as an independent candidate after the election joins a political party. In both these instances, the MP lose the seat in the House on changing (or joining) a party.
 - The third scenario relates to nominated MPs. In their case, the law specifies that within six months of being nominated to the House, they can choose to join a political party.
 - The time is given so that if a nominated MP is not a member of a political party, they can decide to join one if they want. But if they don’t join a political party during the first six months of their tenure, and join a party thereafter, then they lose their seat in Parliament.
 - In 2021, nominated MP Swapan Dasgupta resigned from Rajya Sabha after he was fielded as BJP candidate for Tarakeswar constituency in the West Bengal Assembly elections.
5. Which of the following is correct with respect to Original Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India?
1. It includes any dispute between the Indian Government and one or more States, between the Indian Government and one or more States on one side and one or more States on the other side or between two or more States.
 2. Article 32 of the Constitution provides original jurisdiction to the SC for matters regarding the enforcement of Fundamental Rights.
 3. The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 gives SC the authority to initiate international commercial arbitration which is also its original jurisdiction.
- A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- Original jurisdiction of a court refers to a matter for which the particular court is approached first. In the case of the Supreme Court in India, its original jurisdiction is covered under Article 131. It involves the following cases:

- ✓ Any dispute between the Indian Government and one or more States, between the Indian Government and one or more States on one side and one or more States on the other sides or between two or more States.
- ✓ Article 32 of the Constitution provides original jurisdiction to the SC for matters regarding the enforcement of Fundamental Rights. The SC can issue writs, directions, or orders including writs in the nature of mandamus, habeas corpus, quo warranto, prohibition and certiorari.
- ✓ The SC also has the power to direct the transfer of a criminal or civil case from the High Court in one State to the High Court in another State. It can also transfer cases from one subordinate court to another State High Court.
- ✓ If the SC deems that cases involving the same questions of law are pending before it and one or more High Courts, and that these are significant questions of law, it can withdraw the cases before the High Court or Courts and dispose off all these cases itself.
- ✓ The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 gives SC the authority to initiate international commercial arbitration.

6. Which of the following statements are correct about tribal areas in India?

- 1. Schedule VI provides for creation of autonomous states for administration of tribal areas in states of Assam, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya.**
- 2. Schedule areas under inheritance, collect land VI allows for autonomy with regard to laws in respect of their jurisdiction, which cover the land, forest, cultivation, indigenous customs and traditions of tribals, etc. and also to revenues and certain other taxes.**

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Sixth Schedule was originally intended for the predominantly tribal areas (tribal population over 90%) of undivided Assam, which was categorised as “excluded areas” under the Government of India Act, 1935 and was under the direct control of the Governor.
- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram to safeguard the rights of the tribal population in these states.

- ✓ This special provision is provided under Article 244(2) and Article 275(1) of the Constitution. The
- ✓ Sixth Schedule provides for autonomy in the administration of these areas through Autonomous District Councils (ADCs).
- ✓ Article 244 (A) empowers Parliament to enact a law for constituting an autonomous State within the State of Assam and also to provide the autonomous State with Legislature or a Council of Ministers or both with such powers and functions as may be defined by that law.
- These councils are empowered to make laws in respect of areas under their jurisdiction, which cover the land, forest, cultivation, inheritance, indigenous customs and traditions of tribals, etc. and also to collect land revenues and certain other taxes. ADCs have specific powers and responsibilities in respect of all the three arms of governance: Legislature, executive and judiciary.

7. Which of the following is correct about PMSVANidhi Scheme?

- 1. It is a microcredit facility plan to provide affordable loans to street vendors.**
 - 2. The Scheme is under the aegis of Ministry of Finance and implemented by the Small Industries Development Bank of India- SIDBI**
 - 3. The scheme is applicable to hawkers, vendors, rehriwalas, liphadwalas etc in urban areas, including those belonging to the surrounding peri-urban and rural areas.**
- A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. All of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs launched a scheme PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) to empower Street Vendors by not only extending loans to them, but also for their holistic development and economic upliftment.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will be the implementation partner of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for scheme administration. SIDBI will leverage the network of lending Institutions including the SCBs, RRBs, SFBs, Cooperative Banks, NBFCs & MFIs for scheme implementation.

- The scheme intends to facilitate collateral free working capital loans of up to INR10,000/- of one-year tenure, to approximately 50 lakh street vendors, to help resume their businesses in the urban areas, including surrounding peri-urban/rural areas.

8. Which of the following statements are correct about the Military Farm Services?

- 1. Military Farms were established in 1889 at Allahabad by the British with the**
 - 2. aim to ensure nutritious milk supply to the troops deployed in India.**
 - 3. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Military Farms undertook 'Project Frieswal' one of the largest cross-cattle breeding programmes in the country**
 - 4. In 2021 the Indian Army closed the Military Farms Service which administered the 130 military farms all across the country due to proliferation of dairy business in the country**
- A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. All of the Above

Answer: D

Explanation

- The first Military Farm was established in 1889 at Allahabad by the British. The basic aim with which these farms were subsequently set up across the length and breadth of the country was to ensure nutritious milk supply to the troops deployed in India.
- Gradually, the role of Military Farms had expanded from only milk production to artificial insemination of cows too and the first pioneering steps in this regard were taken as early as in 1925. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Military Farms undertook 'Project Frieswal' one of the largest cross-cattle breeding programmes in the country.
- The project was launched by Military Farms in collaboration with the ICAR and the aim was to develop milch cattle by cross-breeding which would suit the tropical climate of countries like India. According to the Indian Army, its aim was "to produce and rear Holstein Friesian cross breed with Sahiwal breed for high milk productivity".
- It was in June 2013 that the Quarter Master General's branch of the Army Headquarters, under which Military Farms fell, issued a direction that the farms will be closed in a phased manner. The proliferation of dairy business in the country had ensured that fresh milk could be procured in every corner of the country and there was no longer any forced dependence on Military Farms. In 2016, a committee under Lt Gen DB Shekatkar (retd) submitted a report on reorganisation of several branches of the Army in which it was recommended that the Military Farms be closed down.

- In April 2021, the Indian Army formally closed the Military Farms Service which administered the 130 military farms all across the country.

9. Consider the following statements about the Code of Ethics for digital media:

- 1. OTT platforms, also called the publishers of online curated content will be follow Cable Television Networks Regulation Act that will classify its content**
 - 2. The publishers of news on digital media would be required to observe Norms of Journalistic Conduct of the Press Council of India and the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act 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

- This Code of Ethics prescribes the guidelines to be followed by OTT platforms and online news and digital media entities that will be administered by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- To start with, OTT platforms, also called the publishers of online curated content in the rules, would have to self-classify the content into five age-based categories- U (Universal), U/A 7+, U/A 13+, U/A 16+, and A (Adult). Platforms would be required to implement parental locks for content classified as U/A 13+ or higher, and reliable age verification mechanisms for content classified as "A".
- On the other hand, publishers of news on digital media would be required to observe Norms of Journalistic Conduct of the Press Council of India and the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act thereby providing a level playing field between the offline (Print, TV) and digital media.

10. Which of the following statements are correct about RTI?

- 1. Right to Information is a statutory and not fundamental right in India**
- 2. Under the provisions of RTI Act, any citizen of India may request information from a "public authority" which is required to reply expeditiously or within thirty days**
- 3. In case of matter involving a petitioner's life and liberty, the information has to be provided within 48 hours**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- Right to Information (RTI) is an act of the Parliament of India which sets out the rules and procedures regarding citizens' right to information. The RTI Bill was passed by Parliament of India on 15 June 2005 and came into force with effect from 12 October 2005. The right to information has been recognised as a fundamental right under Part III of the Constitution by the Supreme Court (Subhash Chandra Agarwal case 2010) under Article 19 (1) of freedom of speech and expression.
- Under the provisions of RTI Act, any citizen of India may request information from a "public authority" (a body of Government or "instrumentality of State") which is required to reply expeditiously or within thirty days. In case of matter involving a petitioner's life and liberty, the information has to be provided within 48 hours.
- The Act also requires every public authority to computerize their records for wide dissemination and to proactively publish certain categories of information so that the citizens need minimum recourse to request for information formally. A PIO can refuse information on 11 subjects that are listed in section 8 of the RTI Act. These include information received in confidence from foreign governments, information prejudicial to security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the country, breach of privilege of legislatures, etc.

11. Which of the following statements are correct about Tribunals in India?

1. The Constitutional originally did not contain provisions pertaining to tribunals and they were added later by the 44th Amendment act.
2. Article 323 A empowers the Parliament to provide for the establishment of administrative tribunals to adjudicate disputes regarding service conditions of both central and state public services.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals. The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution. This part is entitled as 'Tribunals' and consists of only two Articles – Article 323 A dealing with administrative tribunals and Article 323 B dealing with tribunals for other matters
- Article 323 A empowers the Parliament to provide for the establishment of administrative tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services of the Centre, the states, local bodies, public corporations and other public authorities.

12. Which of the following is correct about the appointment process of Chief Justice of India?

- 1. The Constitution of India does not have any specific provision for criteria and procedure for appointing the CJI**
- 2. With respect to the appointment of CJI, the the government cannot send the recommendation of the CJI (or the collegium) back to them for reconsideration.**

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Constitution of India does not have any specific provision for criteria and procedure for appointing the CJI and it relies predominantly on custom and convention.
- The procedure to appoint the next CJI is laid out in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) between the government and the judiciary:
 - ✓ The procedure is initiated by the Law Minister seeking the recommendation of the outgoing CJI at the 'appropriate time', which is near to the date of retirement of the incumbent CJI.
 - ✓ The CJI sends his recommendation to the Law Ministry; and in the case of any qualms, the CJI can consult the collegium regarding the fitness of an SC judge to be elevated to the post.
 - ✓ After receiving recommendation from the CJI, the law minister forwards it to the Prime Minister who then advises the President on the same.
 - ✓ The President administers the oath of office to the new CJI.

- Vis-à-vis the appointment of the CJI and the appointment of SC judges, the key difference is that in the former, the government cannot send the recommendation of the CJI (or the collegium) back to them for reconsideration; while in the latter, the government can do so. However, if the collegium reiterates those names, then the government cannot object any further.

13. Which of the following statements are correct about the Places of Worship Act, 1991?

- 1. The Act declares that the religious character of a place of worship shall continue to be the same as it was on August 15, 1947.**
- 2. Its objective is to provide for the maintenance of the religious character of such a place of worship as on that day.**
- 3. Ancient, historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains are also covered under it.**

- A. 1 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 1 and 2 only
D. All of the Above

Answer: D

Explanation

- Experts have pointed out that the Places of Worship Act, 1991, prohibited inquiry into religious places such as Kashi and Mathura. This comes after a Varanasi court recently ordered an ASI enquiry at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple-Gyanvapi Mosque premises. Experts have also questioned if a civil court judge was competent to give such a direction against a law upheld by a Constitutional bench of the Supreme Court.

Objectives

- ✓ To freeze the status of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947.
- ✓ To provide for the maintenance of the religious character of such a place of worship as on that day.
- ✓ To pre-empt new claims by any group about the past status of any place of worship and attempts to reclaim the structures or the land on which they stood.

- The Act also does not apply to the place of worship commonly referred to as Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. This law will have overriding effect over any other law in force. Ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains that are covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 are also beyond its purview.

14. Which of the following bodies was set up by the Government on the recommendations of the Santhanam Commission?

- A. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)
- B. Central Information Commission (CIC)
- C. Atomic Energy Commission of India
- D. Telecom Commission

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has modified the guidelines pertaining to the transfer and posting of officials in the vigilance units of government organisations.
- The CVC was set up by the Government in February, 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by Shri K. Santhanam.
- In 2003, the Parliament enacted CVC Act conferring statutory status on the CVC. The CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/ Department. It is an independent body which is only responsible to the Parliament.

15. Which one of the following first suggested that the Governor should be an eminent person from outside the State and should be a detached figure without intense political links or should not have taken part in politics in the recent past?

- A. First Administrative Reforms Commission (1966)
- B. Rajamannar Committee (1969)
- C. Sarkaria Commission (1983)
- D. National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000)

Answer: C

Explanation

- Sarkaria Commission on inter-state relations in its report dealt with the role of Governors. It first suggested that in choosing a Chief Minister the Governor should be guided by the following principles:

- ✓ The party or combination of parties which command the widest support in the legislative assembly should be called upon to form the Government.
- ✓ The Governor's task is to see that a government is formed and not to try to form a government which will pursue policies which he approves.
- ✓ If there is a single party having absolute majority the leader of that party should automatically be invited to become the Chief Minister.
- ✓ If there is no such party the Governor has to invite:
 - ❖ An alliance of parties formed before the elections.
 - ❖ The largest single party which is able to gain the support of other members to command majority.
 - ❖ A post electoral coalition which has the required members.
 - ❖ A post electoral coalition in which partners will not join the government but are willing to support the government from outside.

16. Which of the following statements are correct about Model Code of Conduct in India?

- 1. Kerala was the first state to adopt the model code of conduct for political parties in its election.**
- 2. MCC remains in force from the date the elections are announced by the Commission till the voting is finished.**
- 3. The MCC is enforceable by law and ECI has judicial ability to penalise the violators of the Model Code of Conduct**

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- The MCC is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections, to ensure free and fair elections. This is in keeping with Article 324 of the Constitution, which gives the Election Commission the power to supervise elections to the Parliament and state legislatures.

- MCC is operational from the date that the election schedule is announced till the date that results are announced. A form of the MCC was first introduced in the state assembly elections in Kerala in 1960. It was a set of instructions to political parties regarding election meetings, speeches, slogans, etc.
- In the 1962 general elections to the Lok Sabha, the MCC was circulated to recognised parties, and state governments sought feedback from the parties. The MCC was largely followed by all parties in the 1962 elections and continued to be followed in subsequent general elections.
- The MCC is not enforceable by law. However, certain provisions of the MCC may be enforced through invoking corresponding provisions in other statutes such as the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and Representation of the People Act, 1951. The ECI has argued against making the MCC legally binding; stating that elections must be completed within a relatively short time (close to 45 days), and judicial proceedings typically take longer, therefore it is not feasible to make it enforceable by law.

17. Which of the following is incorrect about the Pradhan Mantri Surakhsha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)?

- 1. The Scheme is available to people in the age group 18 to 70 years with a bank account who give their consent to join.**
 - 2. The scheme is available to both Indian residents and NRIs.**
 - 3. The scheme also covers death due to suicide, alcohol, drug abuse**
- A. 2 only
B. 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 2 and 3 only

Answer: B

Explanation

- Pradhan Mantri Surakhsha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) is a government- backed accident insurance scheme in India. It was originally mentioned in the 2015 Budget speech by Finance Minister Late Arun Jaitley in February 2015.
- Pradhan Mantri Surakhsha Bima Yojana is available to people (Indian Resident or NRI) between 18 and 70 years of age with bank accounts. It has an annual premium of ₹12 (17¢ US) exclusive of taxes. The GST is exempted on Pradhan Mantri Surakhsha Bima Yojana.
- The amount is automatically debited from the account. This insurance scheme can have one year cover from 1 June to 31 May and would be offered through banks and administered through public sector general insurance companies.

- In case of unexpected death or full disability, the payment to the nominee will be ₹2 lakh and in case of partial Permanent disability ₹1 lakh. Further, death due to suicide, alcohol, drug abuse, etc. are not covered.

18. Which of the following statements are correct about trust vote in Indian parliamentary system?

- 1. Trust vote is also known as confidence motion, or a vote of confidence and is a motion through which the government of the day seeks to know whether it still enjoys the confidence of parliament.**
- 2. If a government loses a trust vote and resigns, the president will ask it to continue as a caretaker government.**
- 3. Nominated MPs and MLAs can't participate in a no-confidence motion.**

- A. 1 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 1 and 2 only
D. All of the Above

Answer: C

Explanation

- A trust vote is a motion through which the government of the day seeks to know whether it still enjoys the confidence of parliament.
- A trust vote is sought either during the first session of a newly-elected Lok Sabha if it is not clear whether a party or a grouping of parties command a majority in the house, or at any time during the five-year tenure of the house if it becomes apparent that the government of the day has lost its majority.
- The government would be expected to resign if it loses a trust vote. If it refuses, the president has the power to remove the prime minister. If a government loses a trust vote and resigns, the president will ask it to continue as a caretaker government, with theoretically the same powers it had before the vote.
- In 2018, the Supreme Court considered whether the nominated members had the power to vote on the Budget and on the no-confidence motion against the government. It held that the 1963 law did not distinguish between elected and nominated MLAs – so, they enjoyed voting powers at par with elected MLAs, and were empowered to vote in no-confidence motions.

19. Which of the following is correct about the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2021?

- 1. The amendment specifies that a stay on the arbitral award can be provided if the court is satisfied that the relevant arbitration agreement or contract, or the making of the award, was induced, or effected by fraud or corruption.**
 - 2. The changes with respect to stay on arbitral award will apply retrospectively from 2015 when the previous amendment to the Arbitration act was enacted.**
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2021 seeks to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The Act contains provisions to deal with domestic and international arbitration and defines the law for conducting conciliation proceedings.
- The 2021 act replaces an Ordinance with same provisions promulgated on November 4, 2020. The 1996 Act allowed a party to file an application to set aside an arbitral award (i.e., the order given in an arbitration proceeding).
- In 2015, the Act was amended to state that an arbitral award would not be automatically stayed merely because an application is made to a court to set aside the arbitral award.
- The 2021 amendment specifies that a stay on the arbitral award can be provided (even during the pendency of the setting aside of the application) if the court is satisfied that: (i) the relevant arbitration agreement or contract, or (ii) the making of the award, was induced, or effected by fraud or corruption. This change will be effective from October 23, 2015.

20. Which one of the following is correct about the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2020?

- 1. It amends the 1971 Act to increase the upper limit for termination from 20 to 24 weeks for certain categories of women.**
 - 2. The Amendment act sets up state level Medical Boards to decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks in cases of substantial foetal abnormalities.**
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- The 1971 The Act regulates the conditions under which a pregnancy may be aborted. The 2020 amendment increases the time period within which abortion may be carried out. Currently, abortion requires the opinion of one doctor if it is done within
- 12 weeks of conception and two doctors if it is done between 12 and 20 weeks.
- The amendment allows abortion to be done on the advice of one doctor up to 20 weeks, and two doctors in the case of certain categories of women between 20 and 24 weeks. However it does not specify the categories of women who may terminate pregnancies between 20-24 weeks and leaves it to be prescribed through Rules. It may be argued that such matters should be specified by Parliament and not delegated to the government.
- The 2020 amendment act sets up state level Medical Boards to decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks in cases of substantial foetal abnormalities. The Act (and the amendment) require abortion to be performed only by doctors with specialisation in gynaecology or obstetrics. As there is a 75% shortage of such doctors in community health centers in rural areas, pregnant women may continue to find it difficult to access facilities for safe abortions.

21. Which of the following statements are correct about cVIGIL App?

- 1. It is an initiative of Ministry of Home Affairs**
- 2. The App allows citizens to keep a vigil for the protection of women in public spaces and immediately report incidents of violation for prompt response.**

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Election Commission of India had launched the Mobile App “cVIGIL” to enable citizens to report on violation of election code of conduct.
- “cVIGIL” will allow anyone in the election-bound state to report violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) that comes into effect from the date of announcement of elections and goes on till a day after the polls. By using this app, citizens can immediately report on incidents of misconduct within minutes of having witnessed them and without having to rush to the office of the returning officer to lodge a complaint.

- The vigilant citizen has to click a picture or record a video of upto two minutes' duration of the scene of violations of the model code. The photo or video is to be uploaded on the app. The automated location mapping will be done by the app using the Geographic Information System.
- After its successful submission through the app, the vigilant citizen gets a Unique ID to track and receive the follow up updates on her or his mobile. A citizen can report many incidents in this manner and will get a unique id for each report for follow up updates. The identity of the complainant will be kept confidential.
- Once the complaint is lodged, the information beeps in the District Control Room from where it is assigned to a Field Unit. A field unit consists of Flying Squads, Static Surveillance Teams, Reserve teams etc. Each Field Unit will have a GIS-based mobile application called 'cVIGIL Dispatcher', which allows the unit to directly reach the location through navigation technology and take action.

22. Which of the following is incorrect about the Van Dhan Vikas Yojana?

- 1. The Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED**
 - 2. It seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products that is MFPs**
 - 3. Training and technical support is provided by National Skill Development Corporation**
- A. 2 only
B. 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 2 and 3 only

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED. It was launched on 14th April, 2018 and seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products. Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is a major source of livelihood for tribals living in forest areas.
- The scheme will be implemented through Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Department at the Central Level and TRIFED as Nodal Agency at the National Level.
- At State level, the State Nodal Agency for MFPs and the District collectors are envisaged to play a pivot role in scheme implementation at grassroot level. Locally the Kendras are proposed to be managed by a Managing Committee (an SHG) consisting of representatives of Van Dhan SHGs in the cluster.

- At unit level, aggregation of produce would be done by SHGs having about 30 members each forming Van Dhan Vikas 'Samuh'. The SHGs would also undertake primary value addition of the MFPs using equipment such as small cutting and sieving tools, decorticator, dryer, packaging tool etc based on MFPs available in the area.

23. Which of the following statements are correct about Inter-State Council?

- 1. Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states**
- 2. Created in 1990, the Inter-State Council is a permanent, Constitutional Body**
- 3. The Council's functions are complementary to the Supreme Court's jurisdiction under Article 131**

- A. 1 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 1 and 2 only
D. All of the Above

Answer: B

Explanation

- Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter- State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states. Thus, the President can establish such a council if at any time it appears to him that the public interest would be served by its establishment.
- The Inter-State Council is a non-permanent constitutional body set up by a presidential order on the basis of provisions in Article 263 of the Constitution of India.
- The body was formed by a Presidential Order dated 28 May 1990 on recommendation of Sarkaria Commission.
- The council's function to enquire and advice upon inter- state disputes is complementary to the Supreme Court's jurisdiction under Article 131 to decide a legal controversy between the governments.

24. Which of the following is incorrect about the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019?

- 1. With regards to employment, the act protects transgenders against government institutions but not private ones.**
- 2. The Act also provides for National Council for Transgender persons headed by Union Minister for Women and Child development.**

3. The act provides transgenders with the right to residence.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Social Justice Ministry notified the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 which was passed in November 2019. The Act seeks to benefit a large number of transgender persons, mitigate the stigma, discrimination and abuse against this marginalized section and bring them into the mainstream of society.
- The Act defines a transgender person is somebody “whose gender does not match the gender assigned to that person at birth and includes trans-men or trans- women, persons with intersex variations, gender-queers, and persons having socio-cultural identities such as kinnar, hijras, aravani, and jogta”.
- The Act provides right of residence- Every transgender person shall have a right to reside and be included in his household. If the immediate family is unable to care for the transgender person, the person may be placed in a rehabilitation centre, on the orders of a competent court.
- With regard to employment, the act provides that no government or private entity can discriminate against a transgender person in employment matters, including recruitment, and promotion. Every establishment is required to designate a person to be a complaint officer to deal with complaints in relation to the Act.
- The Act also provides for the creation of National Council for Transgender persons (NCT) which was constituted in 2020 headed by Union Minister for Social Justice.

25. Which one of the following is correct about the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020?

- 1. The Act allows barrier-free trade of farmers’ produce outside the physical premises of notified APMCs.
 - 2. It allows barrier-free intra-state but not inter-state trade of farmers’ produce.
- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 seeks to allow barrier-free trade of farmers' produce outside the physical premises of the markets notified under the various state Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee laws (APMC Acts).
 - ✓ The Act will prevail over the APMC Acts in the area outside such markets. Under the Act, farmers' produce means:
 - ✓ food items, including cereals, pulses, fruits, vegetables, edible oilseeds, oils, sugarcane, spices, nuts, and products of poultry, piggery, goatery, fishery and dairy, raw cotton and jute and cotton seeds, and cattle fodder, including oilcakes and other concentrates.
 - ✓ The Act also defines the agricultural produce regulated under any APMC Act as scheduled farmers' produce.
- The Act allows barrier-free intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce outside: (i) the physical premises of market yards and sub-yards run by the state APMCs and (ii) other markets notified under the state APMC Acts, such as private market yards and sub-yards, collection centres, and farmer-consumer markets. Under the Act, farmers' produce may be traded anywhere outside such markets, such as in places of production, collection, and aggregation, including: (i) farm gates, (ii) factory premises, (iii) warehouses, (iv) silos, and (v) cold storages.

26. Which of the following statements are correct about National Capital Territory Amendment Act 2021?

1. It amends the Sixty-ninth Constitution Amendment Act, pertaining to the powers and function of the Delhi government and the Lieutenant Governor.
 2. The Amendment allows the Legislative Assembly to make Rules to regulate the procedure and conduct of business in the Assembly.
- A. 1 Only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act 2021 amends the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 which was provided to provide details to the sixty ninth constitution amendment act that added Article 239 AA.
- It mends certain powers and responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly and the Lieutenant Governor. The Amendment provides that the term “government” referred to in any law made by the Legislative Assembly will imply Lieutenant Governor (LG).
- While the 1991 Act allowed the Legislative Assembly to make Rules to regulate the procedure and conduct of business in the Assembly, the amendment provides that such Rules must be consistent with the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha.

27. Which of the following is correct about the Arbitration & Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2021?

- 1. It allows that stakeholder parties to seek an unconditional stay on enforcement of arbitral awards in cases where the arbitration agreement or contract is induced by fraud or corruption.**
 - 2. It provides for the 8th Schedule of the Act that contains the necessary qualifications for accreditation of arbitrators.**
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- The seeks to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 so as to (i) enable automatic stay on awards in certain cases and (ii) specify by regulations the qualifications, experience and norms for accreditation of arbitrators.
- Seeks to ensure that stakeholder parties can seek an unconditional stay on enforcement of arbitral awards in cases where the “arbitration agreement or contract is induced by fraud or corruption.”
- Also does away with the 8th Schedule of the Act that contained the necessary qualifications for accreditation of arbitrators. It further added a proviso in Section 36 of the Arbitration Act and will come into effect retrospectively from October 23, 2015.

- As per this amendment, if the Court is satisfied that a prima facie case is made out that the arbitration agreement or contract which is the basis of the award was induced or effected by fraud or corruption, it will stay the award unconditionally pending disposal of the challenge made to the award under Section 34.

28. Which of the following statements are incorrect about the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2021?

1. It empowers the central government to reserve any mine to be leased through an auction for a particular end-use.
2. It allows captive mines, other than atomic minerals, to sell up to 50% of their annual mineral production in the open market after meeting their own needs.

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2021 amends the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. The Act regulates the mining sector in India.
- The 1957 Act empowers the central government to reserve any mine (other than coal, lignite, and atomic minerals) to be leased through an auction for a particular end-use (such as iron ore mine for a steel plant). Such mines are known as captive mines. The Amendment provides that no mine will be reserved for particular end-use.
- The amendment provides that captive mines (other than atomic minerals) may sell up to 50% of their annual mineral production in the open market after meeting their own needs. The central government may increase this threshold through a notification. The lessee will have to pay additional charges for mineral sold in the open market.

29. Which of the following is correct about the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions, 2020?

1. The Code is applicable on all all establishments where any hazardous activity is carried out regardless of the number of workers.
2. The Code fixes the maximum daily work hour limit at eight hours per day.
3. The Code prohibits the employment of women for undertaking dangerous operations.

- A. 2 only

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions, 2020 is one of the three codes that seek to consolidate 29 central laws on labour.
- The 2020 Code unlike its 2019 version, includes all establishments where any hazardous activity is carried out regardless of the number of workers.
- While the 2019 Bill allowed the appropriate government to notify the maximum daily work hours for workers, the 2020 Code fixes the maximum limit at eight hours per day.
- The 2019 Bill allowed the appropriate government to prohibit employment of women for undertaking dangerous operations. The 2020 Code however, provides that women will be entitled to be employed in all establishments for all types of work. It also provides that in case they are required to work in hazardous or dangerous operations, the government may require the employer to provide adequate safeguards prior to their employment.

30. Which one of the following is correct about the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Act, 2021?

- 1. The Act establishes the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) with both financial as well as developmental objectives.**
- 2. DFIs along with accepting deposits from people, provide long-term finance for such segments of the economy where the risks involved are beyond the acceptable limits of commercial banks and other ordinary financial institutions.**

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021 seeks to establish the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) as the principal development financial institution (DFIs) for infrastructure financing.

- DFIs are set up for providing long-term finance for such segments of the economy where the risks involved are beyond the acceptable limits of commercial banks and other ordinary financial institutions. Unlike banks, DFIs do not accept deposits from people.
- They source funds from the market, government, as well as multi-lateral institutions, and are often supported through government guarantees.
- NBFID will be set up as a corporate body with authorised share capital of one lakh crore rupees. Shares of NBFID may be held by: (i) central government, (ii) multilateral institutions, (iii) sovereign wealth funds, (iv) pension funds, (v) insurers, (vi) financial institutions, (vii) banks, and (viii) any other institution prescribed by the central government. Initially, the central government will own 100% shares of the institution which may subsequently be reduced up to 26%.
- NBFID will have both financial as well as developmental objectives. Financial objectives will be to directly or indirectly lend, invest, or attract investments for infrastructure projects located entirely or partly in India.
- Central government will prescribe the sectors to be covered under the infrastructure domain. Developmental objectives include facilitating the development of the market for bonds, loans, and derivatives for infrastructure financing.

31. Section 142 of Social Security Code, recently in news, is related to which of the following?

- A. Aadhar
- B. Public Distribution System
- C. Health Care
- D. All of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment recently notified Section 142 of the Social Security Code, 2020.
- The Section covers applicability of the Aadhaar. The notification will enable the Ministry of Labour and Employment to collect Aadhaar details from the beneficiaries of various social security schemes. This includes migrant workers as well.
 - ✓ The National Informatics Centre is creating a National Database for unorganised workers.
 - ✓ The portal aims to collect data of migrant workers as well. This data will be used by various schemes of the Government.

- ✓ An inter-state migrant worker can register himself in the portal by submitting Aadhaar alone.
- ✓ Section 142 says that Aadhaar details are compulsory for an employee or unorganised person or any other person to get benefits of government schemes.
- ✓ The benefits can be in kind of cash for medical sickness, availing services of career centre, maternity benefits, receiving payment as insured person, etc.

32. Which of the following statements are correct about the Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities Project?

- 1. The Project aims to create a National Database for the Persons with Disabilities.**
 - 2. It aims to issue a UDID, that is, Unique Disability Identity Card to each person with disabilities.**
 - 3. The persons with disabilities included in the project are based on Disabilities Act, 1995.**
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- The UDID project is under implementation since 2016. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities recently made it mandatory for all states and Union Territories to issue a certificate of disability only using UDID portal.
- This is to come into force from June 1, 2021.
- UDID is Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities Project.
- The project aims to provide a Universal ID And disability certificates for persons with disabilities.
- The Project aims to create a National Database for the Persons with Disabilities. Also, it aims to issue a UDID, that is, Unique Disability Identity Card to each person with disabilities.
- The persons with disabilities included in the project are based on Disabilities Act, 1995.

33. Consider the following statements under the writ Jurisdiction of High Courts and mark the correct ones?

- 1. Writs come under the Original Jurisdiction of the High Courts.**

2. High Courts have been empowered to issue writs for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights and for other purposes.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- Article 226 of the Constitution empowers a high court to issue writs including habeas corpus, mandamus, certiorari, prohibition and quo warranto for the enforcement of the fundamental rights of the citizens and for any other purpose.
- The phrase 'for any other purpose' refers to the enforcement of an ordinary legal right.
- The high court can issue writs to any person, authority and government not only within its territorial jurisdiction but also outside its territorial jurisdiction if the cause of action arises within its territorial jurisdiction (15th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1963).
- In the Chandra Kumar case (1997), the Supreme Court ruled that the writ jurisdiction of both the high court and the Supreme Court constitute a part of the basic structure of the Constitution. Hence, it cannot be ousted or excluded even by way of an amendment to the Constitution.

34. Which of the following statements are incorrect about Centrally Sponsored Schemes in India?

- 1. Centrally Sponsored Schemes are are funded directly by the central ministries/ departments and implemented by Central government directly.
 - 2. They mainly offer assistance on subjects in the union list.
 - 3. These schemes are 100% funded by the Central government
- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. 1 and 2 only
 - D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

Centrally Sponsored Schemes:	Central Sector Schemes:
Centrally Sponsored Schemes as defined by the National Development Council are those that are funded directly by the central ministries/ departments and implemented by states or their agencies.	Central Sector Schemes are those that are implemented by a central agency and 100% funded by the centre. These are also executed by the central government.
This assistance is deliberately in areas that are State subjects , with the centre wishing to motivate the States to take up such programs.	The assistance is mainly on subjects within the union list.
The cost of these schemes is borne on a shared basis in the ratio of 50:50, 70:30, 75:25 or 90:10. Under the cost ratio, the larger portion is always borne by the Centre.	The schemes are entirely funded by the Union (100%) and the financial resources are not shifted to states.
Article 282 of the Constitution allows the Union or a State to make any grant for any purpose, irrespective of the question whether the purpose is one over which the grantor has legislative power	These are often criticized for following a top-down approach.

35. Which of the following are correct about the scheme, Operation Greens?

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
 2. The scheme is under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' welfare.
 3. It aims to double the income of farmers by end of 2022 by ensuring the right price for their produce.
 4. Initially the scheme started by focusing on three basic vegetables only- namely tomatoes, onions and potatoes.
- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
 B. 1, 3 and 4 only
 C. 2, 3 and 4 only
 D. All of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- Operation Greens is a Central sector scheme which was announced initially for integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) value chain with a budgetary allocation of Rs 500 crore by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).
- It was launched on the lines of Operation Flood to double the income of farmers by end of 2022. It is essentially a price fixation scheme that aims to ensure farmers are given the right price for their produce. The main objective of the project is to reduce price volatility in agriculture commodities such as vegetables
- The scheme has two-pronged strategy of price stabilisation measures (for short- term) and integrated value chain development projects (for long-term).

- Government as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Package, upgraded Operation Greens and extended all fruits and vegetables (TOTAL). Under the plan, 50% subsidy will be given on transportation from surplus production to deficient markets and 50% subsidy on storage, including cold storages.
- Food processors, FPO/FPC, co-operative societies, individual farmers, licensed commission agent, exporters, state marketing/co-operative federation, retailers and so on engaged in processing/ marketing of fruits and vegetables are eligible entities.

36. With reference to UPSC, consider the following statements:

- 1. Members of UPSC submit their resignation to the Chairman of UPSC.**
- 2. President must always consult Supreme Court before removing any UPSC member for office.**
- 3. UPSC, if requested by any two or more States so to do, assists those States in framing and operating schemes of joint recruitment.**

Which of the statement given above is / are not correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- Article-317 provides for removal and suspension of a member of a Public Service Commission. Subject to the provisions of clause (3), the Chairman or any other member of a Public Service Commission shall only be removed from his office by order of the President on the ground of misbehaviour after the Supreme Court, on reference being made to it by the President, has, on inquiry held in accordance with the procedure prescribed in that behalf under article 145, reported that the Chairman or such other member, as the case may be, ought on any such ground to be removed.
- Notwithstanding anything in clause (1), the President may by order remove from office the Chairman or any other member of a Public Service Commission if the Chairman or such other member, as the case may be, –
 - ✓ is adjudged an insolvent; or
 - ✓ engages during his term of office in any paid employment outside the duties of his office; or
 - ✓ is, in the opinion of the President, unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body.

- Article 320 provides that it will be the duty of the Union and the State
- Public Service Commissions to conduct examinations for appointments to the services of the Union and the services of the State respectively. It shall also be the duty of the Union Public Service Commission, if requested by any two or more States so to do, to assist those States in framing and operating schemes of joint recruitment for any services for which candidates possessing special qualifications are required.

37. Which of the following is correct about diplomatic immunity?

- 1. Diplomatic immunity is granted on the basis of two conventions called the Geneva Conventions.**
 - 2. As per the conventions, the immunity enjoyed by a diplomat posted in the embassy is inviolable.**
 - 3. Diplomatic immunity can be waived by the diplomat's home country.**
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. All of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- Diplomatic immunity is granted on the basis of two conventions, popularly called the Vienna Conventions – the Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961, and the Convention on Consular Relations, 1963. They have been ratified by 187 countries.
- According to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961, the immunity enjoyed by a diplomat posted in the embassy is “inviolable”. The diplomat cannot be arrested or detained and his house will have the same inviolability and protection as the embassy.
- It is possible for the diplomat's home country to waive immunity but this can happen only when the individual has committed a ‘serious crime’, unconnected with their diplomatic role or has witnessed such a crime. Alternatively, the home country may prosecute the individual.
- While diplomatic immunity is intended to “insulate” diplomats from harm, it does not insulate their countries from a bad reputation and a blow to bilateral ties. The privilege of diplomatic immunity is not for an individual's benefit. If a diplomat acts outside his business of conducting international relations, a question arises over whether his immunity still applies.

38. A political party, if it is not satisfied with the conduct of municipality elections, then the party can directly file an election petition with regard to the same in/with which of the following:

- A. Any district court to which the constituency belongs
- B. The high court of the concerned state
- C. The supreme court of India
- D. Any authority as provided by the state legislature.

Answer: D

Explanation

- Constitution (Seventy Forth Amendment) Act, 1992 introduced a new Part IXA in the Constitution, which deals with Municipalities in an article 243 P to 243 ZG. It has given constitutional status to the municipalities and brought them under the justifiable part of the constitution.
- States were put under constitutional obligation to adopt municipalities as per system enshrined in the constitution. Article 243ZG bars interference by courts in electoral matters.-
- Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution,-
 - ✓ the validity of any law relating to the delimitation of constituencies or the allotment of seats to such constituencies, made or purporting to be made under article 243ZA shall not be called in question in any court;
 - ✓ no election to any Municipality shall be called in question except by an election petition presented to such authority and in such manner as is provided for by or under any law made by the Legislature of a State.

39. The moral compass for India's governance structure is provided by which of the following?

- A. Schedule IX
- B. The Preamble
- C. Fundamental Rights
- D. Fundamental Duties

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Preamble embodies the basic philosophy and fundamental values of political, moral and religious – on which the Constitution is based. It contains the grand and noble vision of the Constituent Assembly and reflects the dreams and aspirations of the founding fathers of the Constitution.
- The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, in an address remarked that the Preamble of the Constitution of India provides the moral compass for our country's governance structure.
- The legislature, the executive and the judiciary have necessarily been turning to the Preamble for guidance. The actions of the three wings of our polity are judged by the extent to which they deepen the roots of our democratic framework.
- In the words of Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Iyer, a member of the Constituent Assembly who played a significant role in making the Constitution, 'The Preamble to our Constitution expresses what we had thought or dreamt so long'.

40. Which of the following is/are correct about the IT laws in India?

- 1. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 is secondary legislation.**
 - 2. The 2021 rules have stemmed from section 87 of the Information Technology Act, 2000.**
 - 3. Section 66A of IT Act 2000 was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court as it invaded Article 19 of the Constitution.**
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 which superseded the 2011 IT Rules, is secondary or subordinate legislation.
- In Parliamentary systems, primary legislation and secondary legislation, the latter also called delegated legislation or subordinate legislation are two forms of law, created respectively by the legislative and executive branches of government.

- The 2021 rules have stemmed from section 87 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 which gives Central Government the power to make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act.
- In November 2012, a Delhi-based law student, Shreya Singhal, filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Supreme Court of India. She argued that the Section 66A was vaguely phrased, as result it violated Article 14, 19 (1)(a) and Article 21 of the Constitution.
- Article 66 A said that any person who sends by any means of a computer resource any information that is grossly offensive or has a menacing character; or any information which he knows to be false, but for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine.
- In 2015, the Supreme Court of India, gave the verdict that Section 66A is unconstitutional in entirety. The court said that Section 66A of IT Act 2000 is "arbitrarily, excessively and disproportionately invades the right of free speech" provided under Article 19(1) of the Constitution of India.

41. Which of the following is correct about the Union Territory of Lakshadweep?

- 1. Its administration is governed by Article 239 of the Indian Constitution.**
 - 2. The UT comes under the jurisdiction of Kerala High Court.**
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- When the Constitution of India was adopted in 1949, the Indian federation was divided into Part A, B, C and D states.
- After the States Reorganisation Act of 1956, Part C and Part D states were combined into a single category of 'Union Territory'. The concept of the UT was added by the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956.
- Article 239 of the Indian Constitution deals with administration of UTs in India. The Constitution provides that save as otherwise provided by Parliament by law, every Union territory shall be administered by the President acting, to such extent as he thinks fit, through an administrator to be appointed by him with such designation as he may specify.
- The UT of Lakshadweep comes under the jurisdiction of Kerala High Court.

42. The doctrine of 'severability' advocated in connection with the judicial review means which of the following?

- A. The Supreme court can substitute new provisions for the objectionable portions of law to make it conform to the provisions of the constitution
- B. The Supreme court has to declare the entire law as void even if some portions of law contravene
- C. The Supreme Court can declare only such portion of law as void which is inconsistent with the provisions of the constitution
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- This is a doctrine that protects the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution. It is mentioned in Article 13, according to which all laws that were enforced in India before the commencement of the Constitution, inconsistent with the provisions of fundamental rights shall to the extent of that inconsistency be void.
- The doctrine of severability was discussed at length in the case of R.M.D.C v. the State of Bombay, and the court laid down the following principles.
- In order to find out whether the valid part of the statute can be separated from the invalid part, the intention of the legislature is the determining factor.
- In cases where the valid and invalid parts are separable but both of them were intended to be part of the same scheme, then the whole scheme will be invalid.

43. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. National Disaster Management Authority is a statutory body.
 2. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is chaired by Home Minister.
 3. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is an Indian specialized force to tackle disasters under NDMA.
- A. 1 only
 - B. 1 and 3 only
 - C. 2 and 3 only
 - D. All of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- National Disaster Management Authority, abbreviated as NDMA, is an apex Body of Government of India, with a mandate to lay down policies for disaster management.
- NDMA was established through the Disaster Management Act enacted by the Government of India on 23 December 2005. NDMA is responsible for framing policies, laying down guidelines and best-practices for coordinating with the State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) to ensure a holistic and distributed approach to disaster management.
- The Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairperson of the NDMA. The Cabinet Minister is the Vice-Chairman. The NDMA Secretariat, headed by a Secretary, is responsible for providing secretarial support and continuity.
- The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is an Indian specialized force constituted "for the purpose of special response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster" under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. It is under the National Disaster Management Authority.

44. Consider the following statements regarding Uniform Civil Code and mark the correct ones?

- 1. It is a directive principle of state policy given under article 45 of the Indian Constitution.**
- 2. It is a Gandhian Directive Principle.**
- 3. UCC refers to the body of laws providing standardization in personal and criminal matters.**

- A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. None of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- Article 44 corresponds with Directive Principles of State Policy stating that State shall endeavor to provide for its citizens a uniform civil code (UCC) throughout the territory of India.
- Gandhi gave religion prime importance even in public place and espoused principles of tolerance. The DPSP regarding UCC is a liberal rather than Gandhian principle.

- In criminal matters, uniform laws are already applicable in India. UCC implies applying uniform laws in personal and civil matters which are still governed by personal laws to a great extent- such as those pertaining to marriage, divorce, adoption, property and inheritance etc.

45. Which of the following are correct about the selection process of the CBI Director?

- 1. The CBI Director is appointed by a process regulated by DSPE Act as amended by the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act.**
 - 2. The CBI Director is selected by a panel consisting of the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition and CJI.**
 - 3. The CBI director as an assured tenure of 2 years**
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- The CBI is headed by a Director, an IPS officer with a rank of Director General of Police. The director was initially selected by a high-profile committee constituted under section 4A of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946. The Director of CBI has been provided security of two-year tenure in office by the CVC Act, 2003.
- The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013) amended the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (1946) and made the following changes with respect to appointment of the Director of CBI. The Central Government shall appoint the Director of CBI on the recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India or Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him.

46. The Chief Minister of a State in India is NOT eligible to vote in the Presidential election if:

- A. he himself is a candidate
B. he is yet to prove his majority on the floor of the Lower House of the State legislature
C. he is a member of the Upper House of the State Legislature
D. he is a caretaker Chief Minister

Answer: C

Explanation

- The President of India is elected by a method of proportional representation by single transferable
- vote by members of electoral college consisting of:
 - ✓ the elected members of both the Houses of Parliament;
 - ✓ the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states; and
 - ✓ the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.
- Thus, the nominated members of both of Houses of Parliament, the nominated members of the state legislative assemblies, the members (both elected and nominated) of the state legislative councils (in case of the bicameral legislature) and the nominated members of the Legislative Assemblies of Delhi and Puducherry do not participate in the election of the President.

47. Which of the following electoral systems have been adopted for various elections in India?

- 1. System of direct election on the basis of adult suffrage**
- 2. System of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote**
- 3. List system of proportional representation**
- 4. Cumulative system of indirect elections**

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- The electoral systems prevalent in India include:
 - ✓ First Past the Post System (direct election on the basis of adult suffrage) for members of Lok Sabha, Legislative Assemblies and local bodies.
 - ✓ System of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote is followed in India for the or the election of President, Vice President, and for the election to the Rajya Sabha and Vidhan Parishads.

- ✓ On the other hand List system of proportional representation (followed in Israel and Netherlands) and Cumulative system of indirect elections (certain states of USA) are systems where voters exercise their preference for a party or allow multiple winners.
- ✓ These however are not practiced in India anywhere.

48. The Indian parliamentary system is different from the British parliamentary system in that India has:

- A. both a real and a nominal executive
- B. a system of collective responsibility
- C. Bi-cameral legislature
- D. the system of judicial review

Answer: A

Explanation

- When one talks of Judicial Review in the context of Constitutional Law, one would think that a necessary ingredient is a Written Constitution. However, it is valid even when there is no written Constitution as is the case with Britain.
- Even though as A.V. Dicey remarks, Parliamentary Sovereignty has been the norm in Britain, there have been changes over the years which have led to the ingraining of judicial review which allow the the questioning of exercise of power.
- However due to the existence of Parliamentary sovereignty, English law does not permit judicial review of primary legislation (laws passed by Parliament). This limits judicial review in English law to the decisions of officials and public bodies, and secondary (delegated) legislation.
- On July 31, 2020, during the pandemic, the UK government constituted a panel of legal and academic experts to examine the scope of judicial review. This was in consequence to the R (on the application of Miller) v. The Prime Minister, the UK Supreme Court was called to determine whether it could adjudicate and, if so, declare as unlawful the advice given by the Prime Minister to the Queen for Parliament to be prorogued.

49. In the Constitution of India, promotion of international peace and security is included in the:

- A. Preamble to the Constitution
- B. Directive Principles of State Policy

- C. Fundamental Duties
- D. Ninth Schedule

Answer: B

Explanation

- DPSPs set out certain goals and vision to be followed by the Indian State. Article 51 of Chapter IV aims to promote international peace and security and maintain just and honourable relations between nations; to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations, and to encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration.

50. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The President shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India, and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business.**
- 2. All executive actions of the Government of India shall be expressed to be taken in the name of 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

- India is a Parliamentary system with two separate nominal (President) and real (PM) executive. As President is the nominal executive and the Head of the State, all executive actions of the Government of India shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the President and not Prime Minister. This is why the second statement is incorrect.
- The President can make rules specifying the manner in which the orders and other instruments made and executed in his/her name shall be authenticated. Further, he/she can make rules for more convenient transaction of business of the Union government, and for allocation of the said business among the ministers.

51. Among various key words mentioned in Preamble, Fraternity which means sense of brotherhood, holds special importance. Which of the following constitutional provisions promotes fraternity among citizens of India?

1. Single Citizenship
2. Fundamental Duties
3. Fundamental Rights
4. Directive Principles of State Policy

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- Fraternity in the sense of brotherhood follows not merely a top-down (Single citizenship and duties) but also a bottom-up (FRs and DPSPs) approach.
- While single citizenship and FDs imbibe within citizens the idea that they belong to one country and are obligated to collectively work for its welfare, thereby promoting a sense of brotherhood/fraternity;
- Fundamental rights and DPSPs by promoting both civil and socio-economic democracy seek to serve this end.
- For eg. despite the idea of single citizenship and FDs, if individuals were divided and discriminated due to the lack of abolition of untouchability or freedom of religion, the fraternity sought to be created by the State would be an entirely superficial and not organic one.
- Similarly, DPSPs by trying to create a just and egalitarian society, remove hierarchy, thereby serving the purpose of fraternity.

52. Article 1 of the constitution classifies territory of India into three categories. Taking this into consideration, what do you understand by one of the classification/category- 'Union of India'?

- A. It includes all states/ UTs or any other territory which Government of India might be holding at that point
- B. It includes all states and UTs of India
- C. It only includes States of India
- D. It is not a territorial expression at all

Answer: C

Explanation

Article 3

- The territory of India shall comprise –
 - ✓ the territories of the States;
 - ✓ the Union territories specified in the First Schedule
 - ✓ such other territories as may be acquired. Union of India comprises only the states
- Territory of India includes states, UTs and territories that may be acquired by the Government of India at any future time.

53. Which of the following provision/s are common for both martial law and National emergency?

1. They can both be imposed on some specific area of the country
2. Both are mentioned in constitution of India i.e. have specific provisions dedicated to them

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- Martial Law does not have any specific provision related to it in the constitution of India.
- Article 34 states, Parliament may by law indemnify any person in the service of the Union or of a State or any other person in respect of any act done by him in connection with the maintenance or restoration of order in any area within the territory of India where martial law was in force or validate any sentence passed, punishment inflicted, forfeiture ordered or other act done under martial law in such area
- Martial law has never been imposed in India, post-independence till date.

54. Which of these cases had judgments pertaining to the Preamble as a part of the Constitution?

1. Berubari Union case
2. Kesavananda Bharti case
3. LIC of India case

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- In Berubari Case (1960), Supreme Court had held that Preamble is NOT a part of the constitution
- But later in Kesavanada Bharati Case (1973), the Supreme Court gave an elaborate verdict which inter alia said that Preamble is Part of Constitution and is subject to the amending power of the parliament as any other provisions of the Constitution, provided the basic structure of the constitution is not destroyed.
- The Kesavananda Bharti position was upheld in the LIC of India case.

55. Identify the correct statement(s) about Speaker

1. **When a resolution for the removal of the Speaker is under consideration of the House, he cannot be present in the House**
 2. **He can vote on the issue of his removal**
 3. **He cannot vote when he is Presiding over the House**
- A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 2 and 3 only
 - C. 1 and 3 only
 - D. All of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- When a resolution for the removal of the Speaker is under consideration of the House, he cannot preside at the sitting of the House, though he may be present.
- He can speak and take part in the proceedings of the House at such a time and vote in the first instance, though not in the case of an equality of votes.
- In regular matters, he does not vote in the first instance. But he can exercise a casting vote in the case of a tie.
- In other words, only when the House is divided equally on any question, the Speaker is entitled to vote. Such vote is called casting vote, and its purpose is to resolve a deadlock.

56. SAGE project recently heard in news is related to which of the following?

- A. Tourism
- B. Namami Gange
- C. Old age Scheme
- D. Vehicle policy

Answer: C

Explanation

- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister, launched Senior care Ageing Growth Engine or SAGE project on June 4, 2021. SAGE project was launched to select, support and create “one-stop access” of elderly care products and services provided by credible start-ups.
- The project was formulated following the recommendations of empowered expert committee report on start-ups for elderly. Once the project is launched, start-ups can apply to be a part of it through dedicated portal. This dedicated portal will also be launched along with the scheme
- Start-ups will be selected based on their innovative products and services, which they can provide across sectors like housing, health and care centres. They will also be selected based on technological access linked to finances, food stamp; wealth management besides legal guidance.

57. Which of the following statements are correct about the Model Tenancy Act 2021?

- 1. Rental housing is regulated by states as land, land improvement, and control of rents falls under the State List of the Constitution.**
- 2. The Model Act makes it mandatory for both the tenant and the landlord to submit their Aadhaar numbers to register agreement.**
- 3. The Model Act creates a three-tier quasi-judicial dispute adjudication mechanism with no civil court having jurisdiction over matters pertaining to provisions under the Model Act.**

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Authority	Headed by	Functions
Rent Authority	Deputy Collector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put up a digital platform to enable submission of tenancy related documents as specified Provide a unique identification number to the parties to the tenancy agreement, and upload details of the agreement within a week of receiving details Resolve disputes with regard to revision of rent, and determine revised rates in such cases Accept rent for up to two months when rent is not accepted by landlord, or if the tenant cannot decide whom the rent is payable to; also conduct enquiries in such cases on whom the rent is payable to Remove or penalise property manager if he acts in contravention of the Act or against the instructions of the landlord Pass interim orders to restore supply of essential services and award compensation
Rent Court	Additional Collector, or Additional District Magistrate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjudicate appeals against the Rent Authority's orders Order for eviction and recovery of possession of premises
Rent Tribunal	District Judge, or Additional District Judge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjudicate appeals against the Rent Court's orders

Answer: D

Explanation

- Rental housing is regulated by states as land, land improvement, and control of rents falls under the State List of the Constitution. Reforms in tenancy laws were first recommended at the central level under the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in 2005.
- The Model Act 2021 states that to rent any premises, a written agreement must be signed between the landlord and the tenant. The agreement must specify: (i) the rent payable, (ii) the time period for the tenancy, (iii) terms and period for revision of rent, (iv) the security deposit to be paid in advance, (v) reasonable causes for entry of landlord into the premises, and (vi) responsibilities to maintain premises.
- The Model Act requires all landlord and tenants to intimate the Rent Authority about a rental agreement within two months from the date of agreement. Information about the agreement must be given with a form specified in a Schedule to the Act. The prescribed form requires both the tenant and the landlord to submit their Aadhaar numbers and attach self-attested copies of the card with the form.

- The Model Act proposes to establish a three-tier quasi-judicial mechanism for adjudication of disputes. No civil court will have jurisdiction over matters pertaining to provisions under the Model Act.

58. Which of the following statements are correct about the Performance Grading Index?

- 1. NITI Aayog has introduced the Performance Grading Index with a set of 70 parameters to catalyse transformational change in the field of school education.**
 - 2. The PGI for States and Union Territories was first published in 2019 with reference year 2017-18 and helps the States/UTs to pinpoint the gaps and accordingly prioritise areas for intervention.**
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Performance Grading Index (PGI) is a tool to provide insights on the status of school education in States and UTs including key levers that drive their performance and critical areas for improvement. Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), under MHRD has designed the PGI to catalyse transformational change in the field of school education.
- The PGI for States and Union Territories was first published in 2019 with reference year 2017-18. The PGI : States/UTs for 2019-20 is the third publication in this series. The PGI exercise envisages that the index would propel States and UTs towards undertaking multi-pronged interventions that will that will bring about the much-desired optimal education outcomes.

- The PGI helps the States/UTs to pinpoint the gaps and accordingly prioritise areas for intervention to ensure that the school education system is robust at every level. Punjab, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Kerala occupy the highest grade (Grade A++) for 2019-20.

59. Which of the following statements are *incorrect* about an election petition?

- 1. An election petition is to be filed with the High Court of the state of concerned constituency within 45 days of the date of election result.**
 - 2. An election petition can be filed by a candidate or any elector across India.**
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- Section 81 of the Representation of the People Act 1951 states that an election petition calling in question any election may be presented to the High Court of concerned constituency's state within forty-five days from, but not earlier than the date of election of the returned candidate or if there are more than one returned candidate at the election and dates of their election are different, the later of those two dates.
- The petition may be filed by a candidate or "elector" means a person who was entitled to vote at the election to which the election petition relates, whether he has voted at such election or not.

60. Which one of the following is correct for intermediary status in the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021?

- 1. Intermediaries are entities that store or transmit data on behalf of other persons and include social media and online news platforms only.**
 - 2. As per the central government, significant social media intermediaries are those with users above 50 lakh and they require appointment of a chief compliance officer, resident grievance officer and monthly compliance report.**
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 were notified on February 25, 2021. The Rules have been notified under the Information Technology Act, 2000.
- As per the IT Rules 2021, Intermediaries are entities that store or transmit data on behalf of other persons. Intermediaries include internet or telecom service providers, online marketplaces, and social media platforms. The due diligence to be observed by intermediaries includes: (i) informing users about rules and regulations, privacy policy, and terms and conditions for usage of its services, (ii) blocking access to unlawful information within 36 hours upon an order from the Court, or the government, and (iii) retaining information collected for the registration of a user for 180 days after cancellation or withdrawal of registration.
- A social media intermediary with registered users in India above a threshold (50 lakh as per the central govt.) will be classified as Significant Social Media Intermediaries. Additional due diligence to be observed by these intermediaries include: (i) appointing a chief compliance officer to ensure compliance with the IT Act and the Rules, (ii) appointing a grievance officer residing in India, and (iii) publishing a monthly compliance report.

61. Which one of the following Schedules of the Constitution of India contains provisions regarding anti-defection ? (2014)

- A. Second Schedule
- B. Fifth Schedule
- C. Eighth Schedule
- D. Tenth Schedule

Answer: D

Explanation

Type- Factual Question

Difficulty level- Easy

- The 10th schedule of the Indian Constitution contains provisions concerning disqualification of Members of Parliament and State Legislatures on grounds of defection.
- This Schedule was added by the 52nd Amendment in 1985, and is called the anti-defection law.

- This law was enacted to address the perceived problem of instability caused by democratically elected legislators in India's Parliamentary System of Government shifting allegiance from the parties they supported at the time of election, or disobeying their parties' decisions at critical times such as during voting on an important resolution.

62. The main advantage of the parliamentary form of governments is that (2017)

- A. The executive and legislature work independently
- B. It provides continuity of policy and is more efficient
- C. The executive remains responsible to the legislature
- D. The head of the government cannot be changed without election

Answer: C

Explanation

Type- Conceptual Question

Difficulty level- Medium

- The Constitution of India provides Parliamentary form of government both at the Centre (Articles 74 and 75) and at the state level (Articles 163 and 164).
- The primary difference between Parliamentary and Presidential forms of government depends on the relationship between the executive and legislature.
- In the Parliamentary form of government the executive is responsible to the legislature and depends on it to stay in power. This was one of the primary reasons for makers of Indian Constitution to choose the Parliamentary form of government.
- On the other hand, in the Presidential form the executive is constitutionally independent of legislature wrt its term and not responsible to it.

63. Consider the following statements : A Constitutional Government is one which - (2014)

1. Places effective restrictions on individual liberty in the interest of State Authority.
2. Places effective restrictions on the Authority of the State in the interest of individual liberty.

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

Type- Conceptual

Difficulty level- Medium

- A Constitutional form of government rather than being dependent on the presence of a written government is related to the presence of consent based, limited form of government.
- In a constitutional government the government in power is elected by the citizens by means of free and fair elections. Importantly, the government's power is limited by having a fixed tenure and also appropriate checks and balances.
- For example in India we have a written Constitution, Fundamental Rights, independent Judiciary with power of judicial review to limit the powers of the government. Similar is the case with countries like U.K, U.S.A, Canada etc.

64. The Parliament can make any law for whole or any part of India for implementing International treaties(2013)

- A. with the consent of all the States
- B. with the consent of the majority of States
- C. with the consent of the States concerned
- D. without the consent of any State

Answer: D

Explanation

Type- Factual+ Conceptual

Difficulty level: Medium

- The Indian Constitution provides for instances when the Centre can legislate in matters even in the state list. One of these instances is that with regard to implementation of international treaties.
- The Parliament can make laws on even matters in the state list without seeking their consent for implementing international treaties, agreements and conventions. This provision enables the central government to fulfil its international commitments and obligations.

65. Consider the following statements: (2017)With reference to the Constitution of India, the Directive Principles of State Policy constitute limitations upon

- 1. legislative function**

2. executive function.

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: D

Explanation

Type- Conceptual

Difficulty level- Difficult

- Directive Principles of State Policy embodied in Part IV of the Indian Constitution seek to provide for social and economic democracy in the country, thereby creating a welfare state.
- Article 37 of the Indian Constitution states that these principles are fundamental in the governance of the country and that “it shall be the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws”.
- Though these Directives are not enforceable by the Courts, yet these principles have been declared to be fundamental in the governance of the country and a Government which rests on popular vote can hardly ignore them, while shaping its polity.
- However, because they are merely guidelines and not justiciable, they impose a limitation neither on the legislature nor the executive.

66. Consider the following statements with respect to Privilege Motion.

- 1. In the Lok Sabha, the Speaker nominates a committee of privileges which consists of 15 members of political parties other than ruling party.**
- 2. Privilege committee in Rajya Sabha is headed by the deputy chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.**
- 3. The parliamentary privileges extend to the President of India.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Medium-Hard

- Members of Parliament (MPs) enjoy certain parliamentary privileges which are bestowed on them collectively and individually so that they can discharge their duties and functions effectively.
- In the case that any of these immunities or rights are disregarded by any MP, the act is regarded as a 'breach of privilege' and is a punishable offence under Laws of Parliament.

Procedure

- The first level of scrutiny that a privilege motion has to go through is that of the Speaker, in case the motion is moved in the Lok Sabha, and that of the Chairperson when a motion is moved in the Rajya Sabha.
- The Speaker/Chairperson may decide on the privilege motion at their own discretion or they may refer it to a parliamentary committee.
- If the Speaker/Chairperson admits the motion, then the concerned member is given an opportunity to explain themselves by making a short statement.
- In the Lok Sabha, the Speaker nominates a committee of privileges which consists of 15 members proportionate to the strengths of various political parties in the Lower House of Parliament.
- They prepare a report which is then presented before the House for its consideration. The Speaker may allow a half-an-hour debate on the report before she/he passed the final orders.
- The Speaker can also direct that the report be tabled before the House and a resolution may be unanimously passed on the breach of privilege. Currently, Congress MP PC Chacko is the chairperson of the privilege committee.
- The process is similar in the Upper House, except that the privilege committee consists of 10 members and is headed by the deputy chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.

67. Paving the way “for a strong institutional system for redressing grievances while placing accountability and responsibility on the broadcasters and their self-regulating bodies”, the government through the I&B Ministry amended the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994. Consider the following statements with respect to this amendment.

- 1. Inter-Departmental Committee will be set up under the Oversight Mechanism to resolve the grievances of a Viewer.**

2. This amendment is not applicable to OTT platforms.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy-Medium

- The Central Government issued a notification amending the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 thereby providing a statutory mechanism for redressal of grievances/complaints of citizens relating to content broadcast by television channels in accordance with the provisions of the Cable Television Network Act, 1995.
- At present, there is an institutional mechanism by way of an Inter- Ministerial Committee to address grievances of citizens relating to violation of the Programme/Advertising Codes under the Rules.
- Similarly, various broadcasters have also developed their internal self- regulatory mechanism for addressing grievances. However, a need was felt to lay down a statutory mechanism for strengthening the grievance redressal structure.
- Some broadcasters had also requested for giving legal recognition to their associations/bodies.
- In the aforementioned background, the Cable Television Network Rules have been amended to provide for this statutory mechanism, which would be transparent and benefit the citizens. At the same time, self-regulating bodies of broadcasters would be registered with the Central Government.
- At present there are over 900 television channels which have been granted permission by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting all of which are required to comply with the Programme and Advertising Code laid down under the Cable Television Network Rules.
- The above notification is significant as it paves the way for a strong institutional system for redressing grievances while placing accountability and responsibility on the broadcasters and their self-regulating bodies.

68. Consider the following statements with respect to Unmanned Aircraft System Rules, 2021.

1. No license or permit is needed to fly Small drones.
2. A Remote Pilot License can be renewed for another 10 years once expired.
3. There are no limitations on the altitude and speed at which drones can be flown.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation

Categories of Drones

	Weight	License Required	Area Restrictions	Altitude Restrictions	Speed Restrictions
Nano	< 250 Gms	No	Yes	No	No
Micro	250 Gms - 2 Kgs	UAS Operator Permit-I	Yes	Upto 60	25 m/s
Small	2 Kgs - 25 Kgs	UAS Operator Permit-I	Yes	Upto 120 mtrs	25 m/s
Medium	25 - 150 Kgs	UAS Operator Permit-II	Yes	conditions as per the Operator Permit	conditions as per the Operator Permit
Large	> 150 Kgs	UAS Operator Permit-II	Yes	conditions as per the Operator Permit	conditions as per the Operator Permit

69. Consider the following statements with respect to Ranked Choice Voting.

1. More than 50% of total votes casted are needed to win an election under Ranked Choice Voting system.
2. The system of. Ranked Choice Voting is yet to be introduced in India.

Select the correct code.

- A. 1 only

- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

Type: Conceptual

Difficulty: Easy-Medium

Ranked-choice Voting System (RCV)

- A ranked-choice voting system (RCV) is an electoral system in which voters rank candidates by preference on their ballots.
- One benefit of the system is that nobody “wastes” their vote by picking an unpopular candidate as their first choice.

How does ranked-choice voting work?

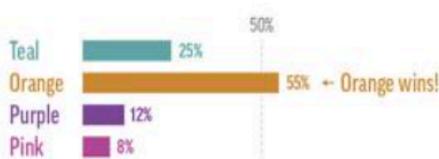
FAVORITE COLOR	
COLOR	RANK
Teal	2
Orange	3
Purple	1
Pink	4

On the ballot
In a ranked-choice voting system, voters rank their top choices in order of preference, rather than selecting a single candidate. Let's use favorite colors as an example.

- ← First choice
- ← Last choice

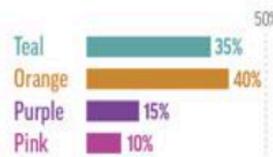
First vote count

The first step is to evaluate voters' first choices. If one candidate is the first choice of a majority of voters and earns more than half of the vote, that candidate wins!

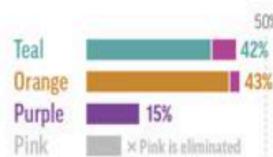


Getting to a majority

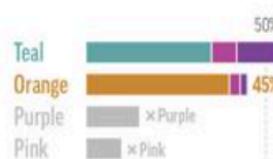
If no candidate wins a majority of first-choice votes, the ranked choices come into play. The candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and those votes are redistributed to the candidates listed as the second choice on those ballots.



No candidate won a majority of the votes, so the candidate with the fewest votes (Pink) is eliminated.



After Pink's votes were redistributed to the second choice of Pink's supporters, still no candidate won a majority. The candidate with the next fewest votes (Purple) is cut next.



← **Teal wins!**
Most of Purple's voters selected Teal as their second choice, which put Teal over the 50% mark.



- A candidate could get the largest share of first-choice votes, but still lose to someone who is the second or third choice of a large number of people.
- The system is tough to grasp. It requires voters to do a lot more research. It also makes races less predictable.
- Ranked Choice Voting is also known as Single Transferrable Voting (PR) and is used in elections for President, Vice-President and Rajya Sabha.

70. The Rules related to Recusal of Judges from a case are mentioned in which of the following?

- A. Judicial Officers Protection Act, 1850
- B. Judges Inquiry Rule – 1969
- C. The Delhi High Court Act, 1966
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

Type: Factual

Difficulty: Easy-Medium

- When there is a conflict of interest, a judge can withdraw from hearing a case to prevent creating a perception that she carried a bias while deciding the case. The conflict of interest can be in many ways – from holding shares in a company that is a litigant to having a prior or personal association with a party involved in the case.

Process For Recusal

- The decision to recuse generally comes from the judge herself as it rests on the conscience and discretion of the judge to disclose any potential conflict of interest.
- In some circumstances, lawyers or parties in the case bring it up before the judge. If a judge recuses, the case is listed before the Chief Justice for allotment to a fresh Bench.
- Once a request is made for recusal, the decision to recuse or not rests with the judge. While there are some instances where judges have recused even if they do not see a conflict but only because such an apprehension was cast, there have also been several cases where judges have refused to withdraw from a case.
- There are no formal rules governing recusals, although several Supreme Court judgments have dealt with the issue.
- In *Ranjit Thakur v Union of India* (1987), the Supreme Court held that the tests of the likelihood of bias is the reasonableness of the apprehension in the mind of the party.
- Since there are no formal rules governing the process, it is often left to individual judges to record reasons for recusal. Some judges disclose the reasons in open court; in some cases, the reasons are apparent.

71. Consider the following statements with respect to Cooperative Societies Act, 1912.

1. It paved the way for creation of central and non-credit societies.

2. It mandated that at least 10 members were required for registering a cooperative society.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- The 1912 Act recognised the necessity of organising large societies for proper supervision of credit and also paved the way for creation of central and non-credit societies.
- It had 29 sections.
- The following were the important features of All India Cooperative Societies Act, 1912:
 - ✓The Registrar of Cooperative Societies was to be appointed by the State Government. He will, however, appoint his own staff/ officers to assist him.
 - ✓In an unlimited society one member will have only one vote while in a limited society he may have as many votes as laid down in the bye-laws.

72. As a result of the implementation of which act/reforms, cooperation was transferred to the Provincial (State) governments?

- A. Montegu-Chelmsford Reforms
- B. Lansdowne Reforms
- C. Cooperative Societies Act, 1912
- D. Cooperative Credit Societies Act, 1904

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Bombay Provincial Government was the first to pass its own act, "Bombay Provincial Cooperative Societies Act" in 1925.
- With exhaustive provisions for registration, membership, funds, management, settlement of disputes, recovery of dues, liquidation, etc. this Act served as a model for many other provinces / States for a fairly long time.
- The government of United Province (now Uttar Pradesh) passed its Act in 1931.

- Other provincial governments like Madras, Bengal, Bihar and Punjab followed the Bombay Act and passed their own acts in due course.
- It is pertinent to note that if any provincial government had neither passed its own Act nor adopted Bombay Act, the All India Cooperative Societies Act 1912 was applicable to it.

73. The term “co-operative societies” is mentioned in the Constitution of India. Which of the statements mentioned below are incorrect with respect to the above mentioned statement?

1. The practice of forming cooperative societies has become one of the fundamental rights of an Indian citizen as per Article 19 and this provision was originally mentioned in the constitution.
2. Article 43-B provides for the promotion of co-operative societies.
3. The item “Cooperative Societies” is a Concurrent list Subject in the 7th Schedule.

Select the correct code.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- After the 97th amendment i.e. right to form cooperative societies and it's including it in Article 19 of the Constitution, the practice of forming cooperative societies has become one of the fundamental rights of an Indian citizen.
- In addition to that, they have also been given the status of local self-government in the line of rural and urban municipal bodies in Part 9 of the Constitution.
- As per Article 43B Constitution of India, the State shall endeavour to promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of co-operative societies.
- The Seventh Schedule of the Constitution says that the cooperative societies are a State subject.

74. Consider the following statements with respect to Co- operative Banking in India.

1. Urban Co-operative Banks are regulated and supervised by the RBI only.
2. The customers of a co-operative bank are also its owners.

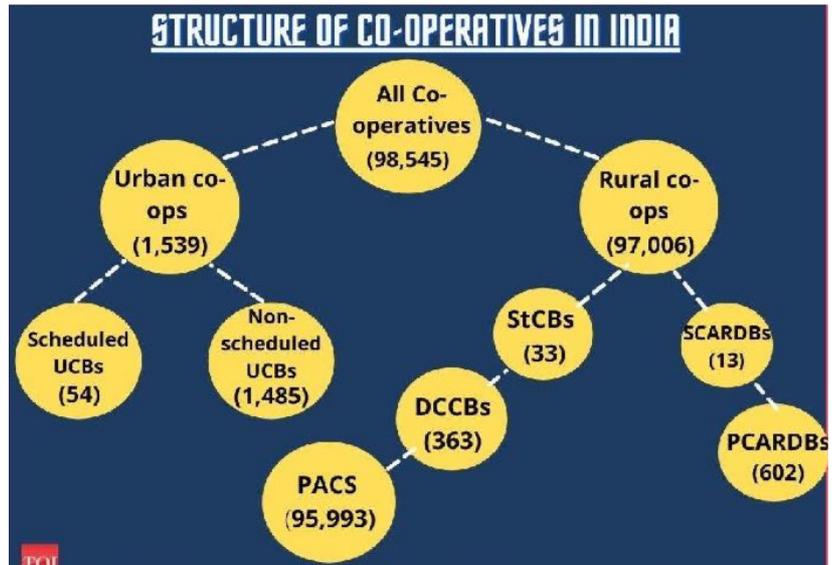
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- Co-operative banks are financial entities established on a co-operative basis and belonging to their members. This means that the customers of a co-operative bank are also its owners.
- These banks provide a wide range of regular banking and financial services.
- In India, co-operative banks are registered under the States Cooperative Societies Act.
- They also come under the regulatory ambit of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under two laws, namely, the Banking Regulations Act, 1949, and the Banking Laws (Co-operative Societies) Act, 1955.
- They were brought under the RBI's watch in 1966, a move which brought the problem of dual regulation along with it.
- Urban Co-operative Banks are regulated and supervised by State Registrars of Co-operative Societies (RCS) in case of single-State co-operative banks and Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies (CRCS) in case of multi-State co-operative banks and by the RBI.



75. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) can be defined as a Company's sense of responsibility towards the community and environment (both ecological and social) in which it operates. The conditions of CSR are applicable of which of the following?

- A. Companies registered under The Companies Act, 2013
- B. Co-operative Societies registered under the Co-operative Societies Act.
- C. Trusts registered under Indian Trust Act, 1882.
- D. All of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- CSR is applicable on every Company including its holding or subsidiary having:
 - ✓ Net worth of Rs. 500 Crore or more, or
 - ✓ Turnover of Rs. 1000 crore or more, or
 - ✓ Net Profit of Rs. 5 crore or more during the immediately preceding financial year
- A foreign company having its branch office or project office in India, which fulfills the criteria specified above
- However, if a company ceases to meet the above criteria for 3 consecutive financial years then it is not required to comply with CSR Provisions till such time it meets the specified criteria.

76. Consider the following statements with respect to appointments of Judges to Supreme Court of India.

- 1. The Chief Justice of India can appoint a judge of a High Court as an ad hoc judge of the Supreme Court for a temporary period.**
- 2. A retired judge of a high court can also be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

Ad hoc Judge

- The Chief Justice of India can appoint a judge of a High Court as an ad hoc judge of the Supreme Court for a temporary period after consulting with the chief justice of the High Court concerned and with the previous consent of the president.
- The judge so appointed should be qualified for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court. It is the duty of the judge so appointed to attend the sittings of the Supreme Court, in priority to other duties of his office.
- While so attending, he enjoys all the jurisdiction, powers and privileges (and discharges the duties) of a judge of the Supreme Court.

Retired Judge

- At any time, the chief justice of India can request a retired judge of the Supreme Court or a retired judge of a high court (who is duly qualified for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court) to act as a judge of the Supreme Court for a temporary period.
- Important Points:
 - ✓ Previous consent of the president and also of the person to be so appointed.
 - ✓ Such a judge is entitled to such allowances as the president may determine.
 - ✓ He will also enjoy all the jurisdiction, powers and privileges of a judge of Supreme Court. But, he will not otherwise be deemed to be a judge of the Supreme Court.

77. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Supreme Court of India.

- 1. The salaries, allowances and pensions of the judges and the staff of the Supreme Court are charged on the Public Account of India.**
- 2. The Chief Justice of India can appoint officers and servants of the Supreme Court without any interference from the executive.**
- 3. The Parliament is not authorised to curtail the jurisdiction and powers of the Supreme Court but they can extend the same.**

Select the correct code.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The salaries, allowances and pensions of the judges and the staff as well as all the administrative expenses of the Supreme Court are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India. Thus, they are non-votable by the Parliament (though they can be discussed by it).
- The Chief Justice of India can appoint officers and servants of the Supreme Court without any interference from the executive. He can also prescribe their conditions of service.
- The Parliament is not authorised to curtail the jurisdiction and powers of the Supreme Court. The Constitution has guaranteed to the Supreme Court, jurisdiction of various kinds. However, the Parliament can extend the same.

78. According to the Supreme Court of India, under which of the following categories, the letters or petitions alone will ordinarily be entertained as PIL?

1. Landlord-tenant matters
2. Petitions against police for refusing to register a case
3. Bonded labour matters
4. Family pension
5. Petitions against atrocities on women

Select the correct code.

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 5
- B. 2, 3, 4 and 5
- C. 1, 3, 4 and 5
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: B

Explanation

- Under the PIL, any public-spirited citizen or a social organisation can move the court for the enforcement of the rights of any person or group of persons who because of their poverty or ignorance or socially or economically disadvantaged position are themselves unable to approach the court for the remedies.
- According to SC, the letters or petitions falling under the following categories alone will ordinarily be entertained as PIL:
 - ✓ Bonded labour matters
 - ✓ Neglected children
 - ✓ Non-payment of minimum wages to workers
- Exploitation of casual workers and complaints of violation of Labour Laws
- Petitions from jails complaining of harassment, for premature release and seeking release after having completed 14 years in jail, death in jail, transfer, release on personal bond, speedy trial as a fundamental right
- Petitions against police for refusing to register a case, harassment by police and death in police custody a
- Petitions against atrocities on women
- Petitions complaining of harassment or torture of villagers by co- villagers or by police from persons belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes and economically backward classes

- Petitions from riot-victims
- Family pension

79. Consider the following statements with respect to Tribunals.

- 1. The Tribunals were mentioned in the original constitution.**
- 2. The jurisdiction of Central Administrative Tribunal extends to officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament.**
- 3. The chairman and members of the State Administrative Tribunals are appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Attorney General of the state concerned.**

Which of the above statements are incorrect?

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals. The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution.
- This part is entitled as 'Tribunals' and consists of only two Articles—Article 323 A dealing with administrative tribunals and Article 323 B dealing with tribunals for other matters.
- The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was set up in 1985 with the principal bench at Delhi and additional benches in different states.
- The CAT exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of public servants covered by it.
- Its jurisdiction extends to the all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian employees of defence services.
- However, the members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it.
- The Administrative Tribunals Act of 1985 empowers the Central government to establish the State Administrative Tribunals (SATs) on specific request of the concerned state governments.
- The chairman and members of the SATs are appointed by the president after consultation with the governor of the state concerned.

80. Consider the following statements.

1. The first Lok Adalat camp in the post-independence era was organised in Gujarat in 1982.
2. The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 was amended in 2002 to provide for the establishment of the Permanent Lok Adalats.
3. Nyayadhikari of Gram Nyayalaya shall be appointed by the State Government in consultation with the High Court.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Lok Adalat is a forum where the cases (or disputes) which are pending in a court or which are at pre-litigation stage (not yet brought before a court) are compromised or settled in an amicable manner.
- The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 was amended in 2002 to provide for the establishment of the Permanent Lok Adalats to deal with cases pertaining to the public utility services.
- The Permanent Lok Adalat shall consist of a Chairman who is or has been a district judge or additional district judge or has held judicial office higher in rank than that of the district judge and two other persons having adequate experience in public utility services.
- The jurisdiction of the Permanent Lok Adalats is upto Rs. One Crore. Here if the parties fail to reach to a settlement, the Permanent Lok Adalat has the jurisdiction to decide the case. The award of the Permanent Lok Adalat is final and binding upon the parties.
- The salient features of the Gram Nyayalayas Act are as follows:
 - ✓ The Gram Nyayalaya shall be court of Judicial Magistrate of the first class and its presiding officer (Nyayadhikari) shall be appointed by the State Government in consultation with the High Court.
 - ✓ The Nyayadhikaris who will preside over these Gram Nyayalayas are strictly judicial officers and will be drawing the same salary, deriving the same powers as First Class Magistrates working under High Courts.

81. Consider the following statements:

1. Introduction and passage of ordinary bills.
2. Approval of ordinances issued by the governor.
3. Enlargement of the jurisdiction of the state public service commission.
4. Amending power of a money bill.

Select the correct code which reflects equal powers of the legislative council with the legislative assembly.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- Powers of council equal with Assembly: In the following matters, the powers and status of the council are broadly equal to that of the assembly:
 - ✓ Introduction and passage of ordinary bills (assembly prevails over that of the council)
 - ✓ Approval of ordinances issued by the governor.
 - ✓ Selection of ministers including the chief minister.
 - ✓ Consideration of the reports of the constitutional bodies like State Finance Commission, state public service commission and Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
 - ✓ Enlargement of the jurisdiction of the state public service commission.
- Powers of council unequal with assembly: In the following matters, the powers and status of the council are unequal to that of the assembly:
 - ✓ A Money Bill can be introduced only in the assembly and not in the council.
 - ✓ The council cannot amend or reject a money bill. It should return the bill to the assembly within 14 days, either with recommendations or without recommendations.
 - ✓ The assembly can either accept or reject all or any of the recommendation of the council. In both cases, the money bill is deemed to have been passed by the two Houses.
 - ✓ The final power to decide whether a particular bill is a money bill or not is vested in the Speaker of the assembly.
 - ✓ The final power of passing an ordinary bill also lies with the assembly.

82. Consider the following statements with respect to Appropriation Bill.

- 1. Appropriation Bill gives power to the government to withdraw funds from the Public Fund of India for meeting the expenditure during the financial year.**
- 2. As per article 204 of the Constitution, the government can withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund only after receiving approval from Parliament.**

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- Under Article 114(3) of the Constitution, no amount can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund without the enactment of such a law by Parliament.
- After the Demands for Grants are voted by the Lok Sabha, Parliament's approval to the withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund of the amounts so voted and of the amount required to meet the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund is sought through the Appropriation Bill.
- The Finance Bill contains provisions on financing the expenditure of the government, and Appropriation Bill specifies the quantum and purpose for withdrawing money.
- Procedure
 - ✓ Introduction of Appropriation Bill in the lower house of Parliament.
 - ✓ First passed by the Lok Sabha and then sent to the Rajya Sabha.
 - ✓ Rajya Sabha has the power to recommend any amendments in this Bill. (Lok Sabha has the upper hand)
- The unique feature of the Appropriation Bill is its automatic repeal clause, whereby the Act gets repealed by itself after it meets its statutory purpose.

83. Which of the following bodies were constituted in pursuance of the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment?

- 1. District planning committee**
- 2. State election commission**

3. State finance commission

Select the correct code

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Salient Features of the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment Acts.
 - ✓ Panchayats and Municipalities will be “institutions of self- government” .
 - ❖ Basic units of democratic system-Gram Sabhas (villages) and Ward Committees (Municipalities) comprising all the adult members registered as voters.
 - ❖ Three-tier system of panchayats at village, intermediate block/ taluk/mandal and district levels except in States with population is below 20 lakhs (Article 243B).
 - ❖ Uniform five year term and elections to constitute new bodies to be completed before the expiry of the term. In the event of dissolution, elections compulsorily within six months (Article 243E).
 - ❖ Independent Election Commission in each State for superintendence, direction and control of the electoral rolls (Article 243K).
 - ❖ 5. 74th Amendment provides for a District Planning Committee to consolidate the plans prepared by Panchayats and Municipalities (Article 243ZD).
 - ❖ Funds: Budgetary allocation from State Governments, share of revenue of certain taxes, collection and retention of the revenue it raises, Central Government programmes and grants, Union Finance Commission grants (Article 243H).
 - ❖ Establish a Finance Commission in each State to determine the principles on the basis of which adequate financial resources would be ensured for panchayats and municipalities (Article 243I).

84. Consider the following statements with respect to Select Committees.

1. This is formed for examining a particular Bill and its membership is open to MPs from both Houses.
2. They are chaired by MPs from the ruling party.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only

- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- Select Committee is formed for examining a particular Bill and its membership is limited to MPs from one House.
 - ✓ Example: Rajya Sabha referred the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 to a Select Committee of 23 of its MPs from different parties. The committee was headed by BJP MP Bhupender Yadav.
- Since both the JPCs and Select Committees are constituted for a specific purpose, they are disbanded after their report. Both these types of committees are chaired by MPs from the ruling party.
- Need of such committees:
 - ✓ Parliament scrutinises legislative proposals (Bills) in two ways.
 - ✓ Discussing it on the floor of the two Houses.
 - ❖ Legislative requirement; all Bills have to be taken up for debate.
 - ❖ Since Parliament meets for 70 to 80 days in a year, there is not enough time to discuss every Bill in detail on the floor of the House.
 - ❖ Plus debate in the house is mostly political and does not go into the technical details of a legislative proposal.
- The second mechanism is by referring a Bill to a parliamentary committee. It takes care of the legislative infirmity of debate on the floor of the House.

85. Under which article of the Indian Constitution, it is mentioned that there should not be a gap of more than six months between two sessions of Parliament?

- A. Article 85
- B. Article 66
- C. Article 54
- D. Article 92

Answer: A

Explanation

- The summoning of Parliament is specified in Article 85 of the Constitution. Like many other articles, it is based on a provision of The Government of India Act, 1935.

- The gap between two sessions of the Parliament cannot exceed 6 months, which means the Parliament meets at least two times in one year.
- Constitution does not specify when or for how many days Parliament should meet.
- Over the years, governments have shuffled around the dates of sessions to accommodate political and legislative exigencies. In 2017, the Winter Session was delayed on account of the Gujarat Assembly elections.
- In 2011, political parties agreed to cut short the Budget Session so they could campaign for Vidhan Sabha elections in five states.

86. Recently, NISHTHA initiative was launched. Consider the following statements with respect to the same.

- 1. The initiative has been launched by Ministry of MSME.**
- 2. The initiative will focus on generating resources for young entrepreneurs.**

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- NISHTHA : National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement
- It is an initiative to build capacities of teachers and school principals at the elementary stage.
- The initiative is an Integrated Teacher Training Programme of the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of HRD as part of its National Mission to improve learning outcomes at the Elementary level under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha during 2019-20.
- Due to COVID-19 and to provide continuous development opportunities to the teachers at the elementary level, this Department has launched NISHTHA online using DIKSHA platform in October 2020.

87. Consider the following statements with respect to Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2021.

- 1. Offences punishable with imprisonment (less than 7 years) will be tried by any Judicial Magistrate.**
- 2. The Bill adds that serious offences will also include offences for which maximum punishment is imprisonment of more than seven years.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only**
- B. 2 only**
- C. Both 1 and 2**
- D. None of the above**

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 states that adoption of a child is final on the issuance of an adoption order by the civil court.
- The Bill provides that instead of the court, the district magistrate (including additional district magistrate) will issue such adoption orders.
- Under the 2015 Act offences committed by juveniles are categorised as heinous offences, serious offences, and petty offences. Serious offences include offences with three to seven years of imprisonment.
✓ The Bill adds that serious offences will also include offences for which maximum punishment is imprisonment of more than seven years, and minimum punishment is not prescribed or is less than seven years.

88. Consider the following statements with respect to National Commission for Minorities (NCM).

- 1. The first Statutory National Commission for Minorities (NCM) was set up in 1993 under Ministry of Minority Affairs.**
- 2. The functions of the Commission are related to the six notified minority communities.**

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- A. 1 only**
- B. 2 only**
- C. Both 1 and 2**
- D. None of the above**

Answer: A

Explanation

- The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has informed that the erstwhile Minority Commission in its Annual Reports (1981-82, 1982-83), had recommended for setting up of a Committee to consider the need for considering and, if necessary, to formulate a scheme to establish a National Integration-cum- Human Rights Commission for promotion of secular traditions and national integration.
- The first Statutory NCM was set up on 17th May 1993 under Ministry of Home Affairs Resolution.
- The functions of the Commission as laid down in Section 9(1) of the Act are related to the six notified minority communities i.e. Jain (2014) , Parsi, Sikh, Christian, Buddhist and Muslim.

89. Which of the following agencies act as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children?

- A. Indian Council For Child Welfare
- B. Central Adoption Resource Authority
- C. Central Child Welfare Committee
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.
- It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in- country and inter-country adoptions.
- CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993, ratified by Government of India in 2003.
- CARA primarily deals with adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated / recognised adoption agencies.

90. Consider the following statements with respect to I-MESA.

- 1. The scheme has been formulated by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**
- 2. Under this scheme, Financial Audits are to be conducted for all the schemes of the Department starting FY 2021-22.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated a scheme, namely Information Monitoring, Evaluation and Social Audit (I- MESA) in FY 2021-22.
- Under this scheme, Social Audits are to be conducted for all the schemes of the Department starting FY 2021-22.
- These social audits are done through Social Audit Units (SAU) of the States and National Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.
- Social Audit is much more holistic having a greater scope for measuring, understanding and improving the social performance of an activity of an organization.

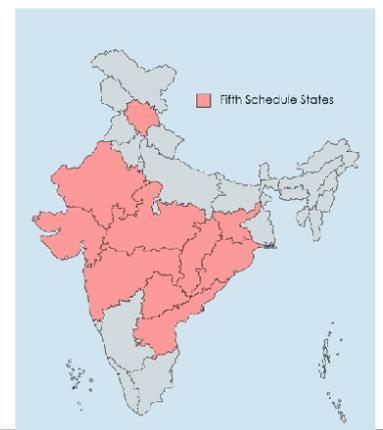
91. Under which schedule of the Constitution of India can the transfer of tribal land to private parties for mining be declared null and void?

- A. Third Schedule
- B. Fifth Schedule
- C. Ninth Schedule
- D. Twelfth Schedule

Answer: B

Explanation

- In the Article 244(1) of the Constitution, expression Scheduled Areas means such areas as the President may by order declare to be Scheduled Areas.
- The Constitution provides autonomy to tribal areas in matters of governance under the Fifth and Sixth Schedules, which is further fortified by the *Samatha v. State of Andhra Pradesh & Ors* (1997) judgment where the Supreme Court declared that the transfer of tribal land to private parties for mining was null and void under the Fifth Schedule.



- The Fifth Schedule designates tribal majority areas in ten tribal minority states within peninsular India including, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan.

92. Which of the following is correct regarding the President's Rule?

1. It may be imposed whenever a state fails to comply with or to give effect to any direction from the Centre.
2. The proclamation needs to be approved only by Lok Sabha within 1 month from the date of its issue.
3. If approved by both the Houses of Parliament, the President's Rule continues for six months.
4. It cannot be extended for a period of more than two years with the approval of the Parliament, every six months.

Select the correct code.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- The President's Rule can be proclaimed under Article 356 on two grounds—one mentioned in Article 356 itself and another in Article 365:
 - ✓ Article 356: A situation has arisen in which the government of a state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
 - ✓ Notably, the president can act either on a report of the governor of the state or otherwise too (ie, even without the governor's report).
 - ✓ Article 365: Whenever a state fails to comply with or to give effect to any direction from the Centre.
 - ✓ A proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue.
 - ✓ If approved by both the Houses of Parliament, the President's Rule continues for six months.

✓It can be extended for a maximum period of three years with the approval of the Parliament, every six months.

93. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Constitution of India defines its 'basic structure' in terms of federalism, secularism, fundamental rights and democracy.**
- 2. The Constitution of India provides for 'judicial review' to safeguard the 'citizens' liberties and to preserve the ideals on which the constitution is based.**

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 phrase 'basic structure' itself cannot be found in the Constitution.
- The Supreme Court recognised this concept for the first time in the historic Kesavananda Bharati case in 1973.
- Article 13 in fact provides for the judicial review of all legislations in India, past as well as future.
- This power has been conferred on the High courts and the Supreme court of India which can declare a law unconstitutional if it is inconsistent with any of the provisions of part 3rd of the constitution.

94. Consider the following statements with respect to Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021.

- 1. Under the Bill, the central government may prohibit strikes, lock-outs, and lay-offs in units engaged in essential defence services.**
- 2. Employers violating the prohibition order through illegal lock-outs or lay-offs will be punished with up to one year imprisonment or Rs 10,000 fine, or both.**
- 3. Fundamental right to form an association can be restricted under Article 19(4) for armed forces and police.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Bill allows the central government to prohibit strikes, lock-outs, and lay-offs in units engaged in essential defence services.
- The Bill amends the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to include essential defence services under public utility services.
- Under the Act, in case of public utility services, a six-week notice must be given before: (i) persons employed in such services go on strike in breach of contract or (ii) employers carrying on such services do lock-outs.
- Essential defence services include any service in:
 - Any establishment or undertaking dealing with production of goods or equipment required for defence related purposes, or
 - ✓any establishment of the armed forces or connected with them or defence.
 - ✓These also include services that, if ceased, would affect the safety of the establishment engaged in such services or its employees.
 - In addition, the government may declare any service as an essential defence service if its cessation would affect the:
 - ✓Production of defence equipment or goods,
 - ✓Operation or maintenance of industrial establishments or units engaged in such production, or
 - ✓Repair or maintenance of products connected with defence.



95.If any of the fundamental rights is violated, a person can approach the Supreme Court as per the provisions mentioned under which one of the following articles?

- A. Article 44
- B. Article 32
- C. Article 15
- D. Article 226

Answer: B

Explanation

- Article 32 deals with the 'Right to Constitutional Remedies', or affirms the right to move the Supreme Court by appropriate proceedings for the enforcement of the rights conferred in Part III of the Constitution.
- It states that the Supreme Court "shall have power to issue directions or orders or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari, whichever may be appropriate, for the enforcement of any of the rights conferred by this Part".
- The right guaranteed by this Article "shall not be suspended except as otherwise provided for by this Constitution".

96. Virtual Court is a concept aimed at eliminating presence of litigant or lawyer in the court and adjudication of the case online. Consider the following statements with respect to the same.

- 1. Currently, litigant can view the status of a case online through various channels created for service delivery.**
- 2. Litigants can file the plaint electronically through e-Filing and also pay the Court Fees or Fine online.**
- 3. eCourts Mission Mode Project is a project launched by Uttar Pradesh Government.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- In the current scenario facility is provided for Litigants to file the plaint electronically through e-Filing and also pay the Court Fees or Fine online through <https://vcourts.gov.in>
- Litigant can view the status of the case also online through various channels created for service delivery.
- However for adjudication purpose the Litigant may have to appear in person or through the Lawyer in the Court.

The E-Courts Project was conceptualised on the basis of "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Indian Judiciary - 2005" submitted by e-Committee of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

- The eCourts Mission Mode Project, is a Pan-India Project, monitored and funded by Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India for the District Courts across the country.
- The main objectives of the e-Court Project are as follows:
 - ✓ To provide efficient & time-bound citizen-centric service delivery.
 - ✓ To develop, install & implement decision support systems in courts.
 - ✓ To automate the processes to provide transparency of Information access to its stakeholders.
 - ✓ To enhance judicial productivity both qualitatively & quantitatively, to make the justice delivery system affordable, accessible, cost-effective & transparent.

97. The doctrine of separation of power is the three pillars of democracy, namely the executive, judiciary and legislature, perform separate functions and act as separate entities. Which of the following articles facilitates Separation of Powers?

1. Article 50
2. Article 122
3. Article 361

Select the correct code.

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- The doctrine of Separation of Powers deals with the mutual relations among the three organs of the Government namely legislature, executive and judiciary.
- Articles in the Constitution facilitating Separation of Powers are as follows:
 - ✓ Article 50 of the Constitution of India, which contains a Directive Principle of State Policy, provides that the State shall take steps to separate the Judiciary from the Executive in the Public Services of the State.
 - ✓ Article 122 Constitution of India: Courts not to inquire into proceedings of Parliament.
 - ✓ Article 361 is an exception to Article 14 (Right to Equality) of the Indian Constitution.

- ✓ The President or the Governor is not answerable to any court for the exercise of the powers and duties of his office.
- ✓ Article 121 and 211: Judicial conduct of a judge of the Supreme Court and the High Courts' cannot be discussed by the Legislature.

98. Consider the following statements with respect to Finance Bills.

- 1. As per Article 117 of the Constitution of India, the Finance Bill is a Money Bill.**
- 2. Article 117 of the Constitution categorically lays down that a Bill pertaining to sub-clauses (a) to (f) of clause (1) shall not be introduced or moved except with the President's recommendation.**
- 3. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is authorised to decide whether the Bill is a Money Bill or not.**
- 4. The Finance Bill can makes changes in the existing laws wherever required.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- As per Article 110 of the Constitution of India, the Finance Bill is a Money Bill. The Finance Bill is a part of the Union Budget, stipulating all the legal amendments required for the changes in taxation proposed by the Finance Minister.
- This Bill encompasses all amendments required in various laws pertaining to tax, in accordance with the tax proposals made in the Union Budget.
- The Finance Bill, as a Money Bill, needs to be passed by the Lok Sabha – the lower house of the Parliament. Post the Lok Sabha's approval, the Finance Bill becomes Finance Act.
- The Union Budget proposes many tax changes for the upcoming financial year, even if not all of those proposed changes find a mention in the Finance Minister's Budget speech.
- These proposed changes pertain to several existing laws dealing with various taxes in the country.
- The Finance Bill seeks to insert amendments into all those laws concerned, without having to bring out a separate amendment law for each of those Acts.

- For instance, a Union Budget's proposed tax changes may require amending the various sections of the Income Tax law, Stamp Act, Money Laundering law, etc.
- The Finance Bill overrides and makes changes in the existing laws wherever required.

99. Which of the following states are covered under Inner Line Permit?

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Mizoram
3. West Bengal
4. Manipur
5. Sikkim

Select the correct code.

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 4 and 5 only

Answer: A

Explanation

- Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the Government of India to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period.
- It is obligatory for Indian citizens from outside those states to obtain a permit for entering into the protected state.
- The document is an effort by the government to regulate movement to certain areas located near the international border of India.
- ILP is required for Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland.

100. The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha acts as the ex-officio President of which of the following?

- A. India Parliamentary Group (IPG)
- B. Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health
- C. Joint Sitting of both the Houses of the Parliament
- D. Chairman of Rajya Sabha does not preside any of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- Indian Parliamentary Group is an autonomous body which was formed in 1949 in pursuance of a motion adopted by the Constituent Assembly.
- The Speaker of Lok Sabha is the ex-ocio president of IPG, the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha and Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha are the ex-ocio vice presidents.
- The Speaker of Lok Sabha is the ex-ocio President of all the Parliamentary Forums except the Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health wherein Chairman Rajya Sabha is the ex-ocio President and Speaker is the ex-ocio Co- President.

101. Consider the following statements with respect to Enforcement Directorate.

- 1. The Organization is also mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988.**
- 2. Presently, it is a part of Department of Economic Affairs.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Enforcement Directorate has transferred assets worth
- ₹8,441.50 crore to public sector banks that suffered losses to the
- tune of ₹22,585.83 crore due to frauds committed allegedly by Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi.
- Directorate of Enforcement is a Multi Disciplinary Organization mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of two special fiscal laws - Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).
- The origin of this Directorate goes back to 1st May, 1956, when an 'Enforcement Unit' was formed, in Department of Economic Affairs, for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 (FERA '47).
- In the year 1957, this Unit was renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate'.
- The administrative control of the Directorate was transferred from Department of Economic Affairs to Department of Revenue in 1960.

- ✓ Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018
- ✓ Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)
- ✓ Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) Rules
- ✓ Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)
- ✓ Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Rules
- ✓ Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 (FERA)
- ✓ Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 (Amended FERA)
- ✓ Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA)

102. Consider the following statements with respect to the administration of Union Territories.

- 1. Every union territory is administered by the President acting through an administrator appointed by him.**
- 2. The President can also appoint the governor of a state as the administrator of an adjoining union territory.**
- 3. Legislative power of Parliament for the union territories on subjects of the State List is affected after establishing a local legislature for them.**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- An administrator of a union territory is an agent of the President and not the head of state like a governor.
- The President can specify the designation of an administrator; it may be Lieutenant Governor or Chief Commissioner or Administrator.
- The President can also appoint the governor of a state as the administrator of an adjoining union territory.
- In that capacity, the governor is to act independently of his council of ministers.

- The Parliament can make laws on any subject of the three lists (including the State List) for the union territories.
- This power of Parliament also extends to Puducherry, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, which have their own local legislatures.
- This means that the legislative power of Parliament for the union territories on subjects of the State List remain unaffected even after establishing a local legislature for them.
- But, the legislative assembly of Puducherry can also make laws on any subject of the State List and the Concurrent List.

103. Which one of the following statements is incorrect with respect to Parliamentary Committees?

- A. It is appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker / Chairman.
- B. It works under the direction of the Speaker/Chairman.
- C. It presents its report to the President.
- D. None of the above.

Answer: C

Explanation

- A parliamentary committee means a committee that:
 - ✓ Is appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker/Chairman
 - ✓ Works under the direction of the Speaker/Chairman !Presents its report to the House or to the Speaker/ Chairman
 - ✓ Has a secretariat provided by the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha
- The consultative committees, which also consist of members of Parliament, are not parliamentary committees as they do not fulfill above four conditions.
- Broadly, parliamentary committees are of two kinds – Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees.
- The former are permanent (constituted every year or periodically) and work on a continuous basis, while the latter are temporary and cease to exist on completion of the task assigned to them.

104. Consider the following statements :

- 1. The 44th Amendment to the Constitution of India introduced an Article placing the election of the Prime Minister beyond judicial review.**
- 2. The Supreme Court of India struck down the 99th Amendment to the Constitution of India as being violative of the independence of judiciary.**

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 Constitution (39th Amendment Act), 1975
- The Act places in court the election of a person holding the office of Prime Minister or Speaker to Parliament, and the election of President and Vice-President, beyond challenge.
- In the case of the State of Uttar Pradesh v. Raj Narain 1976 (2) SCR 347, Article 329A was struck down by the Supreme Court for breach of the basic structure.
- The Constitution (99th Amendment Act), 2014
 - ✓ It called for the setting up of the National Judicial Commission.
- Supreme Court declared that the 99th Amendment Act (an amendment to validate the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act) was unconstitutional, which had contemplated a significant role for the executive in appointing judges in the higher judiciary.

105. Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Parliament.

- 1. A person cannot be a member of both Houses of Parliament at the same time.**
- 2. The Speaker is elected by the Lok Sabha from amongst its members.**
- 3. A House can declare the seat of a member vacant if he is absent from all its meetings for a period of sixty days without its permission.**
- 4. The Chairman/Speaker has to accept the resignation of any member of parliament.**

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- A. 1 and 3 only**

- B. 4 only
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. All statements are correct

Answer: B

Explanation

- Double Membership

✓ A person cannot be a member of both Houses of Parliament at the same time. Thus, the Representation of People Act (1951) provides for the following:

- ❖ If a person is elected to both the Houses of Parliament, he must intimate within 10 days in which House he desires to serve. In default of such intimation, his seat in the Rajya Sabha becomes vacant.

- ❖ If a sitting member of one House is also elected to the other House, his seat in the first House becomes vacant.

- ❖ If a person is elected to two seats in a House, he should exercise his option for one. Otherwise, both seats become vacant.

- Resignation

✓ A member may resign his seat by writing to the Chairman of Rajya Sabha or Speaker of Lok Sabha, as the case may be.

✓ The seat falls vacant when the resignation is accepted.

✓ However, the Chairman/Speaker may not accept the resignation if he is satisfied that it is not voluntary or genuine.

- Absence

✓ A House can declare the seat of a member vacant if he is absent from all its meetings for a period of sixty days without its permission.

✓ In computing the period of sixty days, no account shall be taken of any period during which the House is prorogued or adjourned for more than four consecutive days.