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Historical Underpinnings

1. There were certain events in the British rule that laid down the legal framework for the organisation and functioning of government and administration in British India. Consider the following statements with respect to the same.

1. Pitt's India Act of 1784 designated the Governor of Bengal as the 'Governor-General of Bengal' and created an Executive Council of four members to assist him.
2. Regulating Act of 1773 provided for the establishment of a Supreme Court at Calcutta.
3. Charter Act of 1813 made Indian trade open to all British merchants.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- Regulating Act of 1773
 - ✓ Governor of Bengal as the 'Governor-General of Bengal'
 - ✓ Governors of Bombay and Madras presidencies

✓ Establishment of a Supreme Court at Calcutta (1774)

- Pitt's India Act of 1784

✓ Distinguished between the commercial and political functions of the Company.

✓ "British possessions in India"

✓ Empowered the Board of Control to supervise and direct all operations (Civil or Military)

- Charter Act of 1813

✓ Abolished the trade monopoly of the company in India

✓ Sovereignty of the British Crown over the Company's territories

✓ Spread of western education

✓ allowed the Christian missionaries to come to India

2. Consider the following statements with respect to Constituent Assembly.

1. Constituent Assembly was directly elected by the people of India on the basis of adult franchise.

2. The concept of social, economic and political justice was mentioned in Objectives Resolution.

3. Whenever the Assembly met as the Constituent body it was chaired by Dr. Rajendra Prasad and when it met as the legislative body, it was chaired by G.V. Mavlankar.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Constituent Assembly was constituted in November 1946 under the scheme formulated by the Cabinet Mission Plan.
- Constituent Assembly was partly elected and partly nominated body. Moreover, the members were to be indirectly elected by the members of the provincial assemblies, who themselves were elected on a limited franchise.
- Although the Constituent Assembly was not directly elected by the people of India on the basis of adult franchise, the Assembly comprised representatives of all sections of the Indian society- Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Parsis, Anglo-Indians, Indian Christians, SCs, STs including women of all these sections.
- Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha, the oldest member, was elected as the temporary President of the Assembly, following the French practice.
- Later, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as the President of the Assembly. Similarly, both H.C. Mukherjee and V.T. Krishnamachari were elected as the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly.

- Objectives Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Assembly on January 22, 1947.
- two separate functions were assigned to the Assembly, that is, making of the Constitution for free India and enacting of ordinary laws for the country. These two tasks were to be performed on separate days.
- These two functions continued till November 26, 1949, when the task of making the Constitution was over.

3. Which act provided for the establishment of new legislative councils for Bengal, North-Western Provinces and Punjab?

- A. Government of India Act of 1858
- B. Indian Councils Act of 1861
- C. Indian Councils Act of 1892
- D. Indian Councils Act of 1909

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Indian Councils Act of 1861 is an important landmark in the constitutional and political history of India.
- Association of Indians with the law-making process.
 - ✓ Raja of Benaras, the Maharaja of Patiala and Sir Dinkar Rao
- Process of decentralisation
 - ✓ Restoring the legislative powers to the Bombay and Madras Presidencies.
- Portfolio System

✓ Introduced by Lord Canning in 1859

4. Arrange the following events in correct chronological order.

- 1. Ratification of India's membership of the Commonwealth 1949**
- 2. Adoption of the national flag 1947**
- 3. Adoption of the national anthem 1950**
- 4. Publication of first draft of the Constitution of India 1948**

Select the correct code

- A. 2-3-4-1
- B. 4-2-3-1
- C. 2-4-1-3
- D. 4-2-1-3

Answer: C

Explanation

- In addition to the making of the Constitution and enacting of ordinary laws, the Constituent Assembly also performed the following functions:
 - ✓ It ratified the India's membership of the Commonwealth in May 1949.
 - ✓ It adopted the national flag on July 22, 1947.
 - ✓ It adopted the national anthem on January 24, 1950.
 - ✓ It adopted the national song on January 24, 1950.
 - ✓ It elected Dr. Rajendra Prasad as the first President of India on January 24, 1950.

- The Drafting Committee, after taking into consideration the proposals of the various committees, prepared the first draft of the Constitution of India, which was published in February, 1948.

5. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Union Powers Committee and Union Constitution Committee were chaired by Jawaharlal Nehru.**
- 2. The Constitution as adopted on November 26, 1949, contained a Preamble, 395 Articles and 8 Schedules.**
- 3. Prem Behari Narain Raizada was the calligrapher of the Indian Constitution.**
- 4. The Indian Independence Act of 1947 and the Government of India Act of 1935 continued till First Lok Sabha was constituted on 17 April 1952.**

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Major Committees:
 - ✓ Union Powers Committee - Jawaharlal Nehru
 - ✓ Union Constitution Committee - Jawaharlal Nehru

- ✓ Provincial Constitution Committee
-Sardar Patel
- ✓ Drafting Committee - Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- ✓ Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas - Sardar Patel.
- The Constitution as adopted on November 26, 1949, contained a Preamble, 395 Articles and 8 Schedules.
- ✓ The Preamble was enacted after the entire Constitution was already enacted.
- With the commencement of the Constitution, the Indian Independence Act of 1947 and the Government of India Act of 1935, with all enactments amending or supplementing the latter Act, were repealed.
- The Abolition of Privy Council Jurisdiction Act (1949) was however continued.