

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

5th to 11th April, 2021

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

Laws, Bills and Miscellaneous

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021:

1. It provides a framework for the functioning of the Legislative Assembly and the government of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.
2. It allows the Legislative Assembly to make Rules to regulate the procedure and conduct of business in the Assembly.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in Lok Sabha on March 15, 2021.

- The Bill amends the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991.
- The Act provides a framework for the functioning of the Legislative Assembly and the government of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.
- The Bill amends certain powers and responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly and the Lieutenant Governor.
- The Act allows the Legislative Assembly to make Rules to regulate the procedure and conduct of business in the Assembly.
- The Bill provides that such Rules must be consistent with the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha.

Source: PRSINDIA

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021:

1. It increases the limit on foreign investment in an Indian insurance company from 49% to 74%.
2. It removes restrictions on ownership and control.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: D

Explanation: The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in Rajya Sabha by the Minister of Corporate Affairs, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, on March 15, 2021. The Bill amends the Insurance Act, 1938.

- The Act provides the framework for functioning of insurance businesses and regulates the relationship between an insurer, its policyholders, its shareholders, and the regulator (the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India).
- The Bill seeks to increase the maximum foreign investment allowed in an Indian insurance company.
- The Act allows foreign investors to hold up to 49% of the capital in an Indian insurance company, which must be owned and controlled by an Indian entity.

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- The Bill increases the limit on foreign investment in an Indian insurance company from 49% to 74%, and removes restrictions on ownership and control.
- However, such foreign investment may be subject to additional conditions as prescribed by the central government.

Source: PRSINDIA

Q.3) The “Labour” falls under which of the following list of 7th schedule?

- a) State list
- b) Concurrent list
- c) Union list
- d) Residuary list

ANS: B

Explanation: Labour falls under the Concurrent List of the Constitution. Therefore, both Parliament and state legislatures can make laws regulating labour.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the “Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)”:

1. Ministry of Home Affairs characterizes a tribe as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
2. Highest number of PVTGs are located in Madhya Pradesh.

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

ANS: A

Explanation: 75 tribal groups have been categorized by Ministry of Home Affairs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)’s. PVTGs reside in 18 States and UT of A&N Islands. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” exclusively for them.

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State-wise list of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)					
Name of States/Union Territory	S.No	Name of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group	Name of States/Union Territory	S.No	Name of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group
Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana)	1	Chenchu	Maharashtra	41	Katkaria /kathodi
	2	Bodo Gadaba		42	Kolam
	3	Gutob Gadaba		43	Maria Gond
	4	Dongaria Khond	Manipur	44	Maram Naga
	5	Kutia Kondha		Orissa	45
	6	Kolam	46		Birhore
	7	Konda Reddi	47		Bondo
	8	Kondasavara	48		Didayi
	9	Bondo Porja	49		Dongaria Khond
	10	Khond Porja	50		Juang
	11	Parengi Porja	51		Kharia
Bihar (including Jharkhand)	12	Tothi	52		Kutia Kondha
	13	Asur	53		Lanjia Saura
	14	Birhor	54		Lodha
	15	Birjia	55	Mankirdia	
	16	Hill Kharia	56	Paudi Bhuiya	
	17	Korwa	57	Saura	
	18	Mal Paharia	Rajasthan	58	Saharia
	19	Parhaiya	Tamil Nadu	59	Irular
	20	Sauria Paharia		60	Kattunayakan
21	Savara	61		Kota	
22	Kolgha	62		Korumba	
Gujarat	23	Kathodi	63	Paniyan	
	24	Kotwalia	64	Toda	
	25	Padhar	Tripura	65	Raing
Karnataka	26	Siddi	Uttar Pradesh (including Uttrakhand)	66	Buksa
	27	Jenu Kuruba		67	Raji
Kerala	28	Koraga	West Bengal	68	Birhor
	29	Cholanaikayan		69	Lodha
	30	Kadar		70	Totos
	31	Kattunayakan	Andaman & Nicobar island	71	Great Andamanics
	32	Koraga		72	Jarawa
	33	Kurumbas		73	Onge
34	Abujh Maria	74		Sentinelese	
35	Baiga	75		Shom Pen	
Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	36	Bharia			
	37	Birhor			
	38	Hill Korba			
	39	Kamar			
	40	Sahariya			

PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. Due to this factor, more developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds, because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development.

In this context, in 1975, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs and declared 52 such groups, while in 1993 an additional 23 groups were added to the category, making it a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes, spread over 17 states and one Union Territory (UT), in the country (2011 census).

Source: MOTA

Q.5) Which of the following Act/rule defines the “minor forest produce”?

- Indian forests act, 1878
- Indian forests act, 1927
- The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996
- Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006

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ANS: D

Explanation: The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 defines a Minor Forest Produce (MFP) as all non-timber forest produce of plant origin and includes bamboo, brushwood, stumps, canes, Tusser, cocoon, honey, waxes, Lac, tendu/kendu leaves, medicinal plants and herbs, roots, tuber and the like.

Source: PRSINDIA

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding the “price stabilization fund scheme”:

1. It helps to regulate the price volatility of important agri-horticultural commodities.
2. It provides for maintaining a strategic buffer of aforementioned commodities for subsequent calibrated release to moderate price volatility.
3. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is the nodal agency to implement the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: B

Explanation: The Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) was set up in 2014-15 under the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW).

- The PSF scheme was later transferred from DAC&FW to the Department of Consumer Affairs (DOCA) in 2016.
- The fund is to help regulate the price volatility of important agri-horticultural commodities like onion, and potatoes. Pulses were also added subsequently.
- The scheme provides for maintaining a strategic buffer of aforementioned commodities for subsequent calibrated release to moderate price volatility and discourages hoarding and unscrupulous speculation.
- For building such stock, the scheme promotes direct purchase from farmers/farmers'association at farm gate/Mandi.
- The PSF is utilized for granting interest free advance of working capital to Central Agencies, State/UT Governments/Agencies to undertake market intervention operations.

Source: PIB

Q.7) The “SAKALA scheme” - to curb corruption in public service delivery in key departments is launched by which of the following state?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Gujarat
- d) Karnataka

ANS: D

Explanation: The scheme is being implemented in the State of Karnataka to curb corruption in public service delivery in key departments.

- More than 725 services are being provided under this mission.
- Now, the state government has proposed to launch the version 2 of SAKALA scheme with the existing SAKALA-1 fails to curb corruption.

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- SAKALA -2 will address shortcomings in the existing Act by including a provision for imposing penalty of Rs. 250 per day for delay in addressing complaints.

Source: PIB

Q.8) Recently, government of India announced the tax cuts for Corporations. What would be the likely impact on economy due to tax cuts?

1. It will raise the animal spirits of investors.
2. It will put more money on the hands of private sector.
3. It will raise the exports.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

ANS: A

Explanation: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a significant cut in corporate tax rates, thus bringing down the effective tax rate (including various cesses and surcharges) on corporations from 35% to 25%.

- Also under the new corporate tax policy, new companies that set up manufacturing facilities in India starting in October and commence production before the end of March, 2023 will be taxed at an effective rate of 17%.
- Following the government's decision, both the NIFTY and the SENSEX rose over 5%, which is their biggest one-day rise in a decade.
- Tax cuts, by putting more money in the hands of the private sector, can offer people more incentive to produce and contribute to the economy. Thus the present tax cut can help the wider economy grow.
- The corporate tax rate, it is worth noting, is also a major determinant of how investors allocate capital across various economies.
- So there is constant pressure on governments across the world to offer the lowest tax rates in order to attract investors.
- The present cut in taxes can make India more competitive on the global stage by making Indian corporate tax rates comparable to that of rates in East Asia.
- The tax cut, however, is expected to cause a yearly revenue loss of ₹1.45 lakh crore to the government which is struggling to meet its fiscal deficit target.
- At the same time, if it manages to sufficiently revive the economy, the present tax cut can help boost tax collections and compensate for the loss of revenue.

Source: The Hindu

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the transfer of surplus capital of RBI to central government:

1. RBI appointed Bimal Jalan Committee to review the surplus transfer to central government under Economic Capital Framework (ECF).
2. In last five years the surplus transfer by RBI to central government was continuously increased.

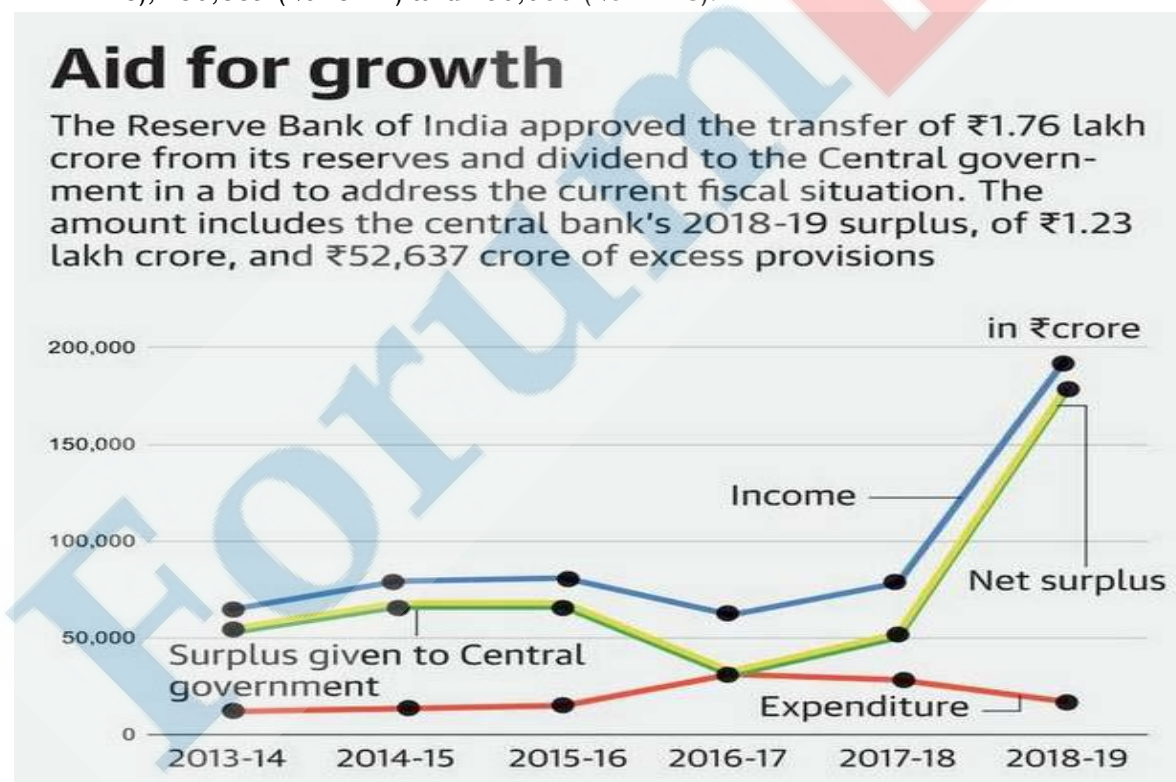
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: A

Explanation: On August 26, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) central board decided to transfer ₹1.76 lakh crore to the government (including a sum of ₹52,637 crore from its contingency reserve), a move that is likely to address the Central government's precarious fiscal situation.

- The transfer amount included the payment of dividend worth ₹1.23 lakh crore, and funds from its reserves, as identified under a new economic capital framework (ECF) adopted by the RBI board.
- The RBI had formed a committee chaired by former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan to review its ECF last year.
- Each year, the RBI transfers to the government any money in its balance sheet that it deems to be beyond its operational and contingency needs. The RBI's transfer of funds to the government per se is nothing new.
- But what has raised eyebrows this time is that the amount of funds being transferred by the central bank to the government this year is much higher than earlier — 146.8% more than what it had paid out last year, when it transferred ₹50,000 crore as dividend.
- Previously, the highest amount of surplus funds that the RBI had transferred to the government was ₹65,896 crore in 2014-15.
- The net surplus figures are: ₹52,683 (2013-14); ₹65,896 (2014-15); ₹65,880 (2015-16); ₹30,659 (2016-17) and ₹50,000 (2017-18).



Source: The Hindu

Q.10) Which of the following species is/are found in National Chambal Sanctuary?

1. Gharials
2. Fresh water river dolphins
3. Smooth-coated otters

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: D

Explanation: The National Chambal Sanctuary, that stretches over the Chambal River (that spreads to Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan).

- The sanctuary was granted Protected Area Status in 1979, to revive the gharial population that was once subject to rampant poaching.
- This *river is home to freshwater river dolphins*.
- The river is home to a variety of birds as well, including sandpipers and egrets and bar-headed geese.
- The *red-naped ibis and Ruddy shelduck*, as well as painted storks that added a dash of colour to the stark landscape.
- The famed gharials, crocodiles and the critically endangered red-crowned roofed turtles.
- The smooth-coated otters reside in Chambal Sanctuary

Source: The Hindu

Bills, Laws & Miscellaneous

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020:

1. It allows intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce beyond the physical premises of APMC markets.
2. State governments are allowed to levy market fee, cess or levy outside APMC areas.

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Trade of farmers' produce: The Bill allows intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce outside: (i) the physical premises of market yards run by market committees formed under the state APMC Acts and (ii) other markets notified under the state APMC Acts. Such trade can be conducted in an 'outside trade area', i.e., any place of production, collection, and aggregation of farmers' produce including: (i) farm gates, (ii) factory premises, (iii) warehouses, (iv) silos, and (v) cold storages.

- Electronic trading: The Bill permits the electronic trading of scheduled farmers' produce (agricultural produce regulated under any state APMC Act) in the specified trade area. An electronic trading and transaction platform may be set up to facilitate the direct and online buying and selling of such produce through electronic devices and internet. The following entities may establish and operate such platforms: (i) companies, partnership firms, or registered societies, having permanent account number under the Income Tax Act, 1961 or any other document notified by the central government, and (ii) a farmer producer organisation or agricultural cooperative society.
- Market fee abolished: The Bill prohibits state governments from levying any market fee, cess or levy on farmers, traders, and electronic trading platforms for trade of farmers' produce conducted in an 'outside trade area'.

Source: PRSINDIA

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020:

1. The bill provides for a farming agreement between a farmer and a buyer prior to the production or rearing of any farm produce.
2. The maximum period of an agreement will be is ten years.

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Farming agreement: The bill provides for a farming agreement between a farmer and a buyer prior to the production or rearing of any farm produce. The minimum

period of an agreement will be one crop season, or one production cycle of livestock. The maximum period is five years, unless the production cycle is more than five years.

- Pricing of farming produce: The price of farming produce should be mentioned in the agreement. For prices subjected to variation, a guaranteed price for the produce and a clear reference for any additional amount above the guaranteed price must be specified in the agreement. Further, the process of price determination must be mentioned in the agreement.
- Dispute Settlement: A farming agreement must provide for a conciliation board as well as a conciliation process for settlement of disputes. The Board should have a fair and balanced representation of parties to the agreement. At first, all disputes must be referred to the board for resolution. If the dispute remains unresolved by the Board after thirty days, parties may approach the Sub-divisional Magistrate for resolution. Parties will have a right to appeal to an Appellate Authority (presided by collector or additional collector) against decisions of the Magistrate. Both the Magistrate and Appellate Authority will be required to dispose of a dispute within thirty days from the receipt of application. The Magistrate or the Appellate Authority may impose certain penalties on the party contravening the agreement. However, no action can be taken against the agricultural land of farmer for recovery of any dues.

Source: PRSINDIA

Q.3) The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 provides that the central government may regulate the supply of certain food items including cereals, pulses, potatoes, onions, edible oilseeds, and oils, only under extraordinary circumstances. Which of the following is/are comes under extraordinary circumstances?

1. War
2. Famine
3. Extraordinary price rise

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: D

Explanation: The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 empowers the central government to designate certain commodities (such as food items, fertilizers, and petroleum products) as essential commodities.

- The central government may regulate or prohibit the production, supply, distribution, trade, and commerce of such essential commodities.
- The Bill provides that the central government may regulate the supply of certain food items including cereals, pulses, potatoes, onions, edible oilseeds, and oils, only under extraordinary circumstances.
- These include: (i) war, (ii) famine, (iii) extraordinary price rise and (iv) natural calamity of grave nature.

Source: PRSINDIA

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Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020:

1. It regulates the acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution by individuals, associations and companies.
2. Foreign contribution is the donation or transfer of any currency, security or article by a foreign source.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 was introduced in Lok Sabha on September 20, 2020. The Bill amends the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.

- The Act regulates the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution by individuals, associations and companies. Foreign contribution is the donation or transfer of any currency, security or article (of beyond a specified value) by a foreign source.
- Under the Act, certain persons are prohibited to accept any foreign contribution. These include: election candidates, editor or publisher of a newspaper, judges, government servants, members of any legislature, and political parties, among others.
- The Bill adds public servants (as defined under the Indian Penal Code) to this list.
- Public servant includes any person who is in service or pays of the government, or remunerated by the government for the performance of any public duty.

Source: PRSINDIA

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Global Environment Outlook”:

1. It is a series of reports on the environment issued periodically by the World Economic Forum.
2. It is based on integrated environmental assessment (IEA) methodology.

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is a series of reports on the environment issued periodically by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

- The sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) provides a clear assessment of the current state of the environment, the challenges that we face and how well we have dealt with them, with due consideration given to gender, indigenous knowledge and cultural dimensions.
- The assessment lays the foundation for continued socio-environmental assessments across relevant scales, with a thematic as well as an integrated focus, enabling and informing societal transitions and the tracking of Sustainable Development Goal targets and goals as well as previously agreed internationally environmental goals.

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- Using the integrated environmental assessment (IEA) methodology, UNEP has produced five GEO reports thus far, and the first edition of regional assessments which have analyzed environmental state and trends at the global and regional scales, described plausible outlooks for various time frames and formulated policy options.

Source: The Hindu

Q.6) Which of the following is/are “pioneer species” of ecological succession?

1. Lichens
2. Fungi
3. Bacteria

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: D

Explanation: Ecological succession is a series of progressive changes in the species that make up a community over time.

- Primary succession occurs when new land is formed or bare rock is exposed, providing a habitat that can be colonized for the first time.
- What happens to this land during primary succession? First, weathering and other natural forces break down the substrate, rock, enough for the establishment of certain hearty plants and lichens with few soil requirements, known as pioneer species.
- Algae, fungi, bacteria, lichens colonize on the bare rocks and provide organic materials for further higher level of colonization, while the planktons i.e., phytoplankton's, zooplanktons provide base at the shallow water for further higher levels of succession in hydro sere.

Source: NCERT

Q.7) “Global Drylands Initiative” is launched by which of the following?

- a) UNEP
- b) Global Environment Facility
- c) World Bank
- d) IUCN

ANS: D

Explanation: Drylands are found in tropical and temperate latitudes and account for 41.3% of the global terrestrial area. They can be classified into four types - dry sub-humid, semi-arid, arid and hyper-arid lands - encompassing a variety of ecosystems.

- The goal of the Global Drylands Initiative is to restore, sustainably manage and protect dryland ecosystems for multiple environmental, economic and social benefits.
- The Initiative supports countries to adapt ecosystem management policy and practice to the unique conditions of the drylands and to the evolving challenges that the drylands face.
- Further, as the IUCN Focal Point to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Global Drylands Initiative leads IUCN's efforts to influence the global discourse on Land Degradation and Sustainable Land Management.

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- In this case, the Initiative supports countries to implement their commitments to the Convention by demonstrating good practices on the ground, influencing the science-policy interaction of the Convention itself and working with other stakeholders to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality.

Source: IUCN

Q.8) Consider the following statements with respect to “Effective Revenue Deficit” (ERD):

1. It is the difference between revenue deficit and grants for creation of capital assets.
2. It is suggested by the Rangarajan Committee on Public Expenditure.
3. The ERD target for 2020-21 has been set under 1% of GDP.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 3 only

ANS: D

Explanation: Effective Revenue Deficit is the difference between revenue deficit and grants for creation of capital assets.

- The concept of effective revenue deficit has been suggested by the Rangarajan Committee on Public Expenditure.
- It is aimed to deduct the money used out of borrowing to finance capital expenditure.
- The concept has been introduced to ascertain the actual deficit in the revenue account after adjusting for expenditure of capital nature.
- Focusing on this will help in reducing the consumptive component of revenue deficit and create space for increased capital spending.
- Though the Budget documents have given targets for revenue deficit, the amendments to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act 2003 has proposed to substitute the definitions of “effective revenue deficit” and “revenue deficit” with those of “Central government debt” and “general government debt” respectively.

Source: The Hindu

Q.9) “It is an economic situation where people hoard financial capital instead of investing or spending it”- is related to which of the following?

- a) Multiplier effect
- b) Liquidity trap
- c) Thrift
- d) Fiscal trap

ANS: B

Explanation: A liquidity trap is an economic situation where people hoard financial capital instead of investing or spending it.

As a result, the nation's central bank can't use expansionary monetary policy to boost economic growth. It often occurs when short-term interest rates are zero.

Source: Ramesh Singh

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Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding Union Public Service Commission (UPSC):

1. Articles 315 to 323 of the Indian Constitution related to UPSC.
2. It consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the President of India.
3. Parliament determines the conditions of service of the chairman and other members of the Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: A

Explanation: Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is the central recruiting agency in India. It is an independent constitutional body in the sense that it has been directly created by the Constitution.

- Articles 315 to 323 in Part XIV of the Constitution contain elaborate provisions regarding the composition, appointment and removal of members along with the independence, powers and functions of the UPSC.
- The UPSC consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the president of India. The Constitution, without specifying the strength of the Commission has left the matter to the discretion of the president, who determines its composition. Usually, the Commission consists of nine to eleven members including the chairman.
- Further, no qualifications are prescribed for the Commission's membership except that one-half of the members of the Commission should be such persons who have held office for at least ten years either under the Government of India or under the government of a state.
- The Constitution also authorizes the president to determine the conditions of service of the chairman and other members of the Commission.

Source: Laxmikanth

Miscellaneous

Q.1) “Montreux Record” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Mangroves
- b) Coral Reefs
- c) Wetlands
- d) Estuaries

ANS: C

Explanation: Montreux Record is the principal tool under the Ramsar Convention, is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance.

- It highlights those sites where adverse changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference and which are therefore in need of priority conservation attention.
- It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.

Source: Ramsar Convention

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. The Ganga Action Plan was launched by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
2. The National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) is chaired by 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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Ganga Action Plan was launched on 14th January 1986 with the main objective of pollution abatement, to improve water quality by interception, diversion and treatment of domestic sewage and toxic and industrial chemical wastes present, from identified grossly polluting units entering in to the river.

- After reviewing the effectiveness of the “Ganga Action Plan”, the Government announced the “Mission Clean Ganga” project on 31st December, 2009 with the objective that by 2020, no municipal sewage and industrial waste would be released in the river without treatment, with the total budget of around Rs.15,000 crore.
- The Government also established the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA), chaired by the Prime Minister, with the objective to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga, by adopting a river basin approach for comprehensive planning and management.

Source: Shankar

Q.3) Which of the following are the components of fly ash?

1. Silicon dioxide
2. Calcium oxide
3. Arsenic
4. Plutonium
5. Strontium

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- c) 2, 3 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

ANS: A

Explanation: Ash is produced whenever combustion of solid material takes place.

- Fly ash is one such residue which rises with the gases into the atmosphere.
- Fly ash is a very fine powder and tends to travel far in the air. The ash which does not rise is termed as bottom ash.
- Nearly 73% of India's total installed power generation capacity is thermal, of which 90% is coal-based generation, with diesel, wind, gas, and steam making up the rest.

Composition:

- Aluminum silicate (in large amounts)
- Silicon dioxide (SiO₂) and
- Calcium oxide (CaO).

Fly ash particles are oxide rich and consist of silica, alumina, oxides of iron, calcium, and magnesium and toxic heavy metals like lead, arsenic, cobalt, and copper.

Source: Shankar

Q.4) Which of the following pollutants are notified under "National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)"?

1. Sulphur Dioxide
2. Nitrogen Dioxide
3. Benzene
4. Ozone
5. Lead

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 2 and 5 only
- c) 2, 3 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

ANS: D

Explanation: National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) were notified in the year 1982, duly revised in 1994 based on health criteria and land uses.

The NAAQS have been revisited and revised in November 2009 for 12 pollutants, which include

- sulphur dioxide (SO₂),
- nitrogen dioxide (NO₂),
- particulate matter having size less than 10 micron (PM₁₀),
- particulate matter having size less than 2.5 micron (PM_{2.5}),
- ozone,
- lead,

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- carbon monoxide (CO),
- arsenic,
- nickel,
- benzene,
- ammonia, and
- benzopyrene.

Source: The Hindu

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Regulating Act, 1833”:

- 1 It made the Governor-General of Bengal as the Governor - General of India and vested in him military powers and civil powers.
2. The Governor-General of India was given exclusive legislative powers for the entire British India.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Regulating Act, 1833 was the final step towards centralization in British India.

The features of this Act were as follows:

- It made the Governor-General of Bengal as the Governor - General of India and vested in him all civil and military powers. Thus, the act created, for the first time, Government of India having authority over the entire territorial area possessed by the British in India. Lord William Bentick was the first Governor-General of India.
- It deprived the Governor of Bombay and Madras of their legislative powers. The Governor-General of India was given exclusive legislative powers for the entire British India. The laws made under the previous acts were called as Regulations, while laws made under this act were called as Acts.
- It ended the activities of the East India Company as a commercial body, which became a purely administrative body. It provided that the Company’s territories in India were held by it ‘in trust for His Majesty, His heirs and successors’.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.6) Which of the following words are found in the Objectives Resolution of 1946?

1. Sovereign
2. Justice
3. Equality
4. Integrity
5. Fraternity

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

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ANS: B

Explanation: On December 13, 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru moved the historic 'Objectives Resolution' in the Assembly. It laid down the fundamentals and philosophy of the constitutional structure. It read:

- "This Constituent Assembly declares its firm and solemn resolve to proclaim India as an Independent Sovereign Republic and to draw up for her future governance a Constitution".
- Where in shall be guaranteed and secured to all the people of India justice, social, economic and political; equality of status of opportunity, and before the law; freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, vocation, association and action, subject to law and public morality; and
- Where by shall be maintained the integrity of the territory of the Republic and its sovereign rights on land, sea and air according to justice and the law of civilized nations.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) Which of the following amendment process (s) is/are come (s) under Article 368?

1. Simple Majority.
2. Special majority of the Parliament.
3. Special majority of the Parliament and with the ratification by half of the total states.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: C

Explanation: The Constitution of India is neither rigid nor flexible, but a synthesis of both. Article 368 provides for two types of amendments:

- Some provisions can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament, i.e., a two-third majority of the members of each House present and voting, and a majority of the total membership of each House.
- Some other provisions can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and with the ratification by half of the total states.

At the same time, some provisions of the Constitution can be amended by a simple majority of the Parliament in the manner of ordinary legislative process. Notably, these amendments do not come under Article 368.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) Which of the following states in India follow the Inner Line Permit (ILP)?

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Mizoram
3. Tripura
4. Manipur

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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ANS: C

Explanation: Inner Line Permit is a concept drawn by colonial rulers; the Inner Line separated the tribal-populated hill areas in the Northeast from the plains.

- To enter and stay for any period in these areas, Indian citizens from other areas need an Inner Line Permit (ILP).
- The Inner Line protects Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram, and Manipur was added lately.

Source: Indian Express

Q.9) Which of the following are the indicators of “**World Happiness Index**”?

1. GDP per capita
2. Social support
3. Environmental sustainability
4. Healthy life expectancy
5. Generosity

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

ANS: B

Explanation: The Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations released the World Happiness Report on 20th March, 2020.

- The World Happiness Report ranks 156 countries by how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be.
- The rankings are based on polling (Gallup World Poll) which looks at six variables: GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity, and absence of corruption.
- The 2020 Report for the first time ranked cities around the world by their subjective well-being and looked into how the social, urban and natural environments combine to affect happiness.

Source: The Hindu

Q.10) Which of the following countries is/are part of “**East Asian Miracle 1993**”?

1. China
2. Japan
3. South Korea
4. Thailand
5. Philippines

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

ANS: B

Explanation: Eight countries in East Asia—Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia—have become known as the “East Asian miracle” because of their economies’ dramatic growth.

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- In these eight countries real per capita GDP rose twice as fast as in any other regional grouping between 1965 and 1990.
- Even more impressive is their simultaneous significant reduction in poverty and income inequality.

Source: Ramesh Singh

ForumIAS

Organisations & Bodies

Q.1) “Lima Declaration” is related to which of the following organization?

- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- World Bank
- International Monetary Fund
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

ANS: A

Explanation: UNIDO is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

- As of 1 April 2019, 170 States are Members of UNIDO. They regularly discuss and decide UNIDO’s guiding principles and policies in the sessions of the Policymaking Organs.
- The mission of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), as described in the Lima Declaration adopted at the fifteenth session of the UNIDO General Conference in 2013, is to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in Member States.

Source: <https://www.unido.org/who-we-are/unido-brief>

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD):

- It is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.
- It is not part of United Nations Development Programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: A

Explanation: UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.

- Our headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland, and we have offices in New York and Addis Ababa. UNCTAD is part of the UN Secretariat.
- We report to the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council but have our own membership, leadership, and budget. We are also part of the United Nations Development Group.

Source: <https://unctad.org/about>

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding United Nations (UN):

- All UN Member States are members of the General Assembly.
- States are admitted to membership by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.
- The Secretary-General of UN is appointed for a 9-year, non-renewable term.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only

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- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: B

Explanation: The UN's Membership has grown from the original 51 Member States in 1945 to the current 193 Member States.

- All UN Member States are members of the General Assembly. States are admitted to membership by a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.
- The Secretary-General is Chief Administrative Officer of the UN – and is also a symbol of the Organization's ideals and an advocate for all the world's peoples, especially the poor and vulnerable.
- The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a 5-year, renewable term.
- The current Secretary-General, and the 9th occupant of the post, is António Guterres of Portugal, who took office on 1 January 2017.

Source: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/>

Q.4) The call of “The World We Want” was raised by which of the following Organization?

- a) United Nations
- b) World Bank
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) United Nations Environment Programme

ANS: A

Explanation: The World We Want - 75 photos curated from more than 50,000 images from over 130 countries in response to the Secretary-General's call to hear directly from the peoples of the world about their priorities for the future.

Source: <https://www.un.org/en/exhibits/page/theworldwewant>

Q.5) Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust is a concessional financial support is related to which of the following Institution?

- a) World Bank
- b) Global Environmental Facility
- c) International Monetary Fund
- d) World Economic Forum

ANS: C

Explanation: The IMF's various lending instruments are tailored to different types of balance of payments need as well as the specific circumstances of its diverse membership (see table).

All IMF members are eligible to access the Fund's resources in the General Resources Account (GRA) on non-concessional terms, but the IMF also provides concessional financial support (currently at zero interest rates through June 2021) through the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT; see IMF Support for Low-Income Countries), which is better tailored to the diversity and needs of low-income countries.

Source: <https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/IMF-Lending>

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Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. Membership in IFAD is open to any state and specialized agencies of United Nations.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialized agency of the United Nations, was one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference.

- The conference was organized by the United Nations in response to the food crises of the early 1970s, when global food shortages were causing widespread famine and malnutrition, primarily in the Sahelian countries of Africa.
- IFAD has 177 Member States comprised of developing, middle and high-income countries from all regions of the world who are dedicated to eradicating poverty in rural areas.
- Membership in IFAD is open to any State that is a member of the United Nations, any of its specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Source: <https://www.ifad.org/en/member-states>

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding World Bank:

1. All member countries of United Nations are members of World Bank.
2. Board of Governors are the ultimate policy makers of Bank.

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The World Bank is like a cooperative, made up of 189 member countries.

- These member countries, or shareholders, are represented by a Board of Governors, who are the ultimate policymakers at the World Bank.
- Generally, the governors are member countries' ministers of finance or ministers of development.

Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/leadership>

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes” (ICSID):

1. It is the world’s leading institution devoted to international investment dispute settlement.
2. It was established in 1947 along with World Bank.

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

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ANS: A

Explanation: ICSID is the world's leading institution devoted to international investment dispute settlement.

- It has extensive experience in this field, having administered the majority of all international investment cases.
- States have agreed on ICSID as a forum for investor-State dispute settlement in most international investment treaties and in numerous investment laws and contracts.

ICSID was established in 1966 by the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States (the ICSID Convention).

- The ICSID Convention is a multilateral treaty formulated by the Executive Directors of the World Bank to further the Bank's objective of promoting international investment.
- ICSID is an independent, depoliticized and effective dispute-settlement institution. Its availability to investors and States helps to promote international investment by providing confidence in the dispute resolution process.
- It is also available for state-state disputes under investment treaties and free trade agreements, and as an administrative registry.

Source: <https://icsid.worldbank.org/About/ICSID>

Q.9) "Uruguay Round" negotiation is related to which of the following?

- a) World Bank
- b) World Trade Organization
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) Asian Development Bank

ANS: B

Explanation: The agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO) calls for a single institutional framework encompassing the GATT, as modified by the Uruguay Round, all agreements and arrangements concluded under its auspices and the complete results of the Uruguay Round.

Source: https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/ursum_e.htm

Q.10) United Nations Environment Programme Headquarters is located in which of the following Country?

- a) Switzerland
- b) Austria
- c) France
- d) Kenya

ANS: D

Explanation: The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) was founded in June 1972 as a result of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.

- The UNEP is the coordinating body for the United Nations' environmental activities. It has played a significant role in identifying and analyzing global environmental problems, developing regional and international environmental programs and conventions, and promoting environmental science and information.
- Among its most important tasks is assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.

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- Since 1997, in response to the environmental requirements of Agenda 21, UNEP has also published its Global Environment Outlook (GEO), a comprehensive report on global state of the environment. Its headquarters are in Nairobi, Kenya.

Source:

<http://www.environmentandsociety.org/tools/keywords/united-nations-environmental-programme-unesco-established>

ForumIAS

Organization & Bodies – II

Q.1) “Multiphase Programmatic Approach” is an approach to achieve development objectives in stages is related to which of the following?

- a) International Monetary Fund
- b) World Bank
- c) United Nations Development Programme
- d) Global Environmental Facility

ANS: B

Explanation: Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) of World Bank allows countries the flexibility to implement an approach to achieve development objectives in stages when:

- the development challenge is complex;
- it would take a longer time to achieve the objectives;
- it would take a longer time to prepare one large project;
- the solution needs a broader and comprehensive approach;
- when a stop-and-go approach is not feasible.

Projects under an MPA program may be financed by Investment Project Financing; or Program-for-Results financing, or their combination.

Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-and-services#MPA>

Q.2) Which of the following is/are the lending instrument of International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

1. Programmes for results.
2. Extended Fund facility.
3. Rapid Credit Facility.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: C

Explanation: Three types of loans were created under the new Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) as part of this broader reform: the Extended Credit Facility, the Rapid Credit Facility and the Standby Credit Facility.

- The Extended Credit Facility (ECF) provides financial assistance to countries with protracted balance of payments problems. The ECF succeeds the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) as the Fund’s main tool for providing medium-term support LICs, with higher levels of access, more concessional financing terms, more flexible program design features, as well as streamlined and more focused conditionality.
- The Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) provides rapid financial assistance with limited conditionality to low-income countries (LICs) facing an urgent balance of payments need. The RCF streamlines the Fund’s emergency assistance, provides significantly higher levels of concessionality, can be used flexibly in a wide range of circumstances, and places greater emphasis on the country’s poverty reduction and growth objectives.

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- The Standby Credit Facility (SCF) provides financial assistance to low-income countries (LICs) with short-term balance of payments needs. It provides support under a wide range of circumstances, allows for high access, carries a low interest rate, can be used on a precautionary basis, and places emphasis on countries' poverty reduction and growth objectives.

Program-for-Results of World Bank links disbursement of funds directly to the delivery of defined results, helping countries improve the design and implementation of their own development programs and achieve lasting results by strengthening institutions and building capacity.

Source:

<https://www.imf.org/external/about/lending> & <https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-and-services>

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience”:

1. It was launched by United Nations Sustainable Development Group.
2. Under the plan, 50 billion dollars were raised for climate finance from 2021 to 2025.

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The World Bank Group launched its Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience.

- Under the plan, the World Bank Group will ramp up direct adaptation climate finance to reach \$50 billion over FY21–25.
- This financing level—an average of \$10 billion a year—is more than double what was achieved during FY15-18.
- The World Bank Group will also pilot new approaches to increasing private finance for adaptation and resilience.

Source:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/01/15/world-bank-group-announces-50-billion-over-five-years-for-climate-adaptation-and-resilience>

Q.4) Which of the following is/are the instruments/methods of International Monetary Fund to raise money?

1. Quotas.
2. Bilateral Borrowing Agreements (BBAs).
3. New Arrangements to Borrow (NABs).

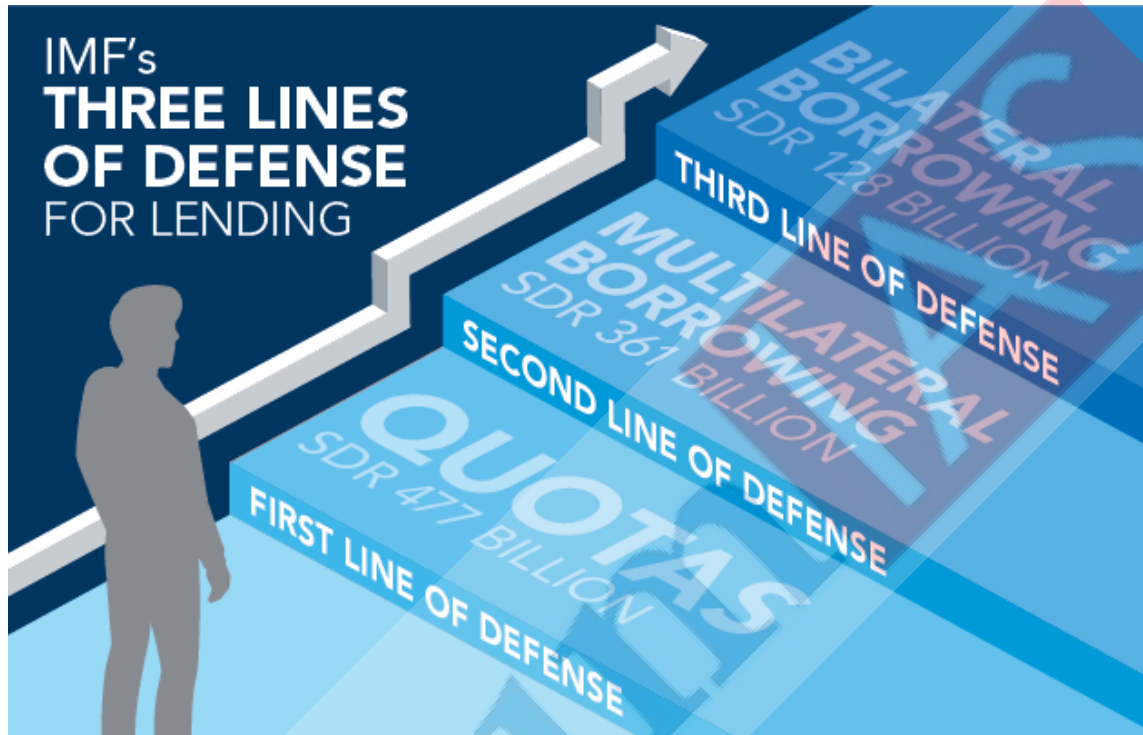
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: D

Explanation: Quotas are the IMF's main source of financing. Each member of the IMF is assigned a quota, based broadly on its relative position in the world economy.

- The New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB) constitutes a second line of defense to supplement IMF resources to forestall or cope with an impairment of the international monetary system.
- Bilateral Borrowing Agreements serve as a third line of defense after quotas and the NAB.



Source: <https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Where-the-IMF-Gets-Its-Money>

Q.5) Which of the following is headed by the Central Zoo Authority?

- Prime Minister
- Environment Minister
- Environment Secretary
- Animal Board of Wild life Chairman

ANS: B

Explanation: The CZA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

- It was constituted in 1992 under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- It is chaired by the Environment Minister and has 10 members and a member-secretary.
- The main objective of the authority is to complement and strengthen the national effort in conservation of rich biodiversity.

Source: <http://www.cza.nic.in/>

Q.6) Under which of the following act the Animal Welfare Board of India was established?

- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960
- National Green Tribunal Act (2010)
- Animal Welfare Act, 1980

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ANS: B

Explanation: The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country.

- Established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (No. 59 of 1960), the Animal Welfare Board of India was started under the stewardship of Late Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale, well known humanitarian.
- From ensuring that animal welfare laws in the country are diligently followed, to provide grants to Animal Welfare Organizations and advising the Government of India on animal welfare issues, the Board has been the face of the animal welfare movement in the country for the last 50 years.

Source: <http://www.awbi.in/about.html>

Q.7) “Infrastructure for Tomorrow” initiative is related to which of the following institution?

- a) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- b) Asian Development Bank
- c) World Bank
- d) New Development Bank

ANS: A

Explanation: Many of us have an in-built desire for a better quality of life. This means accessible physical, digital, commercial, medical, educational and other social infrastructure.

- AIIB, its members and clients, work together to finance infrastructure development—turning aspirations into reality.
- What our clients build and how and where their investments are built will evolve as infrastructure technologies advance and as people, the economy and the world change.
- The way people live, move and work and the way markets develop will shape the Infrastructure for Tomorrow (I4T).

I4T reflects AIIB's firm commitment to sustainability:

- Environmentally: Addresses ecological impacts like water and air quality, biodiversity, pollution and climate change.
- Financially and economically: Projects with sound return on investment that raise economic growth and increase productivity.
- Socially: Gives inclusive access, particularly to citizens excluded from access to infrastructure services.

Source:

<https://www.aiib.org/en/about-aiib/who-we-are/infrastructure-for-tomorrow/overview/index.html>

Q.8) Which of the following is NOT a member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?

- a) India
- b) Uzbekistan
- c) Pakistan
- d) Mongolia

ANS: D

Explanation: The SCO comprises eight member states, namely the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan;

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- The SCO counts four observer states, namely the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mongolia;
- The SCO has six dialogue partners, namely the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the Republic of Turkey, and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Source: http://eng.sectesco.org/about_sco/

Q.9) With reference to the National Human Rights Commission, which of the following statements is/are NOT correct?

1. The chairperson of the commission should be a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court.
 2. The chairperson and members are appointed by the Parliament.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: B

Explanation: The commission is a multi-member body consisting of a chairperson and five members.

- The chairperson should be a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court and members should be a serving or retired judge of the Supreme Court, a serving or retired chief justice of a high court and three persons (out of which at least one should be a woman) having knowledge or practical experience with respect to human rights.
- The chairperson and members are appointed by the president on the recommendations of a six-member committee consisting of the prime minister as its head, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament and the Central home minister.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.10) The Central Vigilance Commission was established under the recommendation of which of the following?

- a) Sarkaria Commission
- b) Punchi Commission
- c) Santhanam Committee
- d) Second ARC commission

ANS: C

Explanation: The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government. It was established in 1964 by an executive resolution of the Central government. Its establishment was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–64).

Source: Laxmikanth

Organization & Bodies - III

Q.1) Which of the following convention is formed to control of trans-boundary movements of hazardous waste and their disposal?

- a) Basel Convention
- b) Rotterdam Convention
- c) Stockholm Convention
- d) Vienna Convention

ANS: A

Explanation: The Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted on 22 March 1989 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Basel, Switzerland, in response to a public outcry following the discovery, in the 1980s, in Africa and other parts of the developing world of deposits of toxic wastes imported from abroad.

Source: Basel Convention

Q.2) MARPOL Convention is related to which of the following?

- a) Sustainable use of marine resources
- b) Development of renewable energy on sea shores
- c) Prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships
- d) All of the above

ANS: C

Explanation: The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes.

- The MARPOL Convention was adopted on 2 November 1973 at IMO. The Protocol of 1978 was adopted in response to a spate of tanker accidents in 1976-1977.
- As the 1973 MARPOL Convention had not yet entered into force, the 1978 MARPOL Protocol absorbed the parent Convention. The combined instrument entered into force on 2 October 1983.
- In 1997, a Protocol was adopted to amend the Convention and a new Annex VI was added which entered into force on 19 May 2005. MARPOL has been updated by amendments through the years.
- The Convention includes regulations aimed at preventing and minimizing pollution from ships - both accidental pollution and that from routine operations - and currently includes six technical Annexes.

Source: Shankar

Q.3) Which of the following activities carried out by Wildlife Institute of India (WII)?

1. Training
2. Research
3. Publicity
4. Consultancy services

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only

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d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

ANS: D

Explanation: Build up scientific knowledge on wildlife resources. Train personnel at various levels for conservation and management of wildlife.

- Carry out research relevant to management including the development of techniques appropriate to Indian conditions.
- Provide information and advice on specific wildlife management problems.
- Collaborate with international organizations on wildlife research, management and training.
- Develop as a regional centre of international importance on wildlife and natural resource conservation.
- Publicity and consultancy services

Source: Shankar

Q.4) Which of the following convention is related to Persistent Organic Pollutants?

- a) Basel convention
- b) Paris convention
- c) Stockholm convention
- d) Rotterdam convention

ANS: C

Explanation: The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment.

- Exposure to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) can lead to serious health effects including certain cancers, birth defects, dysfunctional immune and reproductive systems, greater susceptibility to disease and damages to the central and peripheral nervous systems.
- Given their long range transport, no one government acting alone can protect its citizens or its environment from POPs.
- In response to this global problem, the Stockholm Convention, which was adopted in 2001 and entered into force in 2004, requires its parties to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of POPs into the environment.

Source: Stockholm Convention

Q.5). Mangroves For the Future (MFF) was an initiative of which of the following institution?

- a) IUCN
- b) World Bank
- c) UNEP
- d) GEF

ANS: A

Explanation: The devastation caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004 laid bare the vital link between coastal ecosystems and human livelihoods.

- It was United States President Bill Clinton's vision that rebuilding in tsunami-hit areas should improve natural infrastructure and strengthen resilience against future natural disasters.

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- In response to this vision, IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) developed Mangroves for the Future in 2006.
- Since then, MFF has grown to include eight institutional partners, plus a growing number of countries.

Source: IUCN

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “National Green Tribunal”:

1. It was created for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
2. It is mandated to dispose the cases within six months of their respective appeals.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: D

Explanation: The Preamble of the act provides for the establishment of a National Green Tribunal for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources, including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto (The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010).

NGT is mandated to dispose the cases within six months of their respective appeals.

Source: Shankar page no: 310

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP)”:

1. It was created by the provisions of the wildlife protection act, 1972.
2. The first National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) was adopted in 1983.

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The first National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) was adopted in 1983, based upon the decision taken in the XV meeting of the Indian Board for Wildlife held in 1982.

The plan had outlined the strategies and action points for wildlife conservation which are still relevant.

Source: Shankar page no: 313

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)”:

1. It was created under the provisions of the forest conservation act, 1980.
2. Resources realized from diverting forest resources to commercial purpose should be used for afforestation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: While according prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose, Central Government stipulates conditions that amounts shall be realised from the user agencies to undertake compensatory afforestation and such other activities related to conservation and development of forests, to mitigate impact of diversion of forest land.

Source: Shankar page no: 314

Q.9) Which of the following agency would take up the case against corruption under Whistle Blower Resolution?

- a) Central Vigilance Commission
- b) Central Bureau of Investigation
- c) National Human Rights commission
- d) Enforcement Directorate

ANS: A

Explanation: In 2004, the CVC has been designated as the agency to receive and act on complaints or disclosure on any allegation of corruption or misuse of office from whistle blowers under the “Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers’ Resolution” (PIDPI), which is popularly known as “Whistle Blowers” Resolution.

The Commission is also empowered as the only designated agency to take action against complainants making motivated or vexatious complaints.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.10) With Reference to the Central Bureau of Investigation, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Personnel.
2. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: B

Explanation: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- Later, it was transferred to the Ministry of Personnel and now it enjoys the status of an attached office.
- The Special Police Establishment (which looked into vigilance cases) setup in 1941 was also merged with the CBI.
- The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).
- The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

Source: Laxmikanth

Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding national parks:

1. They are established by respective government in accordance with environment protection act, 1980.
 2. They enjoy a greater degree of protection than sanctuaries.
- Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: A

Explanation: The Wild Life (Protection) Act (WPA) of 1972 provided for the declaration of National Parks by the State Government in addition to the declaration of wildlife sanctuaries.

- National Parks are declared in areas that are considered to be of adequate ecological, geomorphologic and natural significance although within the law, the difference in conservation value of a National Park from that of a sanctuary is not specified in the WPA 1972.
- National Parks enjoy a greater degree of protection than sanctuaries.
- Certain activities which are regulated in sanctuaries, such as grazing of livestock, are prohibited in National Parks.

Source: Shankar page no: 175

Q.2) The Chief Wild Life Warden may, on application, grant to any person a permit to enter or reside in a sanctuary/ National Park for which of the following purposes?

1. Investigation of wildlife
2. Scientific Research
3. Transaction of lawful business with any person residing in the sanctuary

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: D

Explanation: The Chief Wild Life Warden may, on application, grant to any person a permit to enter or reside in a sanctuary/ National Park for all or any of the following purposes:

- investigation or study of wildlife and purposes ancillary or incidental thereto
- photography
- scientific research
- tourism
- transaction of lawful business with any person residing in the sanctuary

Source: Shankar Page no: 176

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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “conservation reserves”:

1. It was created under forest conservation act, 1980.
2. It is an area owned by the State Government adjacent to National Parks and sanctuaries for protecting the landscape, seascape and habitat of fauna and flora.

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Amendment Act (Wildlife Protect Act, 1972) of 2003 provided for the creation of a new type of protected area called a Conservation Reserve.

- It is an area owned by the State Government adjacent to National Parks and sanctuaries for protecting the landscape, seascape and habitat of fauna and flora.
- It is managed through a Conservation Reserve Management Committee
- The State Government may, after having consultations with the local communities, declare any area owned by the Government as conservation reserve.

Source: Shankar Page No: 177

Q.4) “Bhitarkanika National Park and Bhitarkanika Sanctuary” is often seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Kerala
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Odisha

ANS: D

Explanation: The Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary (Odisha) is one of India’s biggest estuarine crocodile habitats and a major coastal eco-system.

- It was declared as a National Park because of its ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological and zoological association and importance and for the purpose of protection in 1998.
- In August 2002, it was designated as the second Ramsar site (i.e. Wetland of International importance).

Source: The Hindu

Q.5) The Animal welfare board of India was established by which of the following act?

- a) Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Acts 1960.
- b) Wildlife protection act, 1972.
- c) Environment protection act, 1980.
- d) Biological diversity act, 2002.

ANS: A

Explanation: The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country.

- The Animal Welfare Board of India, the first of its kind to be established by any Government in the world, was set up in 1962, in accordance with Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Acts 1960.

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- Shrimati Rukmini Devi Arundale pioneered the setting up of the Board, with its Headquarters at Chennai. She guided the activities of the Board for nearly twenty years till her demise in 1986.

Source: Shankar page no: 321

Q.6) “Atapaka bird sanctuary” is identified as the world’s largest home for the spot-billed pelican is located in which of the following state?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Goa
- d) Chhattisgarh

ANS: B

Explanation: The atapaka Bird Sanctuary, part of the Kolleru Lake (Andhra Pradesh), has been identified as the world’s largest home for the spot-billed pelican.

Source: The Hindu

Q.7) Consider the following provisions:

1. Directive Principles of State Policy
2. Election of the President and its manner
3. Salaries and allowances of the members of Parliament

Which of the provisions given above is/are amended by a special majority of Parliament?

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

ANS: B

Explanation: The majority of the provisions in the Constitution need to be amended by a special majority of the Parliament, that is, a majority (that is, more than 50 per cent) of the total membership of each House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of each House present and voting.

- The expression ‘total membership’ means the total number of members comprising the House irrespective of fact whether there are vacancies or absentees.
- ‘Strictly speaking, the special majority is required only for voting at the third reading stage of the bill but by way of abundant caution the requirement for special majority has been provided for in the rules of the Houses in respect of all the effective stages of the bill’.

The provisions which can be amended by this way include:

- (i) Fundamental Rights;
- (ii) Directive Principles of State Policy; and
- (iii) All other provisions which are not covered by the first and third categories.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding procedure for the amendment of the Constitution:

1. An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated in either House of Parliament or the state legislature.
2. The bill cannot be introduced by a private member.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: D

Explanation: Article 368 in Part XX of the Constitution deals with the powers of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure.

- An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament and not in the state legislatures.
- The bill can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member and does not require prior permission of the president.
- The bill must be passed in each House by a special majority, that is, a majority (that is, more than 50 per cent) of the total membership of the House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of the House present and voting.
- Each House must pass the bill separately. In case of a disagreement between the two Houses, there is no provision for holding a joint sitting of the two Houses for the purpose of deliberation and passage of the bill.
- If the bill seeks to amend the federal provisions of the Constitution, it must also be ratified by the legislatures of half of the states by a simple majority, that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting.
- After duly passed by both the Houses of Parliament and ratified by the state legislatures, where necessary, the bill is presented to the president for assent.
- The president must give his assent to the bill. He can neither withhold his assent to the bill nor return the bill for reconsideration of the Parliament.
- After the president's assent, the bill becomes an Act (i.e., a constitutional amendment act) and the Constitution stands amended in accordance with the terms of the Act.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

Q.9) Consider the following statement about President's Rule in India:

1. Article 356 and Article 365 mentions the grounds of proclamation of President's Rule in India.
2. The presidential proclamation imposing President's Rule is not subjected to judicial review.

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Article 355 imposes a duty on the Centre to ensure that the government of every state is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

- It is this duty in the performance of which the Centre takes over the government of a state under Article 356 in case of failure of constitutional machinery in state.
- This is popularly known as 'President's Rule'. It is also known as 'State Emergency' or 'Constitutional Emergency'.
- The President's Rule can be proclaimed under Article 356 on two grounds —one mentioned in Article 356 itself and another in Article 365.

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- The 38th Amendment Act of 1975 made the satisfaction of the President in invoking Article 356 final and conclusive which could not be challenged in any court on any ground.
- But, this provision was subsequently deleted by the 44th Amendment Act of 1978 implying that the satisfaction of the President is not beyond judicial review.
- In Bommai case (1994), the Supreme Court said that imposition of President's Rule in a state under Article 356 is subject to judicial review.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth

Q.10) With reference to the executive powers of the President, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. All executive actions of the Government of India are formally taken in his name.
2. He appoints the comptroller and auditor general of India and determines his salary and tenure.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: A

Explanation: The Indian President is the head of the state and he is also called the first citizen of India.

- He is a part of Union Executive, provisions of which are dealt with Article 52-78 including articles related to President (Article 52-62).
- All executive actions of the Government of India are formally taken in his name.
- The President appoints the comptroller and auditor general of India and he does not determine his salary and tenure.
- The salary and other conditions of service of the CAG are determined by the Parliament of India through "The Comptroller and Auditor-General (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971".

Source: Laxmikanth