

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

26th June to 2nd July, 2023

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

FORUMIAS



Indian Polity – Supreme Court

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution declares Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court.
2. The Constitution authorizes the chief justice of India to appoint other place or places as seat of the Supreme Court.

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 Constitution declares Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court. But, it also authorises the chief justice of India to appoint other place or places as seat of the Supreme Court.

- He can take decision in this regard only with the approval of the President. This provision is only optional and not compulsory.
- This means that no court can give any direction either to the President or to the Chief Justice to appoint any other place as a seat of the Supreme Court.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.2) Which of the following article of Indian constitution deals with references made by the President to Supreme Court?

- a) Article 112
- b) Article 123
- c) Article 142
- d) Article 143

ANS: D

Explanation: The Supreme Court can, with the approval of the president, make rules for regulating generally the practice and procedure of the Court.

The Constitutional cases or references made by the President under Article 143 are decided by a Bench consisting of at least five judges.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. The constitutional cases are decided by a Bench consisting of at least five judges.
2. All other cases are decided by single judges and division benches.

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 Constitutional cases or references made by the President under Article 143 are decided by a Bench consisting of at least five judges.

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- All other cases are decided by single judges and division benches. The judgments are delivered by the open court.
- All judgments are by majority vote but if differing, then judges can give dissenting judgments or opinions.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.4) Which of the following role/s is/are played by Supreme Court?

1. The highest court of appeal.
2. The guardian of the constitution.
3. The guarantor of the fundamental rights.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Supreme Court has been assigned a very significant role in the Indian democratic political system.

It is a federal court, the highest court of appeal, the guarantor of the fundamental rights of the citizens and guardian of the Constitution.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President in consultation with the members of the judiciary itself.
2. The judges of the Supreme Court removed from office by the President only in the manner and on the grounds mentioned in the Constitution.

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 judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President (which means the cabinet) in consultation with the members of the judiciary itself (ie, judges of the Supreme Court and the high court's).

The judges of the Supreme Court are provided with the Security of Tenure. They can be removed from office by the President only in the manner and on the grounds mentioned in the Constitution.

Source: Laxmikant's Polity

Q.6) Which of the following is/are provision/s of the judge/s of the Supreme Court is determined by Parliament from time to time?

1. Salaries
2. Pensions
3. Leaves

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The salaries, allowances, privileges, leave and pension of the judges of the Supreme Court are determined from time to time by the Parliament. They cannot be changed to their disadvantage after their appointment except during a financial emergency.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.7) Which of the following is/are power/s and jurisdictions of the Supreme Court?

1. Original Jurisdiction
2. Writ Jurisdiction
3. Appellate Jurisdiction

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The jurisdiction and powers of the Supreme Court can be classified into the following: 1. Original Jurisdiction. 2. Writ Jurisdiction. 3. Appellate Jurisdiction. 4. Advisory Jurisdiction. 5. A Court of Record. 6. Power of Judicial Review. 7. Constitutional Interpretation. 8. Other Powers.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.8) Which of the following is/are fall/s under the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court?

1. Dispute between centre and states.
2. Dispute between the Centre and one or more states.
3. Dispute between two or more states.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: As a federal court, the Supreme Court decides the disputes between different units of the Indian Federation. More elaborately, any dispute:

- (a) Between the Centre and one or more states; or
- (b) Between the Centre and any state or states on one side and one or more other states on the other side; or
- (c) Between two or more states.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.9) Which of the following is/are NOT fall/s under the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court?

- 1. Inter-state water disputes.
- 2. Matters referred to the Finance Commission.
- 3. Adjustment of certain expenses and pensions between the Centre and the states.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Further, the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court does not extend to the following:

- (a) A dispute arising out of any pre-Constitution treaty, agreement, covenant, engagement, sanad or other similar instrument.
- (b) A dispute arising out of any treaty, agreement, etc., which specifically provides that the said jurisdiction does not extent to such a dispute.
- (c) Inter-state water disputes.
- (d) Matters referred to the Finance Commission.
- (e) Adjustment of certain expenses and pensions between the Centre and the states.
- (f) Ordinary dispute of Commercial nature between the Centre and the states.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.10) The "Dudhwa National Park" is often seen in news located at?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Andhra Pradesh

ANS: A

Explanation: The Dudhwa National Park is a national park in the Terai belt of marshy grasslands in northern Uttar Pradesh, India.

It stretches over an area of 490.3 km², with a buffer zone of 190 km². It is part of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in the Kheri and Lakhimpur districts.

Source: FORUMIAS

Indian Polity

Q.1) Which of the following is/are covered under article 32 of Indian constitution?

1. Habeas corpus
2. Mandamus
3. Quo warranto

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Constitution has constituted the Supreme Court as the guarantor and defender of the fundamental rights of the citizens.

The Supreme Court is empowered to issue writs including habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari for the enforcement of the fundamental rights of an aggrieved citizen.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. The writ jurisdiction of the high court is wider than that of the Supreme Court.
2. The President can confer the power to issue writs for other purposes on Supreme Court.

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: There is a difference between the writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and that of the high court.

- The Supreme Court can issue writs only for the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights and not for other purposes.
- The high court, on the other hand, can issue writs not only for the enforcement of the fundamental rights but also for other purposes.
- It means that the writ jurisdiction of the high court is wider than that of the Supreme Court.
- But, the Parliament can confer on the Supreme Court, the power to issue writs for other purposes also.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.3) Which of the following is/are come/s under the appellate jurisdiction of Supreme Court?

1. Appeals in constitutional matters.
2. Appeals in civil matters.
3. Appeals by special leave.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Supreme Court is primarily a court of appeal and hears appeals against the judgements of the lower courts.

It enjoys a wide appellate jurisdiction which can be classified under four heads: (a) Appeals in constitutional matters. (b) Appeals in civil matters. (c) Appeals in criminal matters. (d) Appeals by special leave.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.4) Which of the following is/are power/s of Supreme Court?

1. It decides the disputes regarding the election of the president and the vice-president.
2. It enquires into the conduct and behavior of the chairman and members of the Union Public Service Commission on a reference made by the president.
3. It has power to review its own judgment or order.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Besides the above, the Supreme Court has numerous other powers:

- It decides the disputes regarding the election of the president and the vice-president. In this regard, it has the original, exclusive and final authority.
- It enquires into the conduct and behavior of the chairman and members of the Union Public Service Commission on a reference made by the president. The advice tendered by the Supreme Court in this regard is binding on the President.
- It has power to review its own judgment or order. Thus, it is not bound by its previous decision and can depart from it in the interest of justice or community welfare. In brief, the Supreme Court is a self-correcting agency.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.5) Under which of the following case/s the Supreme Court is/are used the power of judicial review?

1. The Golaknath case
2. The Bank Nationalization case
3. The Privy Purses Abolition case

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Supreme Court used the power of judicial review in various cases, as for example, the Golaknath case (1967), the Bank Nationalisation case (1970), the Privy Purses Abolition case (1971), the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973), the Minerva Mills case (1980), and so on.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.6) Which of the following is/are need/s for judicial review?

1. To uphold the principle of the supremacy of the Constitution.
2. To protect the Fundamental Rights of the citizens.
3. To maintain federal equilibrium.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

d) Explanation:

Judicial review is needed for the following reasons:

- To uphold the principle of the supremacy of the Constitution.
- To maintain federal equilibrium (balance between the Centre and the states).
- To protect the Fundamental Rights of the citizens.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.7) Which of the following article of Indian Constitution is NOT related to the provision of Judicial Review?

- a) Article 13
- b) Article 32
- c) Article 112
- d) Article 131

ANS: C

Explanation: Though the phrase 'Judicial Review' has nowhere been used in the Constitution, the provisions of several Articles explicitly confer the power of judicial review on the Supreme Court and the High Courts. These provisions are explained below:

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- Article 13 declares that all laws that are inconsistent with or in derogation of the Fundamental Rights shall be null and void.
- Article 32 guarantees the right to move the Supreme Court for the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights and empowers the Supreme Court to issue directions or orders or writs for that purpose.
- Article 131 provides for the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in centre-state and inter-state disputes.
- Article 132 provides for the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in constitutional cases.
- Article 133 provides for the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in civil cases.
- Article 134 provides for the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in criminal cases.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.8) The famous "I.R. Coelho case" is related to which of the following?

- a) 1st constitutional amendment
- b) 7th constitutional amendment
- c) 42nd constitutional amendment
- d) 44th constitutional amendment

ANS: A

Explanation: Article 31B saves the acts and regulations included in the Ninth Schedule from being challenged and invalidated on the ground of contravention of any of the Fundamental Rights.

- Article 31B along with the Ninth Schedule was added by the 1st Constitutional Amendment Act of 1951.
- Originally (in 1951), the Ninth Schedule contained only 13 acts and regulations but at present (in 2016) their number is 282.
- Of these, the acts and regulations of the state legislature deal with land reforms and abolition of the zamindari system and that of the Parliament deal with other matters.
- However, in a significant judgement delivered in I.R. Coelho case (2007), the Supreme Court ruled that there could not be any blanket immunity from judicial review of laws included in the Ninth Schedule.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.9) The famous Ramsar site "DeeporBeel" is often seen in news located at?

- a) Assam
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Nagaland
- d) Tripura

ANS: A

Explanation: DeeporBeel, also spelt DiporBeel, a freshwater lake, is located to the south-west of Guwahati city, in Kamrup district of Assam.

It is a listed wetland under the Ramsar Convention in November 2002, for undertaking conservation measures on the basis of its biological and environmental importance.

Source: <https://gscl.assam.gov.in/portlet-innerpage/deeporbeel-lake-wetland>.

Q.10) The “Namdapha National Park” is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Manipur
- c) Mizoram
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

ANS: D

Explanation: Namdapha National Park is a 1,985 km² large protected area in Arunachal Pradesh of Northeast India. The park was established in 1983.

With more than 1,000 floral and about 1,400 faunal species, it is a biodiversity hotspot in the Eastern Himalayas.

Source: FORUMIAS

Indian Polity – Constitutional Bodies

Q.1) The Election Commission of India has the power to conduct election/s for?

1. The Parliament
2. The State Legislature
3. The Vice President

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Election Commission is a permanent and an independent body established by the Constitution of India directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country.

Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the power of superintendence, direction and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of president of India and the office of vice-president of India shall be vested in the election commission.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners shall be made by the Parliament.
2. The conditions of service and tenure of office of the election commissioners and the regional commissioners shall be determined by the parliament.

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: D

Explanation: Article 324 of the Constitution has made the following provisions with regard to the composition of election commission:

- The Election Commission shall consist of the chief election commissioner and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the president may from time to time fix.
- The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners shall be made by the president.
- When any other election commissioner is so appointed, the chief election commissioner shall act as the chairman of the election commission.
- The president may also appoint after consultation with the election commission such regional commissioners as he may consider necessary to assist the election commission.
- The conditions of service and tenure of office of the election commissioners and the regional commissioners shall be determined by the president.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.3) Which constitutional amendment act was lower the age of voter from 21 to 18?

- a) 56th constitutional amendment
- b) 61st constitutional amendment
- c) 64th constitutional amendment
- d) 72nd constitutional amendment

ANS: B

Explanation: By the 61st Constitutional Amendment Act of 1988, which came into force in 1989 has lower the age of voter from 21 to 18.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.4) Which of the following is/are the powers and functions of election commission?

- 1. It prepare and periodically revise electoral rolls and to register all eligible voters.
- 2. It notifies the dates and schedules of elections and to scrutinize nomination papers.
- 3. It grants recognition to political parties and allot election symbols to them.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The powers and functions of election commission are:

- To determine the territorial areas of the electoral constituencies throughout the country on the basis of the Delimitation Commission Act of Parliament.
- To prepare and periodically revise electoral rolls and to register all eligible voters.
- To notify the dates and schedules of elections and to scrutinise nomination papers.
- To grant recognition to political parties and allot election symbols to them.
- To act as a court for settling disputes related to granting of recognition to political parties and allotment of election symbols to them.
- To appoint officers for inquiring into disputes relating to electoral arrangements.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.5) The "Part XIV of the Constitution" is related to which of the following?

- a) Election Commission
- b) Union Public Service Commission
- c) Finance Commission
- d) National Human Rights Commission

ANS: B

Explanation: Part XIV of the Constitution contains elaborate provisions regarding the composition, appointment and removal of members along with the independence, powers and functions of the UPSC.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.6) The Article 324 of Indian Constitution is often seen in news related to?

- a) Election Commission
- b) Union Public Service Commission
- c) Finance Commission
- d) National Human Rights Commission

ANS: A

Explanation: Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the power of superintendence, direction and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of president of India and the office of vice-president of India shall be vested in the election commission.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Union Public Service Commission:

- 1. It is the central recruiting agency in India.
- 2. It consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the president of 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: The 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.

The UPSC consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the president of India.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Union Public Service Commission:

- 1. The constitution clearly specifies the strength of the commission.
- 2. The Constitution authorizes the president to determine the conditions of service of the chairman and other members of the Commission.

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 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's Polity

Q.9) The “Pichavaram mangrove forest” is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Goa
- d) West Bengal

ANS: A

Explanation: Pichavaram near Chidambaram in Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu, in South India. The nearest railway station is Chidambaram from where it is accessible by road. The Pichavaram Mangrove Forest near Chidambaram is the world's second largest mangrove forest.

Pichavaram mangrove forest is located between two prominent estuaries, the Vellar estuary in the north and Coleroon estuary in the south.

The Vellar-Coleroon estuarine complex forms the Killai backwater and Pichavaram mangroves. The backwaters are interconnected by the Vellar and Coleroon river systems and offer abundant scope for water sports such as rowing, kayaking and canoeing.

Source: <https://cuddalore.nic.in/tourist-place/pichavaram/>

Q.10) The “Bandipur National Park” is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Maharashtra

ANS: A

Explanation: Bandipur National Park, an 874-sq.-km forested reserve in the southern Indian state of Karnataka, is known for its small population of tigers.

- Once the private hunting ground of the Maharajas of Mysore, the park also harbors Indian elephants, spotted deer, gaurs (bison), antelopes and numerous other native species.
- The 14th-century Himavad Gopalswamy Temple offers views from the park's highest peak.

Source: FORUMIAS

Indian Polity – Constitutional Bodies

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding union public service commission:

1. The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years.
2. They can also be removed before the expiry of their term by the president in the manner as provided in the Constitution.

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 chairman and members of the union public service commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

- However, they can relinquish their offices at any time by addressing their resignation to the president.
- They can also be removed before the expiry of their term by the president in the manner as provided in the Constitution.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.2) The union public service commission conducts exams to which of the following?

1. All India Services
2. Central Services
3. Public services of the centrally administered territories

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: UPSC conducts examinations for appointments to the all-India services, Central services and public services of the centrally administered territories.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.3) Which of the following is/are NOT come/s under the purview of union public service commission?

1. Cadre management
2. Classification of services
3. Pay and service conditions

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Constitution visualizes the UPSC to be the 'watch-dog of merit system' in India.

- It is concerned with the recruitment to the all-India services and Central services–group A and group B and advises the government, when consulted, on promotion and disciplinary matters.
- It is not concerned with the classification of services, pay and service conditions, cadre management, training, and so on.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding state public service commission (SPSC):

1. A State Public Service Commission consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the governor of the state.
2. The chairman and members of a SPSC are removed only by the president.

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: A State Public Service Commission consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the governor of the state.

- The Constitution does not specify the strength of the Commission but has left the matter to the discretion of the Governor.
- Although the chairman and members of a SPSC are appointed by the governor, they can be removed only by the president (and not by the governor).

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding joint public service commission (JSPSC):

1. The Constitution makes a provision for the establishment of a Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC) for two or more states.
2. JSPSC is a constitutional body.

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: The Constitution makes a provision for the establishment of a Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC) for two or more states.

- While the UPSC and the SPSC are created directly by the Constitution, a JSPSC can be created by an act of Parliament on the request of the state legislatures concerned.
- Thus, a JSPSC is a statutory and not a constitutional body. The two states of Punjab and Haryana had a JSPSC for a short period, after the creation of Haryana out of Punjab in 1966.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.6) The Article 280 of Indian Constitution is often seen in news related to?

- a) Finance Commission
- b) Election Commission
- c) Union Public Service Commission
- d) State Public Service Commission

ANS: A

Explanation: Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi judicial body.

It is constituted by the president of India every fifth year or at such earlier time as he considers necessary.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding finance commission:

1. It consists of a chairman and four other members to be appointed by the president.
2. The chairman and other members of commission are not eligible for reappointment.

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: The Finance Commission consists of a chairman and four other members to be appointed by the president.

- They hold office for such period as specified by the president in his order.
- They are eligible for reappointment.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.8) The 101st Constitutional amendment is often seen in news related to?

- a) Finance Commission
- b) Goods & Service Tax Council
- c) Joint Public Service Commission
- d) Inter State Council

ANS: B

Explanation: The 101st Amendment Act of 2016 paved the way for the introduction of a new tax regime (i.e. goods and services tax - GST) in the country.

- The smooth and efficient administration of this tax requires co-operation and coordination between the centre and the states.
- In order to facilitate this consultation process, the amendment provided for the establishment of Goods and Services Tax Council or the GST Council.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.9) The "Satkosia gorge Ramsar site" is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Odisha

ANS: D

Explanation: Satkosia gorge has been accorded the tag of a Ramsar site, making it the third such wetland of international importance in the State.

- Making an announcement to this effect, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) said 10 Indian wetlands were added to the Ramsar sites, taking the total number of such sites in the country to 64.
- Ramsar sites play a key role in maintaining the ecological bio-diversity of a region.
- Odisha already has two such sites, Chilika lagoon and Bhitarkanika National Park.
- Chilika, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon and the second coastal lagoon in the world, was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on October 1, 1981, while Bhitarkanika mangroves were designated in 2002.

Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2022/aug/04/satkosia-gorge-becomes-3rd-ramsar-site-in-odisha-2483940.html>

Q.10) The "Betla National Park" is often seen in news located at?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Odisha
- d) West Bengal

ANS: A

Explanation: Betla National Park is a national park located on the Chota Nagpur Plateau in the Latehar and Palamu district of Jharkhand, India. The park hosts a wide variety of wildlife.

Source: FORUMIAS

Indian Polity – Constitutional & Non – Constitutional Bodies

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding GST council:

1. One-third of the total number of members of the Council is the quorum for conducting a meeting.
2. Every decision of the Council is to be taken by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting at the meeting.

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 decisions of the Council are taken at its meetings. One-half of the total number of members of the Council is the quorum for conducting a meeting. Every decision of the Council is to be taken by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting at the meeting.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.2) Which of the following is a Constitutional Body?

- a) National Commission for Scheduled Castes
- b) National Commission for Women
- c) National Commission for Minorities
- d) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

ANS: A

Explanation: The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (SCs) is a constitutional body in the sense that it is directly established by Article 338 of the Constitution.

On the other hand, the other national commissions like the National Commission for Women (1992), the National Commission for Minorities (1993), the National Human Rights Commission (1993) and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (2007) are statutory bodies in the sense that they are established by acts of the Parliament.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.3) Which of the following constitutional amendment act bi-furcated the combined National Commission for SCs and STs into two separate bodies?

- a) 65th constitutional amendment
- b) 69th constitutional amendment
- c) 77th constitutional amendment
- d) 89th constitutional amendment

ANS: D

Explanation: The 65th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1990 provided for the establishment of a high level multi-member National Commission for SCs and STs in the place of a single Special Officer for SCs and STs.

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- This constitutional body replaced the Commissioner for SCs and STs as well as the Commission set up under the Resolution of 1987.
- Again, the 89th Constitutional Amendment Act of 20036 bifurcated the combined National Commission for SCs and STs into two separate bodies, namely, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (under Article 338) and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (under Article 338-A).

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. In 2004, the ministry of tribal affairs created.
2. Article 338 of Indian constitution deals with national commission for scheduled tribes.

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: D

Explanation: Geographically and culturally, the STs are different from the SCs and their problems are also different from those of SCs.

- In 1999, a new Ministry of Tribal Affairs was created to provide a sharp focus to the welfare and development of the STs.
- The National Commission for Schedules Castes (SCs), the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (STs) is also a constitutional body in the sense that it is directly established by Article 338-A of the Constitution.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.5) Which of the following is/are the function/s of national commission for scheduled tribes?

1. To investigate and monitor all matters relating to the constitutional and other legal safeguards for the STs.
2. To inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the STs.
3. To participate and advise on the planning process of socioeconomic development of the STs and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union or a state.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The functions of the Commission are:

- (a) To investigate and monitor all matters relating to the constitutional and other legal safeguards for the STs and to evaluate their working;
- (b) To inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the STs;

(c) To participate and advise on the planning process of socioeconomic development of the STs and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union or a state;

(d) To present to the President, annually and at such other times as it may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards;

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.6) Which of the following constitutional amendment act conferred the constitutional status on the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)?

- a) 92nd constitutional amendment act
- b) 95th constitutional amendment act
- c) 99th constitutional amendment act
- d) 102nd constitutional amendment act

ANS: D

Explanation: In the Mandal case judgment (1992), the Supreme Court directed the central government to constitute a permanent statutory body to examine the complaints of under inclusion, overinclusion or non-inclusion of any class of citizens in the list of backward classes.

- Accordingly, the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was set up in 1993.
- Later, the 102nd Amendment Act of 2018 conferred a constitutional status on the Commission.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.7) Article 338 – B of Indian constitution deals with which of the following?

- a) National commission for scheduled castes
- b) National commission for scheduled tribes
- c) National commission for backward classes
- d) National commission for protection of child rights

ANS: C

Explanation: The 102nd Amendment Act of 2018 conferred a constitutional status on the Commission. For this purpose, the amendment inserted a new Article 338-B in the constitution. Hence, the Commission ceased to be a statutory body and became a constitutional body.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.8) Which Constitutional Amendment Act inserted a new Article 350 – B in Part XVII of the Constitution?

- a) 1st constitutional amendment act
- b) 7th constitutional amendment act
- c) 12th constitutional amendment act
- d) 15th constitutional amendment act

ANS: B

Explanation: Originally, the Constitution of India did not make any provision with respect to the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities.

- Later, the States Re-organization Commission (1953–55) made a recommendation in this regard.

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- Accordingly, the Seventh Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956 inserted a new Article 350- B in Part XVII of the Constitution.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.9) The “Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary” is often seen in news located at?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary is located in South-Eastern Goa, India. It constitutes one of the vital corridors of the Western Ghats and covers an area of about 211km².

Netravali or Neturli is an important tributary of River Zuari, which originates in the sanctuary.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “Pathiramanal Island” is recently seen in news located at?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Pathiramanal is a bird watcher's paradise. It is about 1.5 km from Muhamma Boat Jetty and about 13 km from Alappuzha.

- This small island on the backwaters is a safe haven for hundreds of rare migrating birds.
- A 1.5 hour motor boat ride or a 30 minute speedboat trip from Alappuzha gets you here.
- Surrounded by the Vembanad Lake, stretching from Alappuzha to Kochi and the Kayamkulam Lake, Pathiramanal is accessible only by boat. It is an ideal pit stop in the middle of a houseboat ride.

Source: FORUMIAS

Indian Polity – Constitutional Bodies

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities:

1. He is appointed by President of India.
2. The Constitution does not specify the qualifications, tenure, salaries and allowances, service conditions and procedure for removal of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities.

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: Originally, the Constitution of India did not make any provision with respect to the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities. The States Re-organization Commission (1953–55) made a recommendation in this regard.

Accordingly, the Seventh Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956 inserted a new Article 350- B in Part XVII of the Constitution.

This article contains the following provisions:

- There should be a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities. He is to be appointed by the President of India.
- It would be the duty of the Special Officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under the Constitution.
- He would report to the President upon those matters at such intervals as the President may direct.
- The President should place all such reports before each House of Parliament and send to the governments of the states concerned.
- It must be noted here that the Constitution does not specify the qualifications, tenure, salaries and allowances, service conditions and procedure for removal of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.2) The Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities has his headquarters at?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Allahabad
- c) Hyderabad
- d) Ahmadabad

ANS: B

Explanation: In pursuance of the provision of Article 350-B of the Constitution, the office of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities was created in 1957.

- He is designated as the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities. The Commissioner has his headquarters at Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh).
- He has three regional offices at Belgaum (Karnataka), Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Kolkata (West Bengal). Each is headed by an Assistant Commissioner.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.3) The “Article 148” of Indian constitution of deals with which of the following?

- a) Election commission
- b) Finance commission
- c) Comptroller & Auditor General of India
- d) Union Public Service Commission

ANS: C

Explanation: The Constitution of India (Article 148) provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

Source: Laxmikanth’s Polity

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Comptroller and Auditor General of India:

1. He holds office for a period of six years or up to the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier.
2. He can resign any time from his office by addressing the resignation letter to 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

ANS: D

Explanation: The CAG is appointed by the president of India by a warrant under his hand and seal.

- He holds office for a period of six years or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- He can resign any time from his office by addressing the resignation letter to the president.
- He can also be removed by the president on same grounds and in the same manner as a judge of the Supreme Court.

Source: Laxmikanth’s Polity

Q.5) Which of the following is/are duty/duties of Comptroller and Auditor General of India?

1. He audits the accounts related to all expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India.
2. He audits all expenditure from the Contingency Fund of India and the Public Account of India.
3. He submits his audit reports relating to the accounts of the Centre to Parliament.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The duties and functions of the CAG as laid down by the Parliament and the Constitution are:

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- He audits the accounts related to all expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, consolidated fund of each state and consolidated fund of each union territory having a Legislative Assembly.
- He audits all expenditure from the Contingency Fund of India and the Public Account of India as well as the contingency fund of each state and the public account of each state.
- He audits all trading, manufacturing, profit and loss accounts, balance sheets and other subsidiary accounts kept by any department of the Central Government and state governments.
- He submits his audit reports relating to the accounts of the Centre to President, who shall, in turn, place them before both the Houses of Parliament.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.6) The article 76 of Indian constitution deals with which of the following?

- a) Attorney general for India
- b) Parliamentary committees
- c) Advocate general of India
- d) Solicitor general of India

ANS: A

Explanation: The Constitution (Article 76) has provided for the office of the Attorney General for India. He is the highest law officer in the country.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Attorney general for India:

1. He is appointed by the president.
2. He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court.

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 Attorney General (AG) is appointed by the president. He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court.

In other words, he must be a citizen of India and he must have been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the president.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Attorney general for India:

1. The term of office of the AG is not fixed by the Constitution.
2. The remuneration of the AG is not fixed by the Constitution.

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 term of office of the AG is not fixed by the Constitution. Further, the Constitution does not contain the procedure and grounds for his removal.

- He holds office during the pleasure of the president.
- The remuneration of the AG is not fixed by the Constitution.
- He receives such remuneration as the president may determine.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.9) The "Article 165" of Indian constitution deals with which of the following?

- a) Attorney general for India
- b) Parliamentary committees
- c) Advocate general of India
- d) Solicitor general of India

ANS: C

Explanation: The Constitution (Article 165) has provided for the office of the advocate general for the states.

He is the highest law officer in the state. Thus he corresponds to the Attorney General of India.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.10) The "Kanha National Park" is often seen in news located at?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Bihar

ANS: A

Explanation: Kanha National Park, also known as Kanha Tiger Reserve, is a vast expanse of grassland and forest in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.

- Tigers, jackals and wild pigs can be spotted in Kanha Meadows.
- The elevated plateau of Bamhnidadar is home to birds of prey.
- Animals often gather at the watering holes of Sondar Tank and Babathenga Tank.
- The park's flora and fauna are documented in the park's Kanha Museum.

Source: FORUMIAS

Indian Polity – Non Constitutional Bodies

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding NITI Aayog:

1. It replaced the Planning Commission.
2. It came into effect on 02nd October 2014.

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 the 13th of August, 2014, the Modi Government scrapped the 65- year-old Planning Commission and announced that it would be replaced by a new body.

Accordingly, on January 1, 2015, the NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) was established as the successor to the planning commission.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.2) Which of the following is/are member/s of NITI Aayog governing council?

1. President
2. Governor of each state
3. Chief Ministers of Union Territories with Legislatures

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Governing Council of NITI Aayog: It comprises the Chief Ministers of all the States, Chief Ministers of Union Territories with Legislatures (i.e., Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir) and Lt. Governors of other Union Territories.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.3) Which of the following is/are NOT a function/s of NITI Aayog?

1. Design policy and programme framework.
2. Foster co-operative federalism.
3. Grants in Aid from central government.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The various functions performed by the NITI Aayog can be divided into four main heads:

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- Design policy and programme framework.
- Foster co-operative federalism.
- Monitoring and evaluation.
- Think-tank, and Knowledge and Innovation Hub.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.4) Which of the following is/are attached office/s of NITI Aayog?

1. The National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD).
2. The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO).
3. The National Institute of Innovation (NII).

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: There are two offices attached to the NITI Aayog. They are:

- The National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD) was formerly known as the Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR).
- The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) was established by the Government in 2015 as an attached office of the NITI Aayog by merging the erstwhile Programme Evaluation Organization and the Independent Evaluation Office.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.5) Which of the following is/are member/s of National Development Council (NDC)?

1. The President
2. The Prime Minister
3. All Union Cabinet Ministers

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The NDC is composed of the following members.

- The Prime Minister of India (as its chairman/head).
- All Union Cabinet Ministers (since 1967).
- The Chief Ministers of all the states.
- The Chief Ministers/administrators of all union territories.
- Members of the Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog).

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding National Human Rights Commission:

1. It is a statutory body created through act.
2. It was established in 1993.

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 National Human Rights Commission is a statutory (and not a constitutional) body.

It was established in 1993 under a legislation enacted by the Parliament, namely, the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding National Human Rights Commission:

1. It is a multi-member body consisting of a chairperson and five members.
2. The chairperson should be a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court.

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 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 atleast one should be a woman) having knowledge or practical experience with respect to human rights.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.8) Which of the following is/are ex - officio member/s of the National Human Rights Commission?

1. The chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities.
2. The chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.
3. The chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: In addition to these full-time members, the commission also has seven ex-officio members—the chairpersons of the National Commission for Minorities, the National Commission

for SCs, the National Commission for STs, the National Commission for Women, the National Commission for BCs and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.9) Which of the following is/are function/s of National Human Rights Commission?

1. To inquire into any violation of human rights or negligence.
2. To visit jails and detention places to study the living conditions of inmates.
3. To review the constitutional and other legal safeguards for the protection of human rights.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The functions of the Commission are:

- To inquire into any violation of human rights or negligence in the prevention of such violation by a public servant, either suo motu or on a petition presented to it or on an order of a court.
- To intervene in any proceeding involving allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court.
- To visit jails and detention places to study the living conditions of inmates and make recommendation thereon.
- To review the constitutional and other legal safeguards for the protection of human rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation.
- To review the factors including acts of terrorism that inhibit the enjoyment of human rights and recommend remedial measures.

Source: Laxmikanth's Polity

Q.10) The "Valmiki Tiger Reserve" is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Bihar
- d) Uttar Pradesh

ANS: C

Explanation: Valmiki Tiger Reserve forms the eastern most limits of the Himalayan Terai forests in India, and is the only tiger reserve of Bihar.

- Situated in the Gangetic Plains bio-geographic zone of the country, the forest has combination of bhabar and terai tracts.
- Valmiki Tiger Reserve lies in the north-western most portion of West Champaran district of Bihar.
- Name of the district has been derived from two words Champa and Aranya meaning Forest of Champa trees.

Source: FORUMIAS