

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

3rd week February, 2024

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

FORUMIAS



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Local Government

Q.1) Which of the following constitutional amendment is related to “Panchayati Raj”?

- a) First constitutional amendment
- b) Seventh constitutional amendment
- c) Twenty fourth constitutional amendment
- d) Seventy third constitutional amendment

ANS: D

Explanation: The term Panchayati Raj in India signifies the system of rural local self-government.

- It has been established in all the states of India by the Acts of the state legislatures to build democracy at the grass root level.
- It is entrusted with rural development. It was constitutionalised through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.2) Which of the following committee was appointed to examine the working of the Community Development Programme (1952) and the National Extension Service (1953) and to suggest measures for their better working?

- a) G B Pant committee
- b) Balwant Rai Mehta Committee
- c) Ashok kumar committee
- d) Chakaborty committee

ANS: B

Explanation: In January 1957, the Government of India appointed a committee to examine the working of the Community Development Programme (1952) and the National Extension Service (1953) and to suggest measures for their better working. The chairman of this committee was Balwant Rai G Mehta.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) Which of the following was/were recommendation/s of Balwant Rai Mehta Committee?

1. Establishment of a three-tier panchayati raj system.
2. The village panchayat should be constituted with directly elected representatives.
3. The district collector should be the chairman of the zila parishad.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The specific recommendations made by Balwant Rai Mehta Committee are:

1. Establishment of a three-tier panchayati raj system—gram panchayat at the village level, panchayat samiti at the block level and zila parishad at the district level. These tiers should be organically linked through a device of indirect elections.
2. The village panchayat should be constituted with directly elected representatives, whereas the panchayat samiti and zila parishad should be constituted with indirectly elected members.

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3. All planning and development activities should be entrusted to these bodies.
4. The panchayat samiti should be the executive body while the zila parishad should be the advisory, coordinating and supervisory body.
5. The district collector should be the chairman of the zila parishad.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) Which of the following state first to establish “Panchayati Raj” system?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Rajasthan was the first state to establish Panchayati Raj. The scheme was inaugurated by the prime minister on October 2, 1959, in Nagaur district.

Rajasthan was followed by Andhra Pradesh, which also adopted the system in 1959.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.5) Which of the following was/were recommendation/s of “Ashok Mehta committee”?

1. The three-tier system of panchayati raj should be replaced by the two-tier system.
2. A district should be the first point for decentralization under popular supervision below the state level.
3. Zila parishad should be the executive body and made responsible for planning at the district level.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: In December 1977, the Janata Government appointed a committee on panchayati raj institutions under the chairmanship of Ashok Mehta. Its main recommendations were:

- The three-tier system of panchayati raj should be replaced by the two-tier system, that is, zila parishad at the district level, and below it, the mandal panchayat consisting of a group of villages with a total population of 15,000 to 20,000.
- A district should be the first point for decentralization under popular supervision below the state level.
- Zila parishad should be the executive body and made responsible for planning at the district level.
- There should be an official participation of political parties at all levels of panchayat elections.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.6) The “Thungon committee” was related to which of the following?

- a) District planning
- b) Primary healthcare centres
- c) Education
- d) Police training

ANS: A

Explanation: In 1988, a sub-committee of the Consultative Committee of Parliament was constituted under the chairmanship of P.K. Thungon to examine the political and administrative structure in the district for the purpose of district planning. This committee suggested for the strengthening of the Panchayati Raj system.

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Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) Which of the following was/were recommendation/s of “Gadgil committee”?

1. A constitutional status should be bestowed on the Panchayati Raj institutions.
2. A three-tier system of Panchayati Raj with panchayats at the village, block and district levels.
3. The term of Panchayati Raj institutions should be fixed at five years.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The Committee on Policy and Programmes was constituted in 1988 by the Congress party under the chairmanship of V.N. Gadgil.

This committee was asked to consider the question of “how best Panchayati Raj institutions could be made effective”. In this context, the committee made the following recommendations:

- A constitutional status should be bestowed on the Panchayati Raj institutions.
- A three-tier system of Panchayati Raj with panchayats at the village, block and district levels.
- The term of Panchayati Raj institutions should be fixed at five years.
- The members of the Panchayats at all the three levels should be directly elected.
- Reservation for SCs, STs and women.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) The “Eleventh schedule” of the Indian constitution related to?

- a) Functional items of Panchayats
- b) Rajya sabha seat sharing
- c) High court
- d) Supreme court

ANS: A

Explanation: The seventy third constitutional amendment act has added a new Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution.

This schedule contains 29 functional items of the panchayats. It deals with Article 243-G.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) Which article describes the “The State shall take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government”?

- a) Article 39
- b) Article 40
- c) Article 44
- d) Article 48

ANS: B

Explanation: The seventy third constitutional amendment act has given a practical shape to Article 40 of the Constitution which says that, “The State shall take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government.”

Source: Laxmikanth

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Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. The seventy third constitutional amendment act provides for a Gram Sabha as the foundation of the panchayati raj system.
2. Gram Sabha is a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls of a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level.

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 seventy third constitutional amendment act provides for a Gram Sabha as the foundation of the panchayati raj system.

- It is a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls of a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level.
- Thus, it is a village assembly consisting of all the registered voters in the area of a panchayat.

Source: Laxmikanth

Union Territories & Scheduled Areas

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

1. Territories of the states
2. Union territories
3. Territories that may be acquired by the Government of India at any time

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Under Article 1 of the Constitution, the territory of India comprises three categories of territories: (a) territories of the states; (b) union territories; and (c) territories that may be acquired by the Government of India at any time.

Source: Laxmikanth

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Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. The states are the members of the federal system in India and share a distribution of power with the Centre.
2. The union territories are those areas which are under the direct control and administration of the Central government.

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 states are the members of the federal system in India and share a distribution of power with the Centre.

The union territories, on the other hand, are those areas which are under the direct control and administration of the Central government.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) Which of the following part of Indian constitution is related to union territories?

- a) Part IV
- b) Part V
- c) Part VI
- d) Part VIII

ANS: D

Explanation: Articles 239 to 241 in Part VIII of the Constitution deal with the union territories. Even though all the union territories belong to one category, there is no uniformity in their administrative system.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. Every union territory is administered by the President acting through an administrator appointed by him.
2. An administrator of a union territory is an agent of the President and not head of state like a governor.

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: Every union territory is administered by the President acting through an administrator appointed by him.

- An administrator of a union territory is an agent of the President and not head of state like a governor.
- The President can specify the designation of an administrator; it may be Lieutenant Governor or Chief Commissioner or Administrator.

Source: Laxmikanth

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Q.5) The President can make regulations for the peace, progress and good government for?

1. Delhi
2. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
3. Lakshadweep

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: The President can make regulations for the peace, progress and good government of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Ladakh.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. The President can establish a high court for a union territory.
2. Delhi is the only union territory that has a high court of its own.

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 Parliament can establish a high court for a union territory or put it under the jurisdiction of the high court of adjacent state.

- Delhi is the only union territory that has a high court of its own (since 1966).
- The Bombay High Court has got jurisdiction over two union territories—Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu.
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry are placed under the Calcutta, Punjab and Haryana, Kerala, and Madras High Courts respectively.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) The 69th Constitutional Amendment Act is related to which of the following?

- a) Delhi
- b) Ladakh
- c) Puducherry
- d) Chandigarh

ANS: A

Explanation: The 69th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1991 provided a special status to the Union Territory of Delhi, and re-designated it the National Capital Territory of Delhi and designated the administrator of Delhi as the lieutenant (lt.) governor. It created a legislative assembly and a council of ministers for Delhi.

Source: Laxmikanth

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Q.8) Part X of the Constitution related to which of the following?

- a) Union territories
- b) Scheduled areas
- c) Defense lands
- d) Human development

ANS: B

Explanation: Article 244 in Part X of the Constitution envisages a special system of administration for certain areas designated as 'scheduled areas' and 'tribal areas'.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) Which of the following state/s is/are come/s under sixth schedule?

- 1. Assam
- 2. Tripura
- 3. Manipur

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding tribal advisory council:

- 1. Each state having scheduled areas has to establish a tribes advisory council to advise on welfare and advancement of the scheduled tribes.
- 2. It consists of 50 members.

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: Each state having scheduled areas has to establish a tribe's advisory council to advice on welfare and advancement of the scheduled tribes.

It is to consist of 20 members, three-fourths of whom are to be the representatives of the scheduled tribes in the state legislative assembly.

Source: Laxmikanth

Constitutional Bodies - I

Q.1) Article 324 of Indian constitution vest/s power in election commission to conduct election/s to which of the following?

- a) Local bodies
- b) State legislature
- c) The Parliament

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

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

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. Election Commission is a permanent and an independent body established by the Constitution of India.
2. Election Commission is an all-India 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: C

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.

The Election Commission is an all-India body in the sense that it is common to both the Central government and the state governments.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution has not prescribed the qualifications of the members of the Election Commission.
2. The Constitution has not specified the term of the members of the Election 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: C

Explanation: Though the constitution has sought to safeguard and ensure the independence and impartiality of the Election Commission, some flaws can be noted, viz.,

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1. The Constitution has not prescribed the qualifications (legal, educational, administrative or judicial) of the members of the Election Commission.
2. The Constitution has not specified the term of the members of the Election Commission.
3. The Constitution has not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) Which of the following is/are power/s and function/s of the election commission of India?

1. To determine the territorial areas of the electoral constituencies throughout the country.
2. To prepare and periodically revise electoral rolls and to register all eligible voters.
3. To notify the dates and schedules of elections and to scrutinize nomination papers.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The powers and functions of election commission is/are:

1. To determine the territorial areas of the electoral constituencies throughout the country on the basis of the Delimitation Commission Act of Parliament.
2. To prepare and periodically revise electoral rolls and to register all eligible voters.
3. To notify the dates and schedules of elections and to scrutinize nomination papers.
4. To grant recognition to political parties and allot election symbols to them.
5. To act as a court for settling disputes related to granting of recognition to political parties and allotment of election symbols to them.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding union Public Service Commission (UPSC):

1. It is the central recruiting agency in India.
2. It is an independent 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: C

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.

Source: Laxmikanth

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Q.6) Part XIV of the Constitution is related to which of the following?

- a) Election commission
- b) UPSC
- c) CAG
- d) Finance omission

ANS: B

Explanation: 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.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. The UPSC chairman and other members appointed by the president of India.
2. The strength of the Commission has left the matter to the discretion of 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: A

Explanation: 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.

Source: Laxmikanth

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

1. The Parliament authorizes the president to determine the conditions of service of the chairman and other members of the Commission.
2. The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 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: B

Explanation: The Constitution authorizes the president to determine the conditions of service of the chairman and other members of the Commission.

The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Source: Laxmikanth

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Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. The chairman of UPSC is not eligible for further employment in the Government of India or a state.
2. A member of UPSC is eligible for appointment as the chairman of UPSC or a State Public Service 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: C

Explanation: The chairman of UPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is not eligible for further employment in the Government of India or a state.

- A member of UPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is eligible for appointment as the chairman of UPSC or a State Public Service Commission (SPSC), but not for any other employment in the Government of India or a state.
- The chairman or a member of UPSC is (after having completed his first term) not eligible for reappointment to that office (i.e., not eligible for second term).

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.10) Which of the following matter/s is/are come/s under UPSC?

1. Recruitment
2. Promotion
3. Disciplinary issues

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

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.

Source: Laxmikanth

Constitutional Bodies – II

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. State Public Service Commission consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the President.
2. The Constitution does not specify the strength of the State Public Service Commission but has left the matter to the discretion of 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: D

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.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. The chairman and members of the State Public Service Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 62 years.
2. The chairman and members of the State Public Service Commission can relinquish their offices at any time by addressing their resignation to 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: A

Explanation: The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier (in the case of UPSC, the age limit is 65 years).

However, they can relinquish their offices at any time by addressing their resignation to the governor.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. The chairman and members of a SPSC are removed by the president.
2. The president can remove them on the same grounds and in the same manner as he can remove a chairman or a member of the UPSC.

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: 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).

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The president can remove them on the same grounds and in the same manner as he can remove a chairman or a member of the UPSC.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC)”:

1. It is created by an act of Parliament on the request of the state legislatures concerned.
2. The chairman and members of a JSPSC are appointed 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: 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.
- The chairman and members of a JSPSC are appointed by the president.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.5) Article 280 of Indian constitution related to which of the following?

- a) UPSC
- b) CAG
- c) Finance Commission
- d) Election Commission

ANS: C

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

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.6) 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 members 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.

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

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) The one hundred one (101st) constitutional amendment act is related to which of the following?

- a) GST
- b) Finance commission
- c) CAG
- d) UPSC

ANS: A

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.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding working of the GST council:

- 1. One-half 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: C

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

Q.9) Which of the following matter/s is/are the GST council make recommendation/s?

- 1. The goods and services that may be subjected to GST or exempted from GST.
- 2. The threshold limit of turnover below which goods and services may be exempted from GST.
- 3. The rates including floor rates with bands of GST.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The Council is required to make recommendations to the centre and the states on the following matters:

- (a) The taxes, cesses and surcharges levied by the centre, the states and the local bodies that would get merged in GST.
- (b) The goods and services that may be subjected to GST or exempted from GST.

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- (c) Model GST Laws, principles of levy, apportionment of GST levied on supplies in the course of inter-state trade or commerce and the principles that govern the place of supply.
- (d) The threshold limit of turnover below which goods and services may be exempted from GST.
- (e) The rates including floor rates with bands of GST.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.10) Article 338 of Indian Constitution related to which of the following?

- a) National Commission for Scheduled Castes
- b) GST Council
- c) Finance Commission
- d) Special officer for linguistics

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.

Source: Laxmikanth

Constitutional Bodies – III

Q.1) 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 Human Rights Commission

ANS: A

Explanation: 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

Q.2) Which Constitutional Amendment Act, bifurcated the combined National Commission for SCs and STs into two separate bodies?

- a) Eighty second
- b) Eighty ninth
- c) Ninety second
- d) Ninety seventh

ANS: B

Explanation: 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

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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “National Commission for Scheduled Castes (SCs)”:

1. It consists of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and three other members.
2. They are appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

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 separate National Commission for SCs came into existence in 2004.

- It consists of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and three other members.
- They are appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
- Their conditions of service and tenure of office are also determined by the President.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) Which of the following is/are function/s of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (SCs)?

1. To investigate and monitor all matters relating to the constitutional and other legal safeguards for the SCs and to evaluate their working.
2. To inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the SCs.
3. To participate and advise on the planning process of socio economic development of the SCs.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The functions of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (SCs) are:

- (a) To investigate and monitor all matters relating to the constitutional and other legal safeguards for the SCs and to evaluate their working;
- (b) To inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the SCs;
- (c) To participate and advise on the planning process of socioeconomic development of the SCs 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

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Q.5) Which of the following is/are power/s of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (STs)?

1. Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath.
2. Requiring the discovery and production of any document.
3. Receiving evidence on affidavits.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (STs), while investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint, has all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and in particular in respect of the following matters:

- (a) Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath;
- (b) Requiring the discovery and production of any document;
- (c) Receiving evidence on affidavits;
- (d) Requisitioning any public record from any court or office;
- (e) Issuing summons for the examination of witnesses and documents; and
- (f) Any other matter which the President may determine.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.6) Which constitutional amendment conferred constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes?

- a) Ninety first
- b) Ninety seventh
- c) One hundred one
- d) One hundred two

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, over inclusion 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.
- 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

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Q.7) Which of the following article of Indian constitution is related to Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities?

- a) 301
- b) 342
- c) 350 B
- d) 355

ANS: C

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

- Later, the States Reorganization 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.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) Which of the following is/are regional office/s of Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities?

- 1. Hyderabad
- 2. Nagpur
- 3. Kolkata

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: A

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

Q.9) Article 148 of Indian constitution is related to which of the following?

- a) CAG
- b) UPSC
- c) Finance commission
- d) Election commission

ANS: A

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

Source: Laxmikanth

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Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)”:

1. He is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.
2. He is the guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels—the Centre and the state.

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: Constitution of India (Article 148) provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). He is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.

He is the guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels—the Centre and the state.

Source: Laxmikanth

Non – Constitutional Bodies

Q.1) Which of the following is replaced the 65 - year-old Planning Commission in 2014?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Zonal commission
- c) GST Council
- d) National Integration Council

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

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “NITI Aayog”:

1. It is neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body.
2. It is the premier policy ‘Think Tank’ of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs.

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: It must be noted here that the NITI Aayog, like that of the Planning Commission, was also created by an executive resolution of the Government of India (i.e., Union Cabinet).

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- Hence, it is also neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body. In other words, it is a non-constitutional or extra-constitutional body (i.e., not created by the Constitution) and a non-statutory body (not created by an Act of the Parliament).
- NITI Aayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) Which of the following is the chairperson of NITI Aayog?

- a) President
- b) Prime Minister
- c) Finance Minister
- d) Home Minister

ANS: B

Explanation: The Governing Council of NITI Aayog comprises the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India (chairperson); Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories with legislature; Lt Governors of other UTs; Ex-Officio Members; Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog; Full-Time Members, NITI Aayog; and Special Invitees.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) Which of the following is/are guiding principle/s of NITI Aayog?

1. Antyodaya
2. Inclusion
3. Village

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The NITI Aayog is guided by the following principles:

- Antyodaya: Priorities service and uplift of the poor, marginalized and downtrodden, as enunciated in Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's idea of 'Antyodaya'.
- Inclusion: Empower vulnerable and marginalized sections, redressing identity based inequalities of all kinds—gender, region, religion, caste or class.
- Village: Integrate our villages into the development process, to draw on the vitality and energy of the bedrock of our ethos, culture and sustenance.
- Demographic dividend: Harness our greatest asset, the people of India; by focusing on their development, through education and skilling, and their empowerment, through productive livelihood opportunities.

Source: Laxmikanth

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Q.5) In which of the following year the Parliament enacted the Protection of Human Rights Act?

- a) 1985
- b) 1989
- c) 1993
- d) 1999

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

Q.6) 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 at-least one should be a woman) having knowledge or practical experience with respect to human rights.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) Which of the following is/are function/s of National Human Rights Commission?

1. To inquire into any violation of human rights.
2. To intervene in any proceeding involving allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court.
3. To visit jails and detention places to study the living conditions of inmates and make recommendation thereon.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The functions of the Commission are:

- (a) 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.
- (b) To intervene in any proceeding involving allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court.
- (c) To visit jails and detention places to study the living conditions of inmates and make recommendation thereon.

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(d) To review the constitutional and other legal safeguards for the protection of human rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation.

(e) To review the factors including acts of terrorism that inhibits the enjoyment of human rights and recommend remedial measures.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) The Central Information Commission was established by the Central Government in?

- a) 1999
- b) 2001
- c) 2005
- d) 2008

ANS: C

Explanation: The Central Information Commission was established by the Central Government in 2005. It was constituted through an Official Gazette Notification under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005).

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) was established on the recommendation of?

- a) Santhanam Committee
- b) Sarkaria committee
- c) Chellaih committee
- d) Narsimhan committee

ANS: A

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

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding "Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)":

1. It is a multi-member body consisting of a Central Vigilance Commissioner and not more than two vigilance commissioners.
2. They are appointed by the president by warrant under his hand and seal.

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 CVC is a multi-member body consisting of a Central Vigilance Commissioner (chairperson) and not more than two vigilance commissioners.

They are appointed by the president by warrant under his hand and seal on the recommendation of a three member committee consisting of the prime minister as its head, the Union minister of home affairs and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Source: Laxmikanth

Revision

Q.1) Which of the following is/are function/s of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)?

1. To exercise superintendence over the functioning of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (CBI).
2. To review the progress of applications pending with the competent authorities for sanction of prosecution under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
3. To tender advice to the Central government and its authorities on such matters as are referred to it by them.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The functions of the CVC are:

- To inquire or cause an inquiry or investigation to be conducted on a reference made by the Central government wherein it is alleged that a public servant being an employee of the Central government or its authorities has committed an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
- To exercise superintendence over the functioning of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (CBI) insofar as it relates to the investigation of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
- To give directions to the Delhi Special Police Establishment (CBI) for superintendence insofar as it relates to the investigation of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
- To review the progress of applications pending with the competent authorities for sanction of prosecution under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
- To tender advice to the Central government and its authorities on such matters as are referred to it by them.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.2) Which of the following is/are come/s under the jurisdiction of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)?

1. Members of All India Services serving in connection with the affairs of the Union.
2. Officers of the rank of Scale V and above in the Public Sector Banks.
3. Officers in Grade D and above in Reserve Bank of India, NABARD and SIDBI.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The jurisdiction of the CVC extends to the following:

- Members of All India Services serving in connection with the affairs of the Union and Group A officers of the Central Government.
- Officers of the rank of Scale V and above in the Public Sector Banks.
- Officers in Grade D and above in Reserve Bank of India, NABARD and SIDBI.

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- Chief Executives and Executives on the Board and other officers of E-8 and above in Schedule 'A' and 'B' Public Sector Undertakings.
- Chief Executives and Executives on the Board and other officers of E-7 and above in Schedule 'C' and 'D' Public Sector Undertakings.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):

1. It has all the powers of a civil court and its proceedings have a judicial character.
2. It is vested with the power to regulate its own procedure.

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 CVC conducts its proceedings at its headquarters (New Delhi).

- It is vested with the power to regulate its own procedure.
- It has all the powers of a civil court and its proceedings have a judicial character.
- It may call for information or report from the Central government or its authorities so as to enable it to exercise general supervision over the vigilance and anti-corruption work in them.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.

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 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 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

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Q.5) The motto of “Industry, Impartiality and Integrity” is related to which of the following?

- a) CBI
- b) CVC
- c) ED
- d) CIC

ANS: A

Explanation: CBI Motto: Industry, Impartiality and Integrity

Mission: To uphold the Constitution of India and law of the land through in-depth investigation and successful prosecution of offences; to provide leadership and direction to police forces and to act as the nodal agency for enhancing inter-state and international cooperation in law enforcement.

Source: laxmikanth

Q.6) Which of the following is/are function/s of the CBI?

1. Investigating cases of corruption, bribery and misconduct of Central government employees.
2. Investigating cases relating to infringement of fiscal and economic laws.
3. Investigating serious crimes, having national and international ramifications.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The functions of CBI are:

- (i) Investigating cases of corruption, bribery and misconduct of Central government employees.
- (ii) Investigating cases relating to infringement of fiscal and economic laws, that is, breach of laws concerning export and import control, customs and central excise, income tax, foreign exchange regulations and so on. However, such cases are taken up either in consultation with or at the request of the department concerned.
- (iii) Investigating serious crimes, having national and international ramifications, committed by organized gangs of professional criminals.
- (iv) Coordinating the activities of the anticorruption agencies and the various state police forces
- (v) Taking up, on the request of a state government, any case of public importance for investigation.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was constituted in 2009.
2. The headquarters of the NIA is at New Delhi.

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 Investigation Agency (NIA) was constituted in 2009 under the provisions of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 (NIA Act).

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- It is the central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency in the country.
- The headquarters of the NIA is at New Delhi.
- The branch offices of the NIA are located at Hyderabad, Guwahati, Mumbai, Lucknow, Kochi, Kolkata, Jammu and Raipur.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)”:

1. It consists of a chairperson and other members, not exceeding nine.
2. The Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairperson of the NDMA.

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 NDMA consists of a chairperson and other members, not exceeding nine.

- The Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairperson of the NDMA.
- The other members are nominated by the chairperson of the NDMA.
- The chairperson of the NDMA designates one of the members as the vice-chairperson of the NDMA.
- The vicechairperson has the status of a Cabinet Minister while the other members have the status of a Minister of State.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) works under the administrative control of the?

- a) Union Ministry of Home Affairs
- b) Union Ministry of External Affairs
- c) Union Ministry of Earth Sciences
- d) Union Ministry of Defense Affairs

ANS: A

Explanation: The NDMA is the apex body for disaster management in the country. It works under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Source: Laxmikanth

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Q.10) Which of the following is/are objective/s of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)?

1. To promote a culture of prevention, preparedness and resilience at all levels through knowledge, innovation and education.
2. To encourage mitigation measures based on technology, traditional wisdom and environmental sustainability.
3. To mainstream disaster management into the developmental planning process.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The objectives of the NDMA are as follows:

1. To promote a culture of prevention, preparedness and resilience at all levels through knowledge, innovation and education.
2. To encourage mitigation measures based on technology, traditional wisdom and environmental sustainability.
3. To mainstream disaster management into the developmental planning process.
4. To establish institutional and techno-legal frameworks to create an enabling regulatory environment and a compliance regime.
5. To ensure efficient mechanism for identification, assessment and monitoring of disaster risks.

Source: Laxmikanth