

ForumIAS

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# Prelims Marathon

3<sup>rd</sup> Week December, 2024

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*HISTORY*  
*ECONOMICS*  
*POLITY*  
*SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY*  
*GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

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FORUMIAS



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## Local Government

**Q.1) Which of the following provision was constitutionalised through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act?**

- a) Panchayati Raj
- b) Education
- c) Healthcare
- d) Right to vote

**ANS: A**

**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 appointed by government of India 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) Balwant Rai G Mehta
- b) Narisimhan
- c) Ashok Mehta
- d) Vivek Debroy

**ANS: A**

**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. The committee submitted its report in November 1957 and recommended the establishment of the scheme of 'democratic decentralisation', which ultimately came to be known as Panchayati Raj.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.3) Which of the following southern state first to establish Panchayati Raj?**

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

**ANS: D**

**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. Thereafter, most of the states adopted the system.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.4) Which of the following state adopted the four tier panchayati Raj system?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Though most of the states created panchayati raj institutions by mid 1960s, there were differences from one state to another with regard to the number of tiers, relative position of samiti and parishad, their tenure, composition, functions, finances and so on.

- For example, Rajasthan adopted the three-tier system while Tamil Nadu adopted the two-tier system.
- West Bengal, on the other hand, adopted the four-tier system.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.5) In which of the following year Ashok Mehta committee was appointed?**

- a) 1972
- b) 1975
- c) 1977
- d) 1980

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** In December 1977, the Janata Government appointed a committee on panchayati raj institutions under the chairmanship of Ashok Mehta. It submitted its report in August 1978 and made 132 recommendations to revive and strengthen the declining panchayati raj system in the country.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.6) Which of the following was/were recommendations of "Ashok Mehta Committee"?**

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

**Select the correct option from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

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

It submitted its report in August 1978 and made 132 recommendations to revive and strengthen the declining panchayati raj system in the country. Its main recommendations were:

1. 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.
2. A district should be the first point for decentralisation under popular supervision below the state level.
3. Zila parishad should be the executive body and made responsible for planning at the district level.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.7) Which of the following was/were recommendations of G.V.K. Rao committee?**

1. A post of District Development Commissioner should be created.
2. Elections to the Panchayati Raj institutions should be held regularly.
3. Some of the planning functions at the state level should be transferred to the district level planning units for effective decentralized district planning.

**Select the correct option from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The G V K Rao Committee made the following recommendations to strengthen and revitalise the Panchayati Raj system:

(i) The district level body, that is, the Zila Parishad should be of pivotal importance in the scheme of democratic decentralisation. It stated that “the district is the proper unit for planning and development and the Zila Parishad should become the principal body for management of all development programmes which can be handled at that level.”

(ii) The Panchayati Raj institutions at the district and lower levels should be assigned an important role with respect to planning, implementation and monitoring of rural development programmes.

(iii) Some of the planning functions at the state level should be transferred to the district level planning units for effective decentralized district planning.

(iv) A post of District Development Commissioner should be created. He should act as the chief executive officer of the Zila Parishad and should be in charge of all the development departments at the district level.

(v) Elections to the Panchayati Raj institutions should be held regularly. It found that elections became overdue for one or more tiers in 11 states.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.8) Who among the following appointed a committee to prepare a concept paper on ‘Revitalisation of Panchayati Raj Institutions for Democracy and Development’ under the chairmanship of L.M. Singhvi?**

- a) Jawaharlal Nehru
- b) Indira Gandhi
- c) Morarji Desai
- d) Rajiv Gandhi

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** In 1986, Rajiv Gandhi government appointed a committee to prepare a concept paper on ‘Revitalisation of Panchayati Raj Institutions for Democracy and Development’ under the chairmanship of L.M. Singhvi.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.9) Which of the following was/were recommendations of “Thungon committee”?**

1. The Panchayati Raj bodies should be constitutionally recognized.
2. A three-tier system of Panchayati Raj with panchayats at the village, block and district levels.
3. The Panchayati Raj bodies should have a fixed tenure of five years.

**Select the correct option from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: C**

**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. It made the following recommendations:

1. The Panchayati Raj bodies should be constitutionally recognized.
2. A three-tier system of Panchayati Raj with panchayats at the village, block and district levels.
3. Zilla Parishad should be the pivot of the Panchayati Raj system. It should act as the planning and development agency in the district.
4. The Panchayati Raj bodies should have a fixed tenure of five years.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.10) The Article 243 – G related to which of the following?**

- a) Eleventh schedule
- b) Gram Sabha
- c) Reservation of seats
- d) Elections to panchayats

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** 73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional amendment act has added a new Part-IX to the Constitution of India.

- This part is entitled as “The Panchayats’ and consists of provisions from Articles 243 to 243 O.
- In addition, the act has also 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**

## Union Territories & Scheduled Areas

**Q.1) Which of the following territories are comes under article 1 of Indian constitution?**

1. Acquired territories
2. Union territories
3. Territories of states

**Select the correct option from below given codes:**

- 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. At present, there are twenty-nine states, seven union territories and no acquired territories.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**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 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.
- Hence, they are also known as centrally administered territories.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.3) The union territories were constituted under which constitutional amendment?**

- a) First
- b) Seventh
- c) Twelfth
- d) Twenty – forth

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** During the British Rule, certain areas were constituted as 'scheduled districts' in 1874. Later, they came to be known as 'chief commissioners provinces'.

- After independence, they were placed in the category of Part 'C' States and Part 'D' Territories.
- In 1956, they were constituted as the 'union territories' by the 7<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act (1956) and the States Reorganisation Act (1956).

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.4) Which of the following was/were union territories before it became statehood?**

1. Goa
2. Mizoram
3. Arunachal Pradesh

**Select the correct option from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** In 1956, they were constituted as the 'union territories' by the 7<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act (1956) and the States Reorganisation Act (1956).

Gradually, some of these union territories have been elevated to statehood. Thus, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa, which are states today were formerly union territories.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.5) Which of the following territories were acquired from Portuguese?**

1. Goa
2. Puducherry
3. Daman & Diu

**Select the correct option from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The territories that were acquired from the Portuguese (Goa, Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli) and the French (Puducherry) were constituted as the union territories.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.6) Which of the following union territories were created in 1956?**

1. Delhi
2. Puducherry
3. Chandigarh

**Select the correct option from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** At present, there are nine Union Territories. They are (along with the year of creation): (1) Andaman and Nicobar Islands- 1956, (2) Delhi-1956, (3) Lakshadweep-1956, (4) Dadra and Nagar Haveli-1961, (5) Daman and Diu-1962, (6) Puducherry- 1962, (7) Chandigarh-1966, (8) Jammu and Kashmir-2019 and (9) Ladakh-2019.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.7) Which of the following part of Indian constitution deal with the union territories?**

- a) Part V
- b) Part VI
- c) Part VII
- 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.8) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

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.
3. The parliament can specify the designation of an administrator.

**Select the correct option from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**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**

**Q.9) Which of the following union territories were provided with legislative assembly?**

1. Delhi
2. Puducherry
3. Ladakh

**Select the correct option from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Union Territories of Puducherry (in 1963), Delhi (in 1992) and Jammu and Kashmir (in 2019) are provided with a legislative assembly and a council of ministers headed by a chief minister.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.10) 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).

**Source: Laxmikanth**

## Constitutional Bodies

**Q.1) Which of the following statements is/are correct about election commission of India?**

1. It is an independent body.
2. It is formed for every five years.
3. It is created to ensure free and fair elections in the country.

**Select the correct option from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: B**

**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.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.2) Which of the following elections are not conducted by election commission of India?**

- a) Elections to President
- b) Elections to parliament
- c) Elections to State legislature
- d) Elections to Panchayats

**ANS: D**

**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. Thus, the Election Commission is an all-India body in the sense.

It must be noted here that the election commission is not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate State Election Commission.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.3) Who among the following decides the composition of election commission of India?**

- a) President
- b) Parliament
- c) Vice President
- d) Prime Minister

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** 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.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.4) Which of the following part of Indian constitution related to Union Public Service Commission?**

- a) Part IX
- b) Part XI
- c) Part XIV
- d) Part XIV – A

**ANS: C**

**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.5) Consider the following statements regarding UPSC:**

1. It consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the president of India.
2. Its composition is clearly specified 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: 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.6) Which of the following provisions ensured by constitution to safeguard and ensure the independent and impartial functioning of the UPSC?**

1. The entire expenses of the chairman and members of the UPSC are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.
2. The chairman of UPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is not eligible for further employment in the Government of India or a state.
3. The conditions of service of the chairman or a member, though determined by the president, cannot be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

**Select the correct option from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Constitution has made the following provisions to safeguard and ensure the independent and impartial functioning of the UPSC:

(a) The chairman or a member of the UPSC can be removed from office by the president only in the manner and on the grounds mentioned in the Constitution. Therefore, they enjoy security of tenure.

(b) The conditions of service of the chairman or a member, though determined by the president, cannot be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

(c) The entire expenses including the salaries, allowances and pensions of the chairman and members of the UPSC are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India. Thus, they are not subject to vote of Parliament.

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

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.7) On which of the following matters UPSC is consulted with respect to a person serving under the Government of India in a civil capacity?**

1. Censure
2. Withholding of increments
3. Withholding of promotions

**Select the correct option from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** UPSC is consulted for all disciplinary matters affecting a person serving under the Government of India in a civil capacity including memorials petitions relating to such matters. These include:

- Censure (Severe disapproval)
- Withholding of increments
- Withholding of promotions
- Recovery of pecuniary loss
- Reduction to lower service or rank (Demotion)
- Compulsory retirement
- Removal from service
- Dismissal from service

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.8) Which of the following provisions does not come under "UPSC"?**

1. Making reservations of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens.
2. Taking into consideration the claims of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in making appointments to services and posts.
3. With regard to the selections for chairmanship or membership of commissions or tribunals, posts of the highest diplomatic nature and a bulk of group C and group D services.

**Select the correct option from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The following matters are kept outside the functional jurisdiction of the UPSC. In other words, the UPSC is not consulted on the following matters:

- (a) While making reservations of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens.
- (b) While taking into consideration the claims of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in making appointments to services and posts.
- (c) With regard to the selections for chairmanship or membership of commissions or tribunals, posts of the highest diplomatic nature and a bulk of group C and group D services.
- (d) With regard to the selection for temporary or officiating appointment to a post if the person appointed is not likely to hold the post for more than a year.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.9) Under which of the following condition president has to refer to Supreme Court for removal of UPSC chairman and other members?**

- a) adjudged as an insolvent
- b) paid employment outside the duties of his office
- c) infirmity of mind or body
- d) misbehavior

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The president can remove the chairman or any other member of UPSC for misbehavior.

- However, in this case, the president has to refer the matter to the Supreme Court for an enquiry.
- If the Supreme Court, after the enquiry, upholds the cause of removal and advises so, the president can remove the chairman or a member.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “State Public Service Commission (SPSC)”:**

1. The chairman and other members of SPSC are appointed by the President.
2. The Constitution does not specify the strength of the Commission but has left the matter to the discretion of the President.

**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: 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.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

## Constitutional Bodies - II

**Q.1) Which part of Indian constitution deals with “State Public Service Commission”?**

- a) Part X
- b) Part XI
- c) Part XIV
- d) Part XV

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Parallel to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) at the Centre, there is a State Public Service Commission (SPSC) in a state.

The same set of Articles (i.e., 315 to 323 in Part XIV) of the Constitution also deal with the composition, appointment and removal of members, power and functions and independence of a SPSC.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “State Public Service Commission”:**

1. Chairman of SPSC is appointed by President.
2. The Constitution does not specify the strength of the Commission.

**Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** 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.3) Consider the following statements regarding “State 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. The chairman and members of a SPSC are removed 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: B**

**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).

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**

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

1. There is no constitutional provision regarding JSPSC.
2. It is created by an act of Parliament on the request of the state legislatures concerned.

**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 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.

**Source: Laxmikanth**



**Q.5) Which of the following article of Indian constitution related to finance commission?**

- a) Article 112
- b) Article 113
- c) Article 280
- d) Article 291

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a Finance Commission.

**Source: laxmikanth**

**Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding "finance commission":**

- 1. It is not a quasi-judicial body.
- 2. It is constituted by the president of India every fifth year or at such earlier time as he considers necessary.

**Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** 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**

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

- 1. It consists of a chairman and nine other members to be appointed by the president.
- 2. They 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: D**

**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**

**Q.8) Which of the following recommendations is/are given by finance commission to president?**

- 1. To create industrial corridors.
- 2. To declare special category status to states.
- 3. To create inter – state commerce development.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**ANS: D**



**Explanation:** The Finance Commission is required to make recommendations to the president of India on the following matters:

1. The distribution of the net proceeds of taxes to be shared between the Centre and the states, and the allocation between the states of the respective shares of such proceeds.
2. The principles that should govern the grants-in-aid to the states by the Centre (i.e., out of the consolidated fund of India).
3. The measures needed to augment the consolidated fund of a state to supplement the resources of the panchayats and the municipalities in the state on the basis of the recommendations made by the state finance commission.
4. Any other matter referred to it by the president in the interests of sound finance.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.9) The 101<sup>st</sup> constitutional amendment is related to which of the following?**

- a) Goods and Service Tax council
- b) Finance commission
- c) State Public Service Commission
- d) Election Commission

**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.

- 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**

**Q.10) Who among the following empowered to create a GST Council?**

- a) Prime Minister
- b) Vice – President
- c) Chief Justice of India
- d) President

**ANS: D**

**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. The amendment inserted a new Article 279-A in the Constitution.
- This Article empowered the President to constitute a GST Council by an order. Accordingly, the President issued the order in 2016 and constituted the Council.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

## Constitutional Bodies – III

**Q.1) The article 279 – A related to which of the following?**

- a) GST council
- b) Finance commission
- c) National commission for SC's
- d) National commission for ST's

**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. The amendment inserted a new Article 279-A in the Constitution.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding GST council:**

- 1. The Secretariat of the Council is located at New Delhi.
- 2. The Union finance Secretary acts as the ex-officio Secretary to the Council.

**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: B**

**Explanation:** The Secretariat of the GST Council is located at New Delhi. The Union Revenue Secretary acts as the ex-officio Secretary to the Council.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.3) Which of the following is/are constitutional bodies?**

- 1. National Commission for Women
- 2. National Commission for Minorities
- 3. National Human Rights Commission

**Select the correct option from below given codes:**

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

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** 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.4) Which constitutional amendment 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?**

- a) Forty – fourth
- b) Fifty – four
- c) Sixty – fifth
- d) Seventy – eighth

**ANS: C**

**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.

**Source:** laxmikanth

**Q.5) The separate National Commission for SCs came into existence in?**

- a) 1999
- b) 2001
- c) 2003
- d) 2004

**ANS: D**

**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.

**Source:** Laxmikanth

**Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding powers of national commission for SC's:**

1. It is vested with the power to regulate its own procedure.
2. It has all the powers of a civil court trying a suit.

**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 Commission is vested with the power to regulate its own procedure. The Commission, while investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint, has all the powers of a civil court trying a suit.

**Source:** Laxmikanth

**Q.7) Who among the following is not a member of GST council?**

- a) Finance Minister
- b) Union Home Minister
- c) Union Minister of State in-charge of Revenue or Finance
- d) Ministers nominated by each state

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Council is a joint forum of the centre and the states and consists of the following members:

- (a) The Union Finance Minister as the Chairperson
- (b) The Union Minister of State in-charge of Revenue or Finance
- (c) The Minister in-charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister nominated by each state government

**Source:** Laxmikanth

**Q.8) Which of the following statement is not correct about “National Commission for Scheduled Castes (SCs)”?**

- a) The separate National Commission for SCs came into existence in 2004.
- b) The National Commission for SCs consists of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and three other members.
- c) The chairperson and other members of National Commission for SCs are appointed by the Lok Sabha.
- d) The conditions of service and tenure of office of chairperson and other members of National Commission for SCs are determined by President.

**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.9) Which of the following is/are functions of “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 socioeconomic development of the SCs and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union or a state.

**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**

**Q.10) Which one of the following is not a regional office of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities?**

- a) Amaravati
- b) Belgaum
- c) Chennai
- d) Kolkata

**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**

## Non – Constitutional Bodies

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

1. It was established on January 1, 2015.
2. It was created by executive resolution.

**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:** 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.
- However, 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).

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.2) Which of the following statements are correct about composition of NITI Aayog?**

1. Prime Minister is chairperson of India.
2. There is no part – time members in it.
3. It has no regional councils.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The composition of the NITI Aayog is as follows:

(a) Chairperson: The Prime Minister of India

(b) Governing Council: 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.

(c) Regional Councils: These are formed to address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one state or a region. These are formed for a specified tenure. These are convened by the Prime Minister and comprises of the Chief Ministers of States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories in the region. These are chaired by the Chairperson of the NITI Aayog or his nominee.

Part-time Members: Maximum of 2, from leading universities, research organizations and other relevant institutions in an e officio capacity. Part-time members would be on a rotation.

**Source: Laxmikanth**



**Q.3) Which of the following is not a specialized wing of “NITI Aayog”?**

- a) Research wing
- b) Consultancy wing
- c) Team India wing
- d) States wing

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** NITI Aayog houses a number of specialized wings, including:

1. Research Wing: It develops in-house sectoral expertise as a dedicated think tank of top-notch domain experts, specialists and scholars.
2. Consultancy Wing: It provides a marketplace of whetted panels of expertise and funding, for the Central and State Governments to tap into matching their requirements with solution providers, public and private, national and international. By playing match-maker instead of providing the entire service itself, NITI Aayog is able to focus its resources on priority matters, providing guidance and an overall quality check to the rest.
3. Team India Wing: It comprises of the representatives from every State and Ministry and serves as a permanent platform for national collaboration.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.4) Which of the following is/are functions of “NITI Aayog”?**

1. Design policy and programme framework.
2. Foster co-operative federalism.
3. Monitoring & evaluation.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

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

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

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “National Human Rights Commission”:**

1. The commission 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.6) Who among the following is not a member of six-member committee to recommend appointment of chairperson and members of NHRC?**

- a) Prime Minister
- b) Leader of Opposition
- c) Vice – President
- d) Central Home Minister

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The chairperson and members of NHRC are appointed by the president on the recommendations of a six-member committee consisting of the prime minister as its head, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament and the Central home minister.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.7) Which of the following is/are functions of “National Human Rights Commission”?**

- 1. To inquire into any violation of human rights or negligence in the prevention of such violation by a public servant.
- 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.
- (d) To review the constitutional and other legal safeguards for the protection of human rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation.

Source: Laxmikanth

**Q.8) In which of the following year Central Information Commission was established by the Central Government?**

- a) 1992
- b) 1999
- 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) Consider the following statements regarding “Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)”:**

1. It is a non – statutory body.
2. Its establishment 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: B**

**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).
- Thus, originally the CVC was neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body. Later, in 2003, the Parliament enacted a law conferring statutory status on the CVC.

**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 comes under the jurisdiction of “Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)”?**

1. Members of All India Services.
2. Officers of the rank of Scale V and below 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: B**

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

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding "Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)":**

1. It is not vested with the power to regulate its own procedure.
2. It has all the powers of a civil court and its proceedings have a judicial character.

**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 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.3) Consider the following statements regarding "Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)":**

1. It was set up in 1953 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.

**Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?**

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

**ANS: A**

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

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

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)”:**

1. It is the main investigating agency of the Central Government.
2. It provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.

**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 CBI is the main investigating agency of the Central Government.

- It plays an important role in the prevention of corruption and maintaining integrity in administration.
- It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.5) Which of the following is/are functions of “Central Bureau of Investigation (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.

**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.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.6) In which of the following year the National Investigation Agency (NIA) constituted?**

- a) 1998
- b) 2003
- c) 2007
- d) 2009

**ANS: D**

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

It is the central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency in the country.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.7) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “National Investigation Agency (NIA)”?**

1. It is headed by a Director-General.
2. It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. The headquarters of the NIA is at Mumbai.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The NIA was established in the backdrop of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, popularly known as the 26/11 incident.

- This national horror led to the realisation of the need for a separate federal agency to deal with terror-related crimes 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.
- The NIA is headed by a Director-General. He is appointed by the central government. His powers are similar to the powers exercisable by a Director-General of Police in respect of the police force in a state.
- The NIA works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- The state government extends all assistance and co-operation to the NIA for investigation of the offences specified under the NIA Act.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.8) Which of the following attacks are probed by “National Investigation Agency (NIA)”?**

1. hijacking of aircrafts
2. attacks on nuclear installations
3. use of weapons of mass destruction

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The NIA is empowered to probe terror attacks including bomb blasts, hijacking of aircrafts and ships, attacks on nuclear installations and use of weapons of mass destruction.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.9) In which of the following year the Disaster Management Act enacted?**

- a) 1971
- b) 1997
- c) 2001
- d) 2005

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Government of India, recognizing the importance of disaster management as a national priority, had set up a High-Powered Committee in 1999 and a National Committee in 2001 after the Gujarat earthquake, to make recommendations on the preparation of disaster management plans and suggest effective mitigation mechanisms.

However, after the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, the Government of India took a defining step in the legislative history of the country by enacting the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

**Source: Laxmikanth**

**Q.10) Which of the following is/are functions “National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)”?**

1. To lay down policies on disaster management.
2. To approve plans prepared by the Ministries or Departments of the Government of India in accordance with the National Plan.
3. To recommend provision of funds for the purpose of mitigation.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The NDMA has the responsibility for laying down the policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management for ensuring timely and effective response to disaster. The functions of the NDMA are as follows:

- To lay down policies on disaster management.
- To approve the National Plan.
- To approve plans prepared by the Ministries or Departments of the Government of India in accordance with the National Plan.
- To coordinate the enforcement and implementation of the policy and plan for disaster management.
- To recommend provision of funds for the purpose of mitigation.

**Source: Laxmikanth**