

ForumIAS

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# Prelims Marathon

2<sup>nd</sup> Week April, 2025

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

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FORUMIAS



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## Centre- state relations

### 1. Consider the following:

1. The recommendations of the Inter-State Council are binding on both the Union and the States.
2. The Inter-State Council was reconstituted in 1990 based on the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- Inter state Council was established on May 28, 1990, through a presidential order based on the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission (1988).
- It is merely an advisory body with no bindings on either the centre or the state.

Source: Laxmikant

### 2. Consider the following statements:

1. The Parliament has exclusive powers to make laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the Union List.
2. The power to make laws with respect to residuary subjects is vested in the state legislature
3. The Parliament and the state legislature both have power to make laws with respect to goods and services tax imposed by the Union or by the State.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) One only
- b) Two only
- c) Three only
- d) None

**Answer: B (Option 1 and 2)**

**Explanation:**

- Parliament holds exclusive authority to legislate on matters listed in the Union List, which currently comprises 98 subjects (originally 97).
  - These subjects include areas such as defence, foreign affairs, currency, banking, atomic energy, insurance, communication, inter-state trade and commerce, census, audit, and others.
- The authority to legislate on residuary subjects, that is, matters not listed in any of the three lists rests with the Parliament. This residuary legislative power also encompasses the authority to impose residuary taxes.
- The 101st Amendment Act of 2016 introduced a special provision regarding the Goods and Services Tax (GST). As per this amendment, both the Parliament and the State Legislatures are empowered to enact laws related to GST levied by the Union or the States.

Source: Laxmikant

3. With reference to the Finance Commission as mentioned in Article 280 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body constituted by the President.
2. It recommends the distribution of net tax proceeds between the Centre and the States.
3. It suggests measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of States to support Panchayats and Municipalities.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- The Finance Commission is a quasi-judicial body, not a statutory one. It is provided for in **Article 280** of the Constitution. It is constituted by the President **every five years or earlier**.
- One of the core functions of the Finance Commission is to recommend how the net proceeds of taxes should be distributed between the **Centre and States**, and among the **States** themselves.
- Based on the recommendations of the State Finance Commissions, the Finance Commission suggests measures to **augment the Consolidated Fund of the States** to support **Panchayats and Municipalities**.

Source: Laxmikant

4. Which of the following provisions of the Indian Constitution relate to Centre-State relations in terms of legislative powers?

1. Article 245
2. Article 246
3. Article 248
4. Article 356

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

The Constitution of India provides a **threefold distribution of legislative powers** between the Centre and States:

- **Article 245:** Extent of laws made by Parliament and by the Legislatures of States. It defines the **territorial limits** of legislative powers.
- **Article 246:** Deals with the **subject matter of laws**, dividing it into the Union List, State List, and Concurrent List.
- **Article 248:** Grants **residuary powers** of legislation to Parliament (i.e., matters not enumerated in the State or Concurrent List).
- **Article 356**, however, relates to **President's Rule** (State Emergency), which falls under **administrative relations** rather than legislative powers. So, it is not relevant in the context of legislative relations.

Source: Laxmikant

5. Consider the following statements regarding the financial relations between the Centre and the States in India:

1. The Constitution provides for a Finance Commission to recommend the distribution of taxes between the Union and the States.
2. The Grants-in-Aid to States are provided under Article 275 of the Constitution.
3. States have exclusive power to levy tax on inter-state trade.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- Article 280 of the Constitution provides for the formation of a **Finance Commission** every five years to recommend the **distribution of net proceeds of taxes** between the Centre and the States.
- Under **Article 275**, the Parliament may provide for **grants-in-aid** to States in need of financial assistance, especially to support tribal welfare or developmental needs. States **do not have the power** to levy tax on **inter-state trade**.
- Under the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** regime and Article 269A, the **Centre levies and collects** IGST (Integrated GST) on inter-state supplies, which is then apportioned between the Centre and the States based on the recommendations of the GST Council.

Source: Laxmikant

6. With reference to the administrative relations between the Centre and the States, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution allows the Union to give directions to States for the construction and maintenance of means of communication declared to be of national or military importance.
2. During a national emergency, the executive power of the Union extends to giving directions to any State on any matter.
3. The Inter-State Council is a constitutional body established under Article 263.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- Under **Article 257(1)**, the Union can give directions to States to ensure compliance with laws made by Parliament. Additionally, for matters like **means of communication of national/military importance**, the Centre can issue specific directions.
- During a **national emergency (Article 352)**, the Centre's executive power **extends to matters in the State List** and it can give directions to States on **any matter**.
- The **Inter-State Council** is indeed a **constitutional body** under **Article 263**, meant to facilitate coordination between States and the Union, resolve disputes, and offer recommendations on policy matters.

Source: Laxmikant

7. Which of the following provisions reflect the unitary bias in the Indian Constitution with respect to Centre-State relations?

1. The Parliament can make laws on subjects in the State List under certain circumstances.
2. The Governor is appointed by the President and holds office during his pleasure.
3. During a national emergency, the distribution of legislative powers between the Centre and States can be altered.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- The Indian Constitution, though federal in structure, has a **unitary tilt** in several provisions to maintain national integrity and coordination.
- Parliament can legislate on **State List** subjects:
  - Under Article **249** (if Rajya Sabha passes a resolution in national interest),
  - Under Article **250** (during a national emergency),
  - Under Article **252** (if two or more States consent).
- The **Governor** is appointed by the **President (i.e., Centre)** and **holds office at the pleasure of the President**. This gives the Centre indirect control over the State executive.
- During a **national emergency**, Parliament can legislate on **any subject**, including those in the **State List**, and the **executive power of the Centre extends** over State subjects (Articles 250 and 353).

Source: Laxmikant

8. With reference to the mechanisms provided by the Constitution for coordination between the Centre and States, consider the following statements:

1. The Zonal Councils are constitutional bodies created under Article 263 of the Constitution.
2. The Inter-State Council is meant to facilitate coordination between States and the Centre on policy and administrative matters.
3. The President can establish an Inter-State Council if it appears necessary for public interest.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- The **Zonal Councils** are **statutory bodies, not constitutional**. They were created under the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**—not Article 263. Hence, not part of the Constitution directly.
- The **Inter-State Council** is a **constitutional body** under **Article 263**. Its function is to **discuss, investigate, and advise** on matters of **common interest** between the Centre and States, especially in terms of policy and administration.
- Under **Article 263**, the **President may establish** an Inter-State Council if it **appears to him that such a council is needed for public interest**.

Source: Laxmikant

9. With reference to the role of the Rajya Sabha in Centre-State relations, consider the following statements:
1. Rajya Sabha can authorize the Parliament to make laws on a subject in the State List in the national interest.
  2. Rajya Sabha has an equal role with Lok Sabha in approving a proclamation of national emergency.
  3. Rajya Sabha alone can initiate the process for the creation of All-India Services common to the Centre and States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Correct Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- Under **Article 249**, the **Rajya Sabha** can pass a resolution (by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting) declaring that it is necessary in the **national interest** for Parliament to make laws on any matter in the **State List**. This resolution empowers Parliament to legislate on that subject.
- A **proclamation of national emergency** (Article 352) must be **approved by both Houses** of Parliament within one month. Thus, **Rajya Sabha has an equal say** in this matter.
- Under **Article 312**, **Rajya Sabha alone** is empowered to **initiate** the creation of **All-India Services** (like IAS, IPS, IFS, etc.) by passing a resolution supported by **not less than two-thirds** of members present and voting.

Source: Laxmikant

10. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the territorial extent of Parliament's legislative power?

1. The Parliament can make laws for the whole or any part of the territory of India.
2. The Parliament can make laws that apply to Indian citizens and their property even outside the country.
3. The Parliament cannot make laws for Union Territories.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Article 245(1)** of the Constitution of India provides that **Parliament may make laws for the whole or any part of the territory of India**. The "territory of India" includes: The states, the Union Territories and any other territory that may be acquired
- **Article 245(2)** states: "No law made by Parliament shall be deemed to be invalid on the ground that it would have extra-territorial operation." This means Parliament **can legislate with extra-territorial jurisdiction**, i.e., laws can apply to: **Indian citizens living abroad, Indian-owned ships or aircraft and property owned by Indian citizens located outside India**
- The Parliament has the authority to enact laws applicable to the entire territory of India or any part of it. This territory comprises the states, union territories, and any other area that is, at the time, considered part of India.

Source: Laxmikant

## President

1. **Consider the following statements regarding the conditions of the President's office:**

1. A person elected as President shall vacate his seat in the Parliament or a State Legislature, if he is a member of any, on the date he enters upon office.
2. The President can hold any other office of profit, provided it is declared by Parliament.
3. The President is entitled to reside in the Rashtrapati Bhavan without payment of rent.
4. The emoluments and allowances of the President can be reduced by Parliament during his term in office.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- The President must vacate any seat in Parliament or State Legislature upon entering office.
- The President should not hold any other office of profit.
- The President is entitled to use the official residence (Rashtrapati Bhavan) rent-free.
- The emoluments and allowances cannot be diminished during the President's term.

Source: Laxmikant

2. **Consider the following:**

1. He should be a citizen of India.
2. He should have completed 35 years of age.
3. He should be qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha.

Which of the above is an essential qualification to be eligible for election as President?

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- According to Article 58(1)(a) of the Constitution of India, a person **must be a citizen of India** to be eligible for election as the President.
- As per Article 58(1)(b), the person must have **completed the age of 35 years**.
- The person must be **qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha**, not the Rajya Sabha. This is stated in **Article 58(1)(c)** of the Constitution.

Source: Laxmikant

3. With reference to the impeachment of the President of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution clearly defines the term 'violation of the Constitution'.
2. Impeachment charges can be initiated in either House of the Parliament.
3. The President has no right to appear or be represented during the investigation.
4. The nominated members of Parliament can participate in the impeachment process.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: B.**

- The Constitution of India mentions that the President can be impeached for "*violation of the Constitution*", but **it does not define or elaborate** on what constitutes a violation.
- This lack of definition leaves it open to interpretation by Parliament.
- **Article 61** of the Constitution states that the process of impeachment **can begin in either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha**.
- A resolution must be passed by a **two-thirds majority** of that House, and then the other House investigates and votes.
- The President **has the right to appear and be represented** during the investigation by the other House.
- Unlike the election of the President (where nominated members cannot vote), **nominated members of both Houses of Parliament can participate in the impeachment** process. There is **no restriction** on their voting in this context.

Source: Laxmikant

4. Which of the following statements regarding the executive powers of the President of India is/are correct?
1. All executive actions of the Government of India are taken in the name of the President.
  2. The President can appoint an inter-state council.
  3. The President can require the Prime Minister to place before the Council of Ministers a decision taken by an individual minister.
- a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 1 and 3 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- All executive actions of the Government of India are formally taken in the name of the President (Article 77).
- He can appoint an inter-state council to promote Centre-state and inter-state cooperation.
- The President can ask the Prime Minister to place a matter before the Council of Ministers if a decision was taken by a minister individually without council discussion.

Source: Laxmikant

5. With reference to the legislative powers of the President of India, consider the following statements:
1. The President can summon a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament and preside over it.
  2. The President's prior recommendation is necessary for introducing a bill that involves expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- The **President can summon** a joint sitting of both Houses, but it is **presided over by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha**, not the President.
- The President's **prior recommendation is required** for introduction of certain bills, such as those involving expenditure from the **Consolidated Fund of India** or bills affecting the federal structure (e.g., creation or alteration of states).

Source: Laxmikant

**6. With reference to the financial powers of the President of India, consider the following statements:**

1. Money bills can be introduced in the Parliament only with the prior recommendation of the President.
2. The President lays the Union Budget before the Parliament.
3. The President can make grants to states without parliamentary approval.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- A Money Bill can be introduced in the Lok Sabha only with the prior recommendation of the President (Article 110).
- The President causes the annual financial statement (Union Budget) to be laid before Parliament (Article 112). It is presented by the Union finance minister on behalf of the President.
- The President **cannot** make grants without parliamentary approval. No demand for a grant can be made except on the President's recommendation, and such grants must be passed by Parliament.

Source: Laxmikant

**7. With reference to the judicial powers of the President of India, consider the following statements:**

1. The President is bound by the advice of the Supreme Court when seeking its opinion on questions of law or fact.
2. The President can grant pardon in cases where the sentence is a sentence of death.

**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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- The President **can** seek the advice of the Supreme Court on matters of law or fact, **but the advice is not binding**. The President may or may not follow it.
- Under Article 72 of the Constitution, the President **has the power to grant pardon**, commute, or remit sentences in cases including **death sentences**.

Source: Laxmikant

**8. Consider the following statements regarding the powers of the President of India:**

1. The President can negotiate and conclude international treaties and agreements without the approval of the Parliament.
2. The President appoints the chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force in his capacity as the Supreme Commander of the Defence Forces.
3. The President can declare war or conclude peace, but only with the approval of the Parliament.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- Although the President negotiates and concludes international treaties and agreements, they are **subject to the approval of Parliament**. So, the President **cannot** do so unilaterally.

As the **Supreme Commander of the Defence Forces**, the President does appoint the chiefs of the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**.

- The President can **declare war or conclude peace**, but this power is **subject to Parliamentary approval**, ensuring democratic oversight.

Source: Laxmikant

9. With reference to the veto power of the President of India, consider the following statements:

1. The President can use absolute veto by withholding assent to a bill passed by the Parliament.
2. The qualified veto, which can be overridden by a higher majority, is available to the President of India.
3. The pocket veto allows the President to take no action on a bill indefinitely.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- The President of India has **absolute veto**, which means he can **withhold assent** to a bill passed by the Parliament, effectively **killing the bill**. This is generally used in the case of **private member's bills** or bills passed by **dissolved Lok Sabha**.
- The **qualified veto is not available to the Indian President**. It is a feature of the American President's powers, where the legislature can override the veto with a **special (higher) majority**. The Indian Constitution does not provide for this type of veto.
- The **pocket veto** is when the President **takes no action** on a bill and **does not return it or give assent**. The Indian Constitution does not specify a time limit for the President to act on a bill, hence he can delay it **indefinitely**. This is unique to India compared to countries like the USA, where time limits exist.

Source: Laxmikant

10. Consider the following pairs:

Term	Meaning
1. Remission	Reduction in sentence duration without altering the punishment type
2. Reprieve	A temporary stay of sentence execution
3. Commutation	Replacement of punishment with a harsher one

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Remission** reduces the period of the sentence but does not alter its nature.
- **Reprieve** is a temporary stay of execution, especially of a death sentence.

- **Commutation** replaces punishment with a lighter (not harsher) one.
- **Pardon** removes both the sentence and the conviction and completely absolves the convict from all sentences, punishments, and disqualifications.
- **Respite** denotes awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded due to some special fact, such as the physical disability of a convict or the pregnancy of a woman offender.

Source: Laxmikant

## Vice-President and Prime Minister

1. Consider the following statements regarding the election of the Vice-President of India:
1. The Vice-President is elected by an electoral college consisting of only elected members of both Houses of Parliament.
  2. Members of the state legislative assemblies do not participate in the election of the Vice-President.
  3. The election of the Vice-President is held by the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- The Vice-President is elected by an electoral college **consisting of both elected and nominated members** of both Houses of Parliament. Hence, the use of “only elected members” makes this statement incorrect.
- Members of state legislative assemblies **do not participate** in the election of the Vice-President, unlike in the election of the President.
- The election is conducted by the **system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote** and voting is by **secret ballot**, which is the same as for the President.

Source: Laxmikant

2. With reference to the Vice-President of India, consider the following statements:
1. The Vice-President acts as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
  2. The election of the Vice-President can be challenged on the ground that the electoral college was incomplete.
  3. If the Supreme Court declares the election of a Vice-President void, all official acts performed by him before such declaration become invalid.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- The Vice-President of India **acts as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha** (Council of States).
- The election **cannot be challenged** on the ground that the electoral college was incomplete (e.g., due to vacancies).
- Even if the Supreme Court declares the election **void**, the acts done by the Vice-President **before such declaration remain valid** and are **not invalidated**.

Source: Laxmikant

3. **With reference to the election of the Vice-President of India, consider the following statements:**

1. A candidate must be qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha.
2. A sitting Governor of a state is eligible to contest the Vice-Presidential election.
3. The nomination of a Vice-Presidential candidate must be supported by at least 10 proposers and 10 seconders.

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

- a) One only
- b) Two only
- c) Three only
- d) None of the above

**Correct Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

To be eligible for election as the Vice-President of India, a person must meet the following qualifications:

- Must be a citizen of India.
- Must have attained the age of 35 years.
- **Must be qualified to be elected as a member of the Rajya Sabha.**
- Must not hold any office of profit under the Government of India, any state government, any local authority, or any other public authority.
- A sitting Governor is not deemed to hold an office of profit and is eligible.
- The nomination must be supported by **20 proposers and 20 seconders**, not 10 each.

Source: Laxmikant

4. **With reference to the Vice-President of India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Vice-President of India can be removed by a resolution passed by an effective majority in the Lok Sabha.
2. The Constitution of India does not prescribe any ground for the removal of the Vice-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

**Correct Answer: (b) 2 only**

**Explanation:**

- The Vice-President is removed **by a resolution passed by an effective majority in the Rajya Sabha and a simple majority in the Lok Sabha**. The resolution **must be introduced only in the Rajya Sabha**, not the Lok Sabha. So, saying that an effective majority in the Lok Sabha can remove the Vice-President is wrong.
- The Constitution **does not mention any specific grounds** for the removal of the Vice-President.

Source: Laxmikant

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Vice-President of India:

1. The office of the Vice-President of India is modelled on the lines of the American Vice-President.
2. In case of a vacancy in the office of the President of India, the Vice-President assumes the office and continues for the unexpired term.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: A**

- The Indian Constitution has modelled the office of the Vice-President on that of the Vice-President of the United States.
- Like in the U.S., the Indian Vice-President is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Upper House of Parliament).
- **In India**, the Indian Vice-President does not assume the office of the President when it falls vacant for the unexpired term. He merely serves as an acting President until the new President assumes charge.

Source: Laxmikant

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Parliamentary system of government in India:

1. The President of India is the *de jure* executive and acts as the nominal head of the State.
2. The Prime Minister of India is the *de facto* executive and exercises real executive powers.

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

**Correct Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- In India's parliamentary system, the President is the ceremonial head of the State and is considered the *de jure* (legal) executive authority. However, the President exercises powers only on the advice of the Council of Ministers.
- The Prime Minister is the *de facto* (actual) executive authority and holds real power in governance. He/she is the head of the Council of Ministers and plays a central role in the administration.

Source: Laxmikant

7. Consider the following statements regarding the appointment of the Prime Minister in India:

1. The Constitution of India provides a detailed procedure for the selection and appointment of the Prime Minister.
2. A person who is not a member of either House of Parliament can be appointed as Prime Minister, but must become a member of either House within six months.
3. The President can appoint a Prime Minister at his discretion when no party has a clear majority in the Lok Sabha.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B. 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- The Constitution **does not provide a detailed procedure** for the appointment of the Prime Minister. Article 75 only states that the PM shall be appointed by the President.
- As per a 1997 Supreme Court ruling, a person **not a member of either House** of Parliament can be appointed PM but must get elected/nominated to either House **within six months**.
- When **no party has a clear majority**, the **President may exercise discretion** and appoint the leader of the largest party or coalition as the PM and ask them to prove majority support.

Source: Laxmikant

8. Which of the following is/are among the functions of the Prime Minister as head of the Council of Ministers?

1. Allocating and reshuffling portfolios among ministers
2. Presiding over meetings of the Council of Ministers
3. Directly appointing ministers without the President's involvement

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- The Prime Minister allocates and reshuffles portfolios among ministers.
- The Prime Minister presides over meetings of the Council of Ministers and influences its decisions.
- Ministers are formally appointed by the President, but only on the recommendation of the Prime Minister—not directly by the PM.

Source: Laxmikant

9. With reference to the powers of the Prime Minister in relation to the President, consider the following statements:

1. The Prime Minister is obliged to act as the main channel of communication between the President and the Council of Ministers.
2. The Prime Minister has no advisory role in the appointment of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and the Chairman 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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- Article 78 of the Indian Constitution obligates the Prime Minister to act as the chief channel of communication between the President and the Council of Ministers. The PM must:
  - Communicate decisions of the Council of Ministers,
  - Provide information as required by the President,
  - Submit issues for Council consideration if the President so demands.
- The Prime Minister **does advise** the President in the appointment of key constitutional functionaries such as the Attorney General of India, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), Chairman and members of the UPSC, Election Commissioners, and Chairman and members of the Finance Commission.

Source: Laxmikant

10. With reference to the powers of the Prime Minister in relation to the Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. The Prime Minister can advise the President regarding summoning and proroguing the sessions of Parliament.
2. The Prime Minister can independently dissolve the Lok Sabha at any time.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- The Prime Minister, as the head of the Council of Ministers, advises the President on matters such as summoning and proroguing the sessions of Parliament. The President acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister.
- The Prime Minister **cannot independently** dissolve the Lok Sabha. He can **recommend** its dissolution to the President, but the **actual power** to dissolve the Lok Sabha lies with the President, who usually acts on the PM's advice.

Source: Laxmikant

## Governor & Chief Minister

### 1. Consider the following statements about the Governor of a state in India:

1. The Governor is the real executive head of the state.
2. The Governor acts as an agent of the Central Government.
3. The same person can be appointed as Governor for more than one state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B) 2 and 3 only**

- The Governor is not the **real executive head** of the state. While the Governor is the **constitutional head** or the **nominal executive head**, the **real executive power** lies with the **Chief Minister** and the **Council of Ministers**.
- This is based on the principle of **parliamentary democracy**, where the head of state (Governor) has limited powers, while the head of government (Chief Minister) and the Cabinet hold executive powers.
- As the **nominal head** of the state, the Governor represents the **Central Government** in the state, and in this capacity, they act as an **agent** or **link** between the Centre and the State.
- The **7th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956** allows for the appointment of the **same person as Governor for more than one state**. This amendment was introduced to **streamline administrative functions** and **reduce costs**, especially when there were fewer issues of governance in certain states or territories.

### 2. Which of the following is/are correct regarding the appointment of a governor in India?

1. The governor is appointed by the President of India.
2. The governor must be elected directly by the people of the state.
3. The governor must be a resident of the state to which he is appointed.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- The governor is **appointed by the President of India**.
- The governor is **not elected directly by the people**; he is appointed by the President.
- There is a convention that **the governor should be an outsider** (not a resident of the state where appointed), but it is not a constitutional requirement.
- The President is required to consult the Chief Minister of the state before appointing a governor.

3. With reference to the conditions for the the governor's office, consider the following statements:

1. A person appointed as the Governor must vacate their seat in either House of Parliament or the state legislature on assuming office.
2. The Governor is entitled to hold any office of profit in addition to the Governor's role.
3. The emoluments and allowances of the Governor can be reduced during his tenure in office.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- According to the Constitution, the Governor should not be a member of either House of Parliament or a House of the state legislature.
- If a person holding such a position is appointed as the Governor, they are deemed to have vacated their seat in that House the moment they take office as Governor.
- The Governor is prohibited from holding any other office of profit during their tenure. This is one of the conditions for the office, ensuring that the Governor's duties are not conflicted by other responsibilities.
- The Constitution specifies that the emoluments and allowances of the Governor cannot be diminished during their term of office. This is to maintain the independence and dignity of the office.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. A governor holds office for a fixed term of five years, subject to the pleasure of the President of India.
2. The President has the authority to transfer a governor to another state for the remainder of his term.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- According to the Constitution of India, a governor's term is of five years, but it is "subject to the pleasure of the President."
- The President has the power to transfer a governor from one state to another state, and the governor may serve in the new state for the remainder of his term.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. The Governor can return a money bill to the state legislature for reconsideration.
2. The Governor can nominate members to the State Legislative Assembly.
3. The Governor can promulgate ordinances only when the state legislature is in session.
4. The Governor must reserve a bill for the President's consideration if it endangers the position of the High Court.

Which of the following statements regarding the legislative powers of a Governor is/are correct?

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- The Governor **cannot** return a money bill for reconsideration.
- The Governor can nominate members to the Legislative Council, but not to the State Legislative Assembly
- The Governor **can promulgate ordinances only when the legislature is not in session.**
- Reservation of a bill is **obligatory** when it endangers the position of the state High Court.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the appointment of the Chief Minister in Indian states:

1. The Constitution of India mandates that only a member of the Legislative Assembly can be appointed as the Chief Minister.
2. In the absence of a clear majority in the Legislative Assembly, the Governor can exercise discretion in appointing the Chief Minister.
3. A person who is not a member of the State Legislature can be appointed as Chief Minister, but must get elected to either House within six months.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B.**

**Explanation:**

- The Constitution does **not mandate** that a person must be a member of the Legislative Assembly (Lower House) to be appointed as Chief Minister.
- A person who is **not a member of the State Legislature at all** (neither Assembly nor Council) can still be appointed Chief Minister.
- However, **he/she must get elected to either House within six months**, failing which they must resign.
- When **no single party has a clear majority**, the Governor **can use personal discretion** to appoint a Chief Minister—usually the leader of the **largest party or coalition**—and ask them to **prove majority on the floor of the House.**
- This is an accepted **parliamentary convention** and is upheld by the Constitution and judicial precedents.
- As per Article 164(4) of the Constitution, **a non-member can be appointed** as Chief Minister, but **must get elected to the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council within six months**, failing which the person **ceases to hold office.**

7. Consider the following statements regarding the powers of the Chief Minister:

1. The Chief Minister has the authority to recommend the appointment and dismissal of ministers by the Governor.
2. The resignation of any minister, including the Chief Minister, leads to the automatic dissolution of the entire council of ministers.

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- The Governor appoints only those ministers who are recommended by the Chief Minister. Additionally, the Chief Minister can advise the Governor to dismiss a minister, making the CM pivotal in appointments and dismissals.

- The resignation or death of the **Chief Minister** leads to the automatic dissolution of the council of ministers, **not** the resignation of any minister. The resignation of any **other** minister merely creates a vacancy and does not dissolve the entire council.

**8. With reference to the powers of the Chief Minister in relation to the Governor, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the duty of the Chief Minister to communicate to the Governor all decisions of the Council of Ministers relating to the administration and proposals for legislation.
2. The Chief Minister has no role in advising the Governor regarding appointments to constitutional posts like the Advocate General or the 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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- Article 167 of the Indian Constitution lays down the duties of the Chief Minister with respect to the Governor. These include:
  - Communicating to the Governor all decisions of the Council of Ministers regarding the administration of state affairs and legislative proposals,
  - Furnishing information as required by the Governor,
  - Submitting matters for consideration of the Council if so required by the Governor.
- The Chief Minister **does advise the Governor** regarding appointments to important constitutional positions such as:
  - Advocate General of the State,
  - Chairman and members of the State Public Service Commission,
  - State Election Commissioner, etc.
- These appointments are made by the Governor **on the advice of the Chief Minister**.

**9. With reference to the powers and functions of the Chief Minister, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. The Chief Minister can recommend the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly to the Governor at any time.
2. The Chief Minister is the permanent chairman of the concerned Zonal Council.
3. The Chief Minister is a member of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog.
4. The Chief Minister is the presiding officer of the State Legislative Assembly.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- The Chief Minister can recommend dissolution of the Legislative Assembly.
- The Chief Minister acts as *vice-chairman* of the Zonal Council *by rotation*, not a permanent chairman.
- He is a member of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog.
- The Speaker is the presiding officer of the State Legislative Assembly, not the Chief Minister.

**10. With reference to the constitutional provisions regarding the relationship between the Governor and the Chief Minister, consider the following statements:**

1. Article 163 provides that the Governor shall act on the advice of the Council of Ministers except in matters where he is required to act in his discretion.
2. As per Article 164, the ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor.
3. Article 167 empowers the Chief Minister to summon and prorogue the sessions of the State Legislature.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- Article 163 states that the Governor acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers **except** in matters where he is to act in his **discretion**.
- Article 164 mentions that ministers hold office **during the pleasure of the Governor**.
- The **Governor**, not the Chief Minister, has the constitutional power to **summon and prorogue** sessions of the State Legislature (though the Chief Minister advises him).

## Supreme Court

1. Consider the following statements:

1. The single system of courts was adopted from the Government of India Act of 1935.
2. Fair and accurate reporting of judicial proceedings does not constitute contempt of court.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- The **single integrated system of courts** in India, where both Union and State laws are interpreted by the same hierarchy of courts, was inherited from the **Government of India Act, 1935**.
- **Fair and accurate reporting** of judicial proceedings is generally **not considered contempt of court**, as long as it does not obstruct or prejudice the administration of justice. This principle is supported by provisions under the **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971**.

2. With reference to the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India prescribes a minimum age for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.
2. A person who has served as an advocate in a High Court for ten years is eligible for appointment as 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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- The Constitution **does not** prescribe any **minimum age** for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.
- As per Article 124 of the Constitution, a person who has been an **advocate of a High Court (or of two or more High Courts in succession) for at least ten years** is **eligible** to be appointed as a Supreme Court judge.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Judges of the Supreme Court of India:

1. A judge of the Supreme Court can be removed by an order of the President.
2. The President has the authority to determine the salaries, allowances and other benefits of judges through legislation.

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Article 124(4)** of the Constitution provides that a judge of the Supreme Court shall not be removed except by an order of the President.
- **The salaries, allowances, privileges, leave and pension of the judges of the Supreme Court are determined from time to time by the Parliament.** They cannot be varied to their disadvantage after their appointment except during a financial emergency.

4. With reference to the provisions regarding temporary appointments in the Supreme Court, consider the following statements:

1. An acting Chief Justice of India can be appointed only when the office of the Chief Justice of India is vacant.
2. An ad hoc judge of the Supreme Court can be appointed from among the judges of a High Court only with the consent of the President and the Chief Justice of that High Court.
3. A retired judge acting as a judge of Supreme Court is entitled to allowances and privileges as determined by the President but is not deemed to be a regular judge of the Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- An acting Chief Justice of India can be appointed **not only when the office is vacant** but also **when the Chief Justice is temporarily absent or unable to perform duties**.
- An ad hoc judge can be appointed from a High Court **with prior consultation with the Chief Justice of that High Court and the previous consent of the President**.
- A retired judge can be appointed to act as a judge of the Supreme Court with the **consent of the President and the person concerned**, and while he enjoys the powers and privileges of a judge, **he is not considered a regular judge of the Supreme Court**.

5. Which of the following provisions in the Indian Constitution are meant to ensure the independence of the Supreme Court?

1. Judges of the Supreme Court can be removed by the President at his discretion.
2. Salaries and allowances of Supreme Court judges are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.
3. Retired judges of the Supreme Court can practice in High Courts but not in the Supreme Court.
4. The conduct of Supreme Court judges cannot be discussed in Parliament except during impeachment proceedings.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Judges of the Supreme Court **cannot be removed at the discretion of the President**. They can be removed only through a detailed **impeachment process** as laid out in the Constitution.
- The **salaries and pensions** of judges are **charged on the Consolidated Fund of India**, making them **non-votable by Parliament**, ensuring financial independence.
- **Retired Supreme Court judges are barred from practicing in any court or authority in India**, not just the Supreme Court.
- The **conduct of judges** cannot be discussed in Parliament **except** when an **impeachment motion** is under consideration.

6. Which of the following disputes fall under the *exclusive original jurisdiction* of the Supreme Court of India?

1. A dispute between the Government of India and one or more states.
2. A dispute between two or more states regarding inter-state water sharing.
3. A dispute involving a private citizen challenging the Union Government.
4. A dispute between the Centre and a State involving the extent of a legal right.

**Select the correct option:**

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Disputes between the Centre and one or more states fall under the Supreme Court's exclusive original jurisdiction.
- Inter-state water disputes are specifically excluded from the Supreme Court's original jurisdiction.
- A suit by a private citizen against the Centre or a state cannot be entertained under this jurisdiction.
- Disputes involving a question (law or fact) on which the existence or extent of a legal right depends are covered.

7. Consider the following statements regarding the writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and High Courts:

1. The writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is exclusive in nature.
2. Parliament may expand the writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court beyond Fundamental Rights, by law.
3. The Supreme Court can issue writs only for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights.
4. An aggrieved citizen can directly approach the Supreme Court for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is **not exclusive**; it is **concurrent** with High Courts. A citizen can approach either.
- **Parliament** has the power to **confer additional jurisdiction** on the Supreme Court, including issuing writs **for purposes beyond Fundamental Rights**.
- The Supreme Court can issue writs **only** for the **enforcement of Fundamental Rights**.
- An aggrieved citizen can **directly** approach the **Supreme Court** for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights.

8. With reference to the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India, consider the following statements:

1. In constitutional cases, an appeal can be made to the Supreme Court only if the High Court certifies that the case involves a substantial question of law requiring constitutional interpretation.
2. The Supreme Court can grant special leave to appeal against any judgement of any court or tribunal in the country, including military courts.
3. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court from any judgment of a High Court only if the High Court certifies that the case involves a substantial question of law of general importance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- In constitutional matters, an appeal to the Supreme Court lies only if the High Court certifies that the case involves a **substantial question of law requiring interpretation of the Constitution**.
- The Supreme Court can grant special leave to appeal **from any court or tribunal except military tribunals and court martial**.
- In civil cases, an appeal lies to the Supreme Court from any judgement of a high court if the high court certifies the case involves a substantial question of law of general importance

9. With reference to the Advisory Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court is bound to give its opinion when the President seeks advice on disputes arising from pre-constitution treaties and agreements.
2. The opinion given by the Supreme Court under Article 143 is binding on the President.
3. In matters of public importance, the Supreme Court may choose whether or not to give its opinion when consulted by the President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- Article 143 of the Constitution empowers the President to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court in two specific categories of matters:
  - i) On any question of law or fact that is of public importance and has either arisen or is likely to arise in the future.
  - ii) On any dispute related to pre-constitution treaties, agreements, covenants, engagements, sanads, or similar instruments.
- In the first category, the Supreme Court has the discretion to either provide or decline to provide its opinion.
- However, in the second category, it is mandatory for the Supreme Court to render its opinion to the President.
- In both cases, the Supreme Court's opinion is merely advisory in nature and does not constitute a judicial decision. Therefore, it is not binding on the President, who may choose to accept or disregard the opinion.

10. Which of the following statements about the powers and functions of the Supreme Court of India is/are correct?

1. The Supreme Court has the original, exclusive, and final authority to decide disputes relating to the election of the President and the Vice-President of India.
2. The Supreme Court's advice on the removal of UPSC members is not binding on the President.
3. The Supreme Court's jurisdiction and powers with respect to matters in the Union list can be enlarged by the Parliament.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Answer: A.**

**Explanation:**

- The Supreme Court has **original, exclusive, and final** jurisdiction over disputes relating to the election of the President and the Vice-President.
- The **advice of the Supreme Court is binding** on the President in matters related to the removal of UPSC members for misbehaviour.
- The Parliament can **enlarge the jurisdiction** of the Supreme Court with respect to matters in the **Union List**, but for other matters, it requires a **special agreement between the Centre and states**, not just the consent of the states.

## Panchayat and Municipalities

1. With reference to the duration of Panchayats as provided under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, consider the following statements:
  1. Every Panchayat shall have a five-year term from the date of its first meeting.
  2. In case of dissolution, elections to reconstitute the Panchayat must be held within six months.
  3. A Panchayat reconstituted after premature dissolution shall serve a fresh full term of five years.
  4. If the remaining period of a dissolved Panchayat's term is less than six months, no re-election is mandatory.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2, and 3 only
- d) All of the above

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- As per the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (Article 243E), every Panchayat at every level shall continue for **five years** from the date appointed for its first meeting.
- This is the standard term of office for a duly constituted Panchayat.
- If a Panchayat is **dissolved before completing its five-year term**, fresh elections **must be held within six months** from the date of its dissolution.
- This ensures minimal disruption in local self-governance.
- A reconstituted Panchayat does **not** get a full five-year term. Instead, it serves **only the remainder of the original term** of the dissolved Panchayat.
- If the remaining term of the dissolved Panchayat is **less than six months**, then it is **not mandatory** to hold elections for such a short duration.
- This provision avoids unnecessary administrative and financial burden for a very brief term.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the reservation of seats under the 73rd Amendment:

1. One-third of the total seats in Panchayats are reserved for women.
2. Reservation for SCs and STs in Panchayats is applicable in every state including Arunachal Pradesh.
3. Seats may also be reserved for backward classes.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- As per **Article 243D(3)** of the Indian Constitution, introduced by the **73rd Amendment Act, 1992**, *not less than one-third* of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat are reserved for women. This also includes *one-third of the seats reserved for SCs and STs*.
- **Article 243M(4)(b)** specifically **exempts the application of Part IX (Panchayats)** to the **Scheduled Areas** and **tribal areas** of several states, including **Arunachal Pradesh**. Therefore, reservation provisions under the 73rd Amendment are **not mandatorily applicable in Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **Article 243D(6)** provides that a **State may by law reserve seats** in any Panchayat or offices of Chairpersons **for backward classes** of citizens. This is optional and depends on state legislation.

3. Which of the following functions are entrusted to the Panchayats under the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution?

1. Preparation of plans for economic development
2. Maintenance of law and order
3. Implementation of schemes for social justice
4. Conduct of judicial proceedings

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- The **Eleventh Schedule** of the Indian Constitution was added by the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**, which gave constitutional status to **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** and listed **29 functional items** to be entrusted to Panchayats. These include:
  - **Preparation of plans for economic development** (Item 1)
  - **Implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice** (Item 2), which covers poverty alleviation, education, health, etc.
- However, **Maintenance of law and order** and **Conduct of judicial proceedings** fall under the **domain of the State Government and Judiciary** respectively, and are **not part of the Eleventh Schedule** functions for Panchayats.

4. With reference to the State Finance Commission as per the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is constituted by the Governor every five years.
2. It recommends measures to improve the financial position of Panchayats.
3. The report of the Commission is placed before the State Legislature.
4. Its recommendations are binding on the state government.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- As per **Article 243-I** of the Constitution, the **Governor of a state** is mandated to constitute a **State Finance Commission (SFC)** every **five years**.
- One of the primary functions of the SFC is to **recommend measures to improve the financial position of Panchayats**, including the distribution of taxes, duties, tolls, and fees between the state and Panchayats.
- The **report of the SFC** is to be **laid before the State Legislature**, along with an **action taken report** by the state government.
- The **recommendations of the SFC** are **advisory in nature** and **not binding** on the state government. The state may accept or reject them partially or fully.

5. Which of the following provisions are *voluntary* under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (1992)?

1. Establishment of a State Election Commission for conducting panchayat elections
2. Providing representation to Members of Parliament and State Legislatures in Panchayats
3. Devolution of powers and responsibilities to Panchayats to prepare plans for economic development and social justice
4. Reservation of seats for SCs and STs in Panchayats at all three levels

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Answer: B. 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Establishment of a State Election Commission is compulsory** provision under the 73rd Amendment. It is mandatory for every state to establish it.
- **Representation to MPs and MLAs in Panchayats is voluntary** provision. It is left to the discretion of the state legislature.
- **Devolution of powers to Panchayats is a voluntary** provision. The state may or may not devolve powers to Panchayats for preparing development plans and implementing functions under the Eleventh Schedule.
- **Reservation of seats for SCs and STs is compulsory** provision. It is mandated for all states at all three levels of Panchayati Raj.

6. Consider the following committees related to Panchayati Raj institutions in India:

1. Balwantrai Mehta Committee
2. Ashok Mehta Committee
3. G.V.K. Rao Committee
4. L.M. Singhvi Committee

Which of the following is the correct chronological order of their formation?

- a) 1 - 2 - 3 - 4
- b) 2 - 1 - 4 - 3
- c) 1 - 3 - 2 - 4
- d) 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

**Answer: A**

- The correct chronological order of the formation of important committees related to Panchayati Raj is: Balwantrai Mehta Committee (1957), Ashok Mehta Committee (1977), G.V.K. Rao Committee (1985), and L.M. Singhvi Committee (1986).
- The Balwantrai Mehta Committee was the first to recommend the establishment of a three-tier Panchayati Raj system to promote democratic decentralization.
- Two decades later, the Ashok Mehta Committee suggested a two-tier structure and emphasized the need for political party involvement in panchayat elections.
- The G.V.K. Rao Committee followed in 1985, highlighting the role of PRIs as central to rural development planning.
- Subsequently, the L.M. Singhvi Committee in 1986 strongly recommended constitutional status for PRIs, which ultimately paved the way for the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act.

7. Consider the following statements regarding the composition of municipalities as per the Constitution:

1. All members of a municipality are directly elected by the people of the municipal area.
2. The state legislature may provide for the inclusion of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members in the municipality if their constituencies include the municipal area.

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- The Constitution mandates that all members of a municipality shall be elected directly by the people of the municipal area, through wards that are territorial constituencies.
- The state legislature is empowered to provide for the representation of:
  - Members of the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly whose constituencies wholly or partly fall within the municipal area, and
  - Members of the Rajya Sabha and State Legislative Council who are registered as electors in the municipal area.
- These members can be part of the municipality, although they may not necessarily have voting rights unless specifically provided.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the term and dissolution of a Municipality under the 74th Constitutional Amendment:

1. A municipality reconstituted after premature dissolution continues for a fresh term of five years.
2. No law amendment can cause the dissolution of a municipality before the expiry of its five-year term.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- A municipality reconstituted after premature dissolution does not get a fresh five-year term. It continues only for the remainder of the term of the dissolved municipality. The Act clearly states that no amendment of any law in force shall lead to the premature dissolution of a municipality before the completion of its five-year term.

9. Consider the following statements regarding urban local bodies in India:

1. The Mayor of a municipal corporation has significant executive powers and is the pivot of municipal administration.
2. The council in both municipal corporations and municipalities is the deliberative and legislative wing, consisting primarily of directly elected members.
3. The municipal commissioner in a municipal corporation is usually appointed from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) by the state government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- The Mayor is primarily an ornamental figure in most states with no significant executive powers; he mainly presides over the council meetings. In contrast, the president/chairman of a municipality plays a more active administrative role.
- In both municipal corporations and municipalities, the council acts as the deliberative and legislative body and is primarily composed of directly elected councillors, with some nominated members in corporations.
- The municipal commissioner, who is the chief executive authority in a municipal corporation, is appointed by the state government and is generally a member of the IAS.

10. With reference to Cantonment Boards in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Cantonments Act of 2006 repealed the earlier Cantonments Act of 1924.
2. The executive officer of a Cantonment Board is appointed by the President of India.
3. All members of a Cantonment Board are nominated by the Ministry of Defence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- The Cantonments Act, 2006 repealed the older Cantonments Act of 1924.
- The Executive Officer is appointed by the President of India and is from the central cadre.
- A Cantonment Board comprises both elected and nominated members. Residents of the cantonment area elect some members, while others (like military officers and officials) are nominated or serve ex-officio.