

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

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HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Panchayati Raj

1. Consider the following statements regarding the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act**:

1. The chairperson of a Panchayat at the district level is directly elected by the people.
2. The Act mandates the reservation of at least one-third of the total number of seats and offices of chairpersons in Panchayats for women.

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. 2 only

Explanation:

- The chairperson of a Panchayat at the **district and intermediate levels** is elected **indirectly**, i.e., **by and from among the elected members** of the Panchayat. Only **members** at all levels are directly elected by the people, not chairpersons at the intermediate and district levels.
- The Act **mandates the reservation of not less than one-third** of the total number of seats in every Panchayat and also **one-third of the total number of offices of chairpersons** at each level for **women**, including those belonging to SCs and STs.

Source: Laxmikant (POLITY)

2. Consider the following statements regarding the provisions of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act:

1. A Panchayat reconstituted after premature dissolution shall serve a fresh full term of five years.
2. The Act empowers the State Election Commission to conduct elections to the Panchayats and prepare electoral rolls for the same.

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. 2 only

Explanation:

- If a Panchayat is **dissolved prematurely**, the newly constituted Panchayat **does not serve a full five-year term**. Instead, it serves **only the remainder of the term** of the dissolved Panchayat.
- The **State Election Commission** is responsible for the **superintendence, direction, and control** of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to the Panchayats.

Source: Laxmikant (POLITY)

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The State Finance Commission is constituted by the Governor every five years to review the financial position of Panchayats.
2. The Central Finance Commission directly distributes grants-in-aid to Panchayats.

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. 1 only

Explanation:

- The **Governor** of a state is required to constitute a **State Finance Commission every five years** to review the financial position of Panchayats and make recommendations on sharing of resources, grants-in-aid, and financial improvements.
- The **Central Finance Commission does not directly distribute funds to Panchayats**. It recommends measures to **augment the Consolidated Fund of a State** so that states can **supplement the resources of Panchayats**, based on recommendations from the **State Finance Commission**.

Source: Laxmikant (POLITY)

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The President of India can apply the provisions of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act to Union Territories with exceptions and modifications.
2. The act allows courts to entertain petitions related to the delimitation of Panchayat constituencies.

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. 1 only

Explanation:

- The **President** may direct that the provisions of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act **apply to any Union Territory** with such exceptions and modifications as he may specify.
- The Act **bars courts from interfering** in matters related to the **delimitation of constituencies or allotment of seats** for Panchayats. Such matters **cannot be questioned in any court**, and Panchayat elections can only be challenged **through an election petition** as per the procedure laid down by the **state legislature**.

Source: Laxmikant (POLITY)

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Eleventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution:

1. It contains subjects on which Panchayats may be assigned functions by the State Legislature.
2. Subjects like education, health, and public distribution system are not included in this schedule.

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. 1 only

Explanation:

- The **Eleventh Schedule** lists **29 functional items** that may be **entrusted to Panchayats** by State Legislatures, relating to economic development and social justice.
- The schedule **does include** subjects like **education (item 17), health and sanitation (item 23), and public distribution system (item 28)**.

Source: Laxmikant (POLITY)

6. Consider the following statements regarding the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act:

1. The establishment of a State Finance Commission every five years is a compulsory provision under the Act.
2. The minimum age for contesting Panchayat elections is 25 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A. 1 only

Explanation:

- The **Constitution of a State Finance Commission every five years** to review the financial position of Panchayats is a **compulsory (mandatory) provision** under the 73rd Amendment.
- The **minimum age** to contest elections to Panchayats is **21 years**, not 25. This is another **compulsory provision** under the Act.

Source: Laxmikant (POLITY)

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA Act):

1. Under PESA, all seats of Chairpersons in Panchayats at all levels in Scheduled Areas are reserved for Scheduled Tribes.
2. The recommendation of the Gram Sabha is optional for granting mining leases of minor minerals in Scheduled Areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A. 1 only

Explanation:

- The PESA Act mandates that **all seats of Chairpersons in Panchayats at all levels** in Scheduled Areas shall be **reserved for Scheduled Tribes (STs)**.
- The **recommendation of the Gram Sabha or Panchayats** at the appropriate level is **mandatory** (not optional) for the **grant of prospecting licences or mining leases** of minor minerals in the Scheduled Areas.

Source: Laxmikant (POLITY)

8. Consider the following statements regarding the finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India:

1. Gram Panchayats have more powers to generate internal revenue through taxes than the Intermediate and District Panchayats.
2. Most funds received by Panchayats from Union and State Governments are untied grants that can be used at their discretion.

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. 1 only

Explanation:

- **Gram Panchayats** have a broader **tax domain** (e.g., property tax, profession tax, water tax, etc.) and thus are **better positioned to generate internal revenue**. Intermediate and District Panchayats have limited powers, mostly in non-tax areas like markets, ferry services, or fees.
- Most funds received from the **Union and State Governments are tied (scheme-specific) grants**, meaning Panchayats have **limited discretion** in how to spend them. This **restricts their financial autonomy**.

Source: Laxmikant (POLITY)

9. Consider the following statements regarding the **Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA Act)**:

Statement I: The Gram Sabha has the power to approve plans and select beneficiaries for development programmes before implementation by the Panchayat.

Statement II: Under PESA, the recommendation of the Gram Sabha is mandatory before granting mining leases for minor minerals in the Scheduled Areas.

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

- A) Only Statement I
- B) Only Statement II
- C) Both Statement I and II
- D) Neither Statement I nor II

Answer: C) Both Statement I and II

Explanation:

- Gram Sabha must approve development plans and identify beneficiaries before they are implemented by the Panchayat.
- The PESA Act makes it mandatory to have the **recommendation of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level** before granting **prospecting licenses or mining leases for minor minerals** in Scheduled Areas.

Source: Laxmikant (POLITY)

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

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

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

- A. 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
- B. 3 – 2 – 4 – 1
- C. 2 – 3 – 1 – 4
- D. 3 – 1 – 2 – 4

Answer: B. 3 – 2 – 4 – 1

Explanation:

- **Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957)** – First to recommend the **three-tier PR system**.
- **Ashok Mehta Committee (1977)** – Suggested a **two-tier system** and constitutional status.
- **G.V.K. Rao Committee (1985)** – Focused on making **Zila Parishad central to rural development**.
- **L.M. Singhvi Committee (1986)** – Advocated for **constitutional recognition** and **Gram Sabha**.

Source: Laxmikant (POLITY)

Municipalities

1. With reference to the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, consider the following statements:

1. A *Nagar Panchayat* are governed by a Chairperson-in-Council system, with a Chairperson as the head and a Vice-Chairperson to assist him/her.

2. All members of a municipality are elected directly by the people of 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: B. 2 only

Explanation:

- A *Nagar Panchayat* is meant for a **transitional area**, i.e., an area in transition from rural to urban, not for areas that are completely urban. They are governed by a Chairperson-in-Council system, with a Chairperson as the head and a Vice-Chairperson to assist him/her.
- As per the Act, **all members** of a municipality are **directly elected** by the people of the municipal area.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Ward committees must be constituted in all municipalities, regardless of population size.

2. The 74th Amendment mandates that not less than one-third of the total seats in every municipality are reserved for women.

3. The State Legislature has the power to provide for the reservation of chairperson offices in municipalities for SCs, STs, women, and backwards classes.

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

Explanation:

- Wards Committees are **mandated only in municipalities with a population of three lakh or more**, not in all municipalities.
- The Act provides for **not less than one-third** reservation of seats for **women**, including women from SC/ST categories.
- The **State Legislature** is empowered to provide for the reservation of **offices of chairpersons** for **SCs, STs, women**, and even **backwards classes**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

3. Consider the following statements regarding the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act:

1. Elections to a dissolved municipality must always be held within six months, regardless of the remainder of its term.

2. A reconstituted municipality after dissolution enjoys a fresh five-year term.

3. A person who is at least 21 years of age is eligible to be a member of a municipality.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B. 3 only

Explanation:

- If the **remainder of the term is less than six months, elections are not mandatory**.
- A reconstituted municipality after premature dissolution **continues only for the remainder** of the original term, **not a fresh five-year term**.
- A person **must be at least 21 years of age** to be eligible for membership in a municipality, even though the general disqualification age is 25 for legislative assemblies.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The State Election Commission is responsible for preparing electoral rolls and conducting all elections to the municipalities.

2. The 74th Constitutional Amendment mandates devolution of powers to municipalities for the implementation of schemes related only to urban infrastructure.

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. 1 only

Explanation:

- The **State Election Commission** has the power of **superintendence, direction, and control** over municipal elections and electoral rolls.
- The devolution of powers includes a **broad range of functions** beyond urban infrastructure, such as **economic development and social justice**, covering **18 subjects** listed in the **Twelfth Schedule**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

5. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The State Finance Commission is required to review the financial position of municipalities every five years and recommend principles for sharing taxes between the state and municipalities.

Statement II: The Central Finance Commission directly allocates funds from the Consolidated Fund of India to municipalities based on urban population.

Which one of the following is correct?

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I
- C. Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- D. Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer: **C. Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect**

Explanation:

- The **State Finance Commission**, constituted **every five years**, reviews the financial position of municipalities and makes recommendations on the sharing of taxes, grants, and other financial matters.
- The **Central Finance Commission** does **not directly allocate funds to municipalities**; instead, it **recommends measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of a state**, based on the recommendations of the **State Finance Commission**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

6. Consider the following statements:

1. The provisions of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act automatically apply to all Union Territories and Scheduled Areas in India.

2. The Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council is exempted from the applicability of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act.

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. 2 only**

Explanation:

- The Act **does not automatically apply** to Union Territories; its provisions **apply only when directed by the President**, and **do not apply to Scheduled and Tribal Areas**.
- The Act **specifically exempts** the **Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council** in West Bengal from its provisions.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

7. Consider the following statements:

1. Four-fifths of the members of a District Planning Committee are to be elected by the elected members of Panchayats and Municipalities in the district from among themselves.

2. While preparing the draft development plan, the District Planning Committee is required to consider matters of common interest such as spatial planning, resource sharing, and environmental conservation.

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. Both 1 and 2**

Explanation:

- The Act mandates that **4/5th of the DPC members** be elected from among the elected members of **Panchayats and Municipalities** in proportion to the rural-urban population ratio.

- The DPC must consider **common interest areas** such as **spatial planning, infrastructure development, resource sharing, and environmental conservation** while preparing the district development plan.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

8. Consider the following statements:

1. The Mayor is the chief executive authority of a Municipal Corporation and is responsible for implementing the decisions of the council.
2. The Municipal Commissioner is appointed by the state government and is generally an IAS officer.

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. 2 only**

Explanation:

- The **Mayor** is primarily an **ornamental and formal head** of the Municipal Corporation who presides over meetings but **does not execute decisions**.
- The **Municipal Commissioner** is appointed by the **state government** and is usually an **IAS officer**; he is the **chief executive authority** of the corporation responsible for implementing decisions.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

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

1. A Notified Area Committee is fully nominated by the state government and is not an elected or statutory body.
2. A Town Area Committee may be wholly elected, wholly nominated, or partly both, depending on the provisions of the state act.
3. A Cantonment Board is created and administered by the Central Government under the Cantonments Act, 2006.

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: **D. 1, 2 and 3**

Explanation:

- A Notified Area Committee is **fully nominated** by the state government and **not elected** or statutory.
- A Town Area Committee can be **elected, nominated, or a mix**, depending on the state legislation.
- A Cantonment Board is governed by the **Cantonments Act, 2006**, and is under the **control of the Ministry of Defence, Central Government**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

10. Consider the following statements regarding sources of revenue for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs):

1. Property tax is the most important source of tax revenue for municipalities.
2. Urban local bodies can raise loans from financial institutions without requiring approval from the state government.
3. The devolution of funds to ULBs is based on the recommendations of the State Finance Commission.

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

Answer: **B. 1 and 3 only**

Explanation:

- **Property tax** is indeed the most important and consistent source of **tax revenue** for municipal bodies.
- Urban local bodies **require state government approval** to raise loans from financial institutions or other bodies.
- **Devolution** of funds is based on the **recommendations of the State Finance Commission**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

Union territories and special areas

1. **With reference to the administration of Union Territories in India, consider the following statements:**

1. Both Delhi and Puducherry have legislative assemblies and councils of ministers, but the Parliament retains the power to legislate on matters in the State List for them.
2. The President can make regulations having the force of law for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

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. Both 1 and 2**

Explanation:

- Delhi and Puducherry have legislative assemblies, but **Parliament retains supremacy**, even over the State List.
- The **President can make regulations** for certain Union Territories which carry the **same force as an Act of Parliament**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

2. **With reference to the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, consider the following statements:**

1. The Chief Minister of Delhi is appointed by the President.
2. The Delhi Legislative Assembly can make laws on all matters of the State List except public order, police, and land.
3. The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi can promulgate ordinances during the recess of the Assembly only with the prior permission of the President.

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: **D. 1, 2 and 3**

Explanation :

- Unlike in the States (where the Governor appoints the CM), in Delhi, the **President appoints the Chief Minister**. The other ministers are also appointed by the President **on the advice of the Chief Minister**, as per the special provisions under the **69th Constitutional Amendment**.
- Delhi has been given legislative powers similar to a state, but **with three key exceptions** in the State List: **public order, police, and land**. On these subjects, only the **Parliament** can legislate.
- The **Lt. Governor has ordinance-making power** when the Assembly is not in session, but this **requires prior permission of the President**. Also, such ordinances must be approved by the Assembly **within six weeks** of reassembly.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

3. With reference to the difference between States and Union Territories in India, consider the following statements:

1. States have a federal relationship with the Centre, whereas Union Territories have a unitary relationship.
2. The executive head of a state is a constitutional authority, but the executive head of a Union Territory is an agent of the President.
3. Parliament can make laws on all subjects of the State List only for the Union Territories, not for the States.

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: D. 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- States have a **federal relationship**, but Union Territories are under **unitary control** of the Centre.
- The **Governor** is a **constitutional head** in states, while the **Administrator/Lt. Governor** in UTs is an **agent of the President**.
- **Parliament cannot make laws** on State List subjects for states (except under special circumstances), but it **can legislate on any subject from all three lists** for Union Territories.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

4. With reference to the administration of Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The President can declare, alter, or revoke the status of Scheduled Areas in consultation with the Governor of the concerned state.
2. The Governor can modify or exclude the application of laws in Scheduled Areas and frame regulations for their governance, but these regulations require the President's assent.
3. The Tribes Advisory Council is mandatory in every state where Scheduled Tribes reside, regardless of whether Scheduled Areas are notified in that 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: A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The President has the power to declare, alter, or cancel a Scheduled Area **in consultation with the Governor** of the concerned state.
- The Governor can **modify or exclude laws**, and **make regulations** for Scheduled Areas after consulting the **Tribes Advisory Council**. But **all such regulations require the President's assent**.
- The **Tribes Advisory Council** is **mandatory only in states with Scheduled Areas**. In other states having Scheduled Tribes **but not Scheduled Areas**, it can be established **only if the President so directs**, not mandatorily.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

5. Consider the following statements regarding the administration of Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution:

1. The Governor is required to submit an annual report to the President regarding the administration of Scheduled Areas in the state.
2. A regulation made by the Governor for Scheduled Areas can restrict land transfers and money lending involving Scheduled Tribes.
3. The Constitution mandates the appointment of a commission every ten years to review the administration of Scheduled Areas.

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. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The Governor has a **special responsibility** to submit a report to the President **annually or whenever required** on the administration of Scheduled Areas.
- The Governor can **frame regulations** for Scheduled Areas that may **restrict land transfers** among Scheduled Tribes and **regulate money lending** activities involving them.
- The Constitution does **not mandate** a commission **every ten years**. It requires the **first commission to be appointed after ten years** from the commencement of the Constitution. Subsequent commissions are not mandatory but can be appointed by the President **at any time**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

6. With reference to the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. Autonomous districts under the Sixth Schedule fall outside the executive authority of the concerned state government.
2. The District Council under the Sixth Schedule can make laws on matters such as land, marriage, social customs, and shifting cultivation.
3. All laws made by District or Regional Councils under the Sixth Schedule require the assent of the Governor.

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

Explanation:

- Autonomous districts **do not fall outside** the executive authority of the state government.
- District and Regional Councils can make laws on **land, marriage, divorce, social customs, etc.**
- Such laws **require the Governor's assent** to become effective.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

7. Consider the following statements regarding the powers and functions of District and Regional Councils under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution:

1. These councils can establish primary schools, markets, and dispensaries within their jurisdictions.
2. They are empowered to impose taxes and collect land revenue in their respective areas.
3. Acts of Parliament automatically apply to autonomous districts under the Sixth Schedule without any modifications.

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. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- District Councils can manage **primary schools, dispensaries, markets, roads**, etc.
- They can **assess and collect land revenue and impose specified taxes**.
- **Acts of Parliament do not automatically apply** to these areas; they apply **only with modifications or exceptions**, or may **not apply at all**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

8. With reference to the constitutional provisions related to Scheduled and Tribal Areas, consider the following statements:

1. Article 244 provides for the administration of both Scheduled Areas (Fifth Schedule) and Tribal Areas (Sixth Schedule).
2. Article 244A enables the formation of an autonomous state with a local legislature and council of ministers within the state of Meghalaya.
3. Article 339 empowers the Union government to oversee the administration and welfare of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Areas.

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

Answer: B. 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Article **244** deals with **Scheduled Areas (Fifth Schedule)** and **Tribal Areas (Sixth Schedule)**.
- Article **244A** applies specifically to **Assam**, not Meghalaya. It provides for the creation of an **autonomous state** with a legislature and council of ministers **within Assam**.
- Article **339** gives the **Union** power to exercise **control over the administration** of Scheduled Areas and **ensure the welfare** of Scheduled Tribes.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

9. With reference to the constitutional provisions for Union Territories, consider the following statements:

1. Article 239AA provides special provisions for Delhi, including the creation of a Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers.
2. Article 240 empowers the President to make regulations for all Union Territories without exception.
3. Article 239B allows the Administrator of a Union Territory to promulgate ordinances during the recess of the Legislature.

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: C. 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Article **239AA** deals with **special provisions for Delhi**, including the establishment of a **Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers**.
- Article **240** empowers the President to make regulations for **specific Union Territories** (like Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, etc.) **not for all UTs—Delhi and Puducherry are exceptions** as they have legislatures.
- Article **239B** allows the **Administrator** to **promulgate ordinances during the recess** of the legislature in Union Territories.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

10. With reference to the Advisory Committees for Union Territories in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Home Minister's Advisory Committee (HMAC) is chaired by the Union Home Minister.
2. Members of Parliament and elected representatives from local bodies are part of the Advisory Committees in Union Territories.

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. Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- The **HMAC** is indeed chaired by the **Union Home Minister** and applies to UTs **without a legislature** (like Lakshadweep, Chandigarh, etc.).
- The Advisory Committees include **Members of Parliament** and **elected members from local bodies** like **District Panchayats and Municipal Councils**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

Election Commission of India

1. With reference to the **Election Commission of India**, consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Election Commissioner and the other Election Commissioners have equal powers and status.
2. The Election Commission has always functioned as a multi-member body since its inception in 1950.

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) 1 only

Explanation:

- The Chief Election Commissioner and the other Election Commissioners have equal powers, salary, allowances, and perquisites. In case of disagreement, the decision is taken by majority.
- The Election Commission functioned as a **single-member body** (only the Chief Election Commissioner) from **1950 till October 1989**, and again briefly in **1990**. Only since **1993** has it consistently functioned as a multi-member body.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

2. Consider the following statements regarding the **appointment and tenure of Election Commissioners** in India:

1. The President appoints the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.
2. The tenure of the Election Commissioners is fixed by the Constitution as six years or until the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

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) 1 only

Explanation:

- As per Article 324, the **President appoints** the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.
- The **Constitution does not fix** their tenure. The tenure (six years or 65 years age limit) is **determined by the President** through rules and is not specified in the Constitution itself.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

3. With reference to the security of tenure of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, consider the following statements:

1. The CEC can be removed by the President on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.
2. The CEC can be removed by the President only after a resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament with a special majority on grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
3. After appointment, the service conditions of the CEC cannot be varied to his disadvantage.

Which of the statements given above 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 Chief Election Commissioner **cannot be removed** merely on the **recommendation of the Prime Minister**.
- The CEC can be removed **only by the President** and **only after a special majority resolution** is passed by **both Houses of Parliament**, on grounds of **proved misbehaviour or incapacity**—the **same process as for a Supreme Court judge**.
- The Constitution explicitly states that **service conditions of the CEC cannot be altered to his disadvantage** after appointment, to ensure independence and impartiality.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

4. Which of the following functions of the **Election Commission of India** are of a **quasi-judicial nature**?

1. Settling disputes related to recognition of political parties.
2. Allotting election symbols to political parties.
3. Advising the President on disqualification of Members of Parliament.
4. Cancelling polls in case of booth capturing and violence.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Quasi-judicial functions** involve decision-making in disputes using the force of law, similar to a court.
- **Recognition of political parties** and **allotment of symbols** are **quasi-judicial** functions, as the Commission acts as a court in these matters.
- **Advising the President/Governor** on disqualification is an **advisory** function.

- **Cancelling polls** due to rigging or violence is an **administrative** power.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

5. With reference to the **powers and responsibilities of the Election Commission of India**, consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission can advise the President whether elections can be held in a state under President's Rule after one year.
2. The Commission determines the territorial boundaries of constituencies on its own.
3. The Commission registers political parties and grants them national or state party status.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The Election Commission **advises the President** on whether elections can be held in a state under **President's Rule after one year**, which is necessary to **extend President's Rule beyond one year**.
- The **delimitation of constituencies** is done **based on the Delimitation Commission Act**, passed by **Parliament**, not solely by the Election Commission.
- The Commission **registers political parties** and determines whether they qualify as **national or state parties** based on poll performance.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

6. With reference to the **composition and functioning of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India prescribes that at least half of the members of the UPSC must have held office under the Central or State Government for at least ten years.
2. The President of India appoints the Chairman and other members of the UPSC and also determines their conditions of service.

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) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- The Constitution **requires** that **one-half of the UPSC members** must have held **at least ten years of service** under the Government of India or a state government.
- The **President** of India **appoints** both the **Chairman** and **other members** of the UPSC and also **determines their service conditions**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

7. With reference to the provisions ensuring the independence of the UPSC, consider the following statements:
1. The salaries and pensions of UPSC members are subject to approval by Parliament through annual appropriation bills.
 2. The service conditions of UPSC members cannot be varied to their disadvantage after appointment.
 3. A member of UPSC can be appointed as Chairman of UPSC or as Chairman of a State Public Service Commission after retirement.

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

Explanation:

- The salaries, allowances, and pensions of the UPSC members are **charged on the Consolidated Fund of India**, hence they **do not require approval or vote of Parliament**.
- The **service conditions cannot be varied to the disadvantage** of a member after appointment.
- A UPSC member, after demitting office, **can be appointed as Chairman of UPSC or of a State Public Service Commission**, but **not for any other government employment**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

8. Which of the following conditions **can lead to the removal** of the Chairman or any other Member of the UPSC **by the President without requiring Supreme Court enquiry**?

1. If the member is adjudged an insolvent.
2. If the member engages in any paid employment during their term of office.
3. If the member is declared unfit to continue in office due to infirmity of mind or body.
4. If the member is found to be concerned in government contracts for profit.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Under the Constitution of India, the **President can remove the Chairman or any Member of the UPSC directly** (i.e., **without referring the matter to the Supreme Court**) under the following circumstances:
 - If a member is declared **insolvent (bankrupt)**, the President can **remove them directly**.
 - If a member engages in **paid employment outside the duties of the office during their term**, it is a **clear violation**, and the **President can remove** them without court enquiry.
 - If, in the **opinion of the President**, the member is **unfit to continue** due to **mental or physical infirmity**, removal can be done **without referring the matter to the Supreme Court**.
- This falls under the category of “**misbehaviour**”, which **requires an enquiry by the Supreme Court** before the President can remove the member. So, this ground **cannot** lead to direct removal.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

9. With reference to the **functions of the UPSC**, consider the following statements:

1. The UPSC is consulted on all disciplinary matters affecting civil servants, including matters like compulsory retirement, demotion, and dismissal.
2. The advice of the UPSC is binding on the government in all matters related to personnel management.
3. UPSC's jurisdiction can be extended to any public authority or institution by an Act of Parliament.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The UPSC is consulted in **disciplinary matters**, including **censure, demotion, compulsory retirement, dismissal**, etc.
- The **advice of the UPSC is not binding**. The **government may reject it**, but must **explain reasons in writing**, and such rejection must be **approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**.
- **Parliament can extend the jurisdiction** of the UPSC to any authority, public institution, or corporation via legislation.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

10. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the UPSC Annual Report under Article 323?

1. It is submitted to the President.
2. The President places it before Parliament with reasons for non-acceptance of UPSC advice.
3. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet must approve any case of non-acceptance.

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: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- The UPSC submits its report annually to the President, who lays it before Parliament, along with a memorandum for non-acceptance of advice.
- Any non-acceptance must be approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

Comptroller and Auditor General of India and Attorney General of India

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India:
 1. The CAG can be removed by the President of India through a resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament with a special majority.
 2. The term of the CAG is six years or until the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier.

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. 1 only

Explanation:

- The **CAG can be removed by the President** on the same grounds and in the same manner as a **judge of the Supreme Court** — that is, through a resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament with a **special majority** on grounds of **proved misbehaviour or incapacity**.
- The **term of the CAG** is **six years or until the age of 65 years, not 62 years**, whichever is earlier.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

2. Consider the following statements regarding the independence of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India:

1. The salary and service conditions of the CAG are determined by the President of India.
2. The administrative expenses of the CAG's office are charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India and are not subject to vote in Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B. 2 only

Explanation:

- The **salary and service conditions of the CAG are determined by Parliament, not by the President**.
- The **administrative expenses** of the CAG's office are **charged on the Consolidated Fund of India**, making them **not subject to parliamentary vote**, which ensures financial independence.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

3. Consider the following statements regarding the duties and powers of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India:

1. The CAG audits all expenditure from the Consolidated Fund, Contingency Fund, and Public Account of both the Centre and the States.
2. The CAG is responsible for compiling and maintaining the accounts of both the Central and State Governments.
3. The CAG submits three audit reports to the President: one on appropriation accounts, one on finance accounts, and one on public undertakings.

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: C. 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The CAG audits all expenditure from the **Consolidated Fund, Contingency Fund, and Public Account** of both the **Centre and States**.
- After the **1976 amendment**, the CAG was **relieved of the responsibility of compiling and maintaining the Central Government accounts**. He now only compiles and maintains the **accounts of state governments**.

The CAG submits **three audit reports to the President**:

- Audit Report on Appropriation Accounts
- Audit Report on Finance Accounts
- Audit Report on Public Undertakings

These are then **laid before Parliament**, after which the **Public Accounts Committee** examines them.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

4. Consider the following statements regarding the role of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India:

1. The legal and regulatory audit is mandatorily to be done by CAG.
2. The audit of secret service expenditure by the CAG is limited and based only on a certificate issued by the competent authority.

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. Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- The **legal and regulatory audit** is **mandatory** for the CAG, while the **propriety audit** (which examines the wisdom and economy of expenditure) is **discretionary**.
- For **secret service expenditure**, the CAG **cannot demand details** and must accept a **certificate from the competent authority**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

5. Consider the following statements regarding the role of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG):

1. The audit of Life Insurance Corporation of India and Reserve Bank of India is carried out entirely by the CAG without the involvement of private auditors.
2. The CAG can conduct a supplementary audit of government companies even though they are primarily audited by private auditors appointed in consultation with the CAG.

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. 2 only

Explanation:

- The **Life Insurance Corporation of India, RBI, SBI, and FCI** are **audited exclusively by private professional auditors**. The **CAG does not audit them** directly or even supplementarily. These corporations submit their annual reports directly to Parliament.
- **Government companies** are **primarily audited by private auditors** appointed by the Government **on the advice of the CAG**, and the **CAG can conduct supplementary or test audits** of these companies.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Attorney General (AG) of India:

1. The Attorney General must be qualified to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of India.
2. The Constitution of India specifies the tenure and removal procedure for the Attorney General.

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. 1 only

Explanation:

- As per Article 76, the AG must be **qualified to be a judge of the Supreme Court**. This includes being a citizen of India and having served either as a **High Court judge for 5 years, advocate for 10 years**, or being an **eminent jurist** in the opinion of the President.
- The Constitution **does not specify the tenure or removal procedure** for the AG. He holds office **during the pleasure of the President**, and **may be removed at any time**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

7. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Attorney General of India represents the Government of India in all cases before the Supreme Court, even if not requested by the President.

Statement II: The Attorney General is the chief legal advisor to the Government of India and performs duties assigned by the President.

Which one of the following is correct?

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I
- C. Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct
- D. Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect

Answer: C. Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Explanation:

- The AG appears in cases **only when the Government of India requires him to**, not in **all Supreme Court cases** by default.
- The AG is indeed the **chief legal advisor to the Government of India** and performs **legal duties assigned by the President**, including advice and court appearances.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Attorney General of India:

- 1. The Attorney General has the right to speak and participate in the proceedings of both Houses of Parliament and their committees without voting rights.
- 2. The Attorney General is a full-time government servant and is not allowed to practice privately.
- 3. The Attorney General should not advise or hold a brief against the Government of India.

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

Answer: B. 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The AG **can speak and take part** in the proceedings of Parliament and its committees **without voting rights**.
- The AG is **not a full-time government servant** and **is allowed to practice privately**, though **certain restrictions** apply to avoid conflict of interest.
- The AG **should not advise or hold a brief against the Government of India**, as this would create a conflict with his constitutional role.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

9. Consider the following statements regarding the law officers of the Government of India:

1. The office of the Solicitor General of India is mentioned in Article 76 of the Constitution.
2. The Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor Generals assist the Attorney General in carrying out his duties.

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. 2 only

Explanation:

- **Article 76 of the Constitution** mentions only the **Attorney General (AG)**. The offices of the **Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor Generals** are **not constitutional posts** and are created by **executive rules**.
- The **Solicitor General** and **Additional Solicitor Generals** are appointed to **assist the Attorney General** in discharging his legal duties for the Government of India.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

10. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 148 of the Constitution deals with the appointment and functions of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.
2. Article 88 of the Constitution provides for the powers and duties of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India in relation to Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A. 1 only

Explanation:

- **Article 148** provides for the **appointment, oath, and conditions of service** of the **Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) of India**.
- **Article 88** relates to the **rights of the Attorney-General of India** (not the CAG) to speak and participate in Parliament and its committees, **without the right to vote**. The **duties and powers of the CAG** are provided in **Article 149**, not Article 88.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

National Human Rights Commission and State Human Rights Commission

1. Consider the following statements regarding the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):

1. The NHRC is a constitutional body established under Article 338 of the Constitution.
2. The Chairman of the NHRC must be a retired Chief Justice of India.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer A. 2 only

Explanation:

- NHRC is **not a constitutional body**. It is a **statutory body** created under the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**, not under Article 338 (which pertains to the National Commission for SCs).
- The Chairman of NHRC must be a **retired Chief Justice of India**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

2. Consider the following statements regarding the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):

1. A sitting Supreme Court judge can be appointed as a member of the NHRC only after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.
2. The conditions of service of NHRC members can be altered by the Central Government even after their appointment.

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. 1 only

Explanation

- A **sitting judge of the Supreme Court or a Chief Justice of a High Court** can be appointed to NHRC **only after consultation with the Chief Justice of India**, as per the Act.
- The **conditions of service** (like salary and allowances) **cannot be varied to the disadvantage** of a member **after appointment**, ensuring independence.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

3. Consider the following statements regarding the functions of the NHRC:

1. The NHRC can intervene in ongoing court proceedings that involve allegations of human rights violations.
2. The NHRC can directly punish public servants found guilty of human rights violations after conducting its inquiry.

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. 1 only

Explanation

- The NHRC can **intervene in any proceeding** involving allegations of human rights violations **pending before a court**.
- The NHRC **does not have judicial powers** to punish offenders. It can **inquire, make recommendations**, and **advise** the government, but it **cannot impose penalties or pass binding orders** like a court.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

4. Consider the following statements regarding the working of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):

1. The NHRC can recommend compensation and approach courts for directions, but it cannot directly enforce its decisions.
2. The NHRC can inquire into any human rights violation at any time, irrespective of when the incident occurred.

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. 1 only

Explanation:

- The NHRC can recommend actions like compensation, prosecution of public servants, interim relief, and can approach courts—but its powers are **recommendatory** in nature and **not binding**. It **cannot enforce** its decisions directly.
- The NHRC **cannot inquire** into a matter **after one year** of the alleged human rights violation. It is **time-bound** in this regard.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

5. With reference to the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006, consider the following statements:

1. The Amendment empowers the NHRC to visit jails without prior intimation to the state governments.
2. After the amendment, the absence of any member in the Selection Committee for NHRC or SHRC appointments invalidates the decisions of the Committee.

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. 1 only

Explanation:

- One of the key amendments in 2006 was to **empower the NHRC to visit jails even without prior intimation** to the state governments.
- The amendment **clarified that the absence** of any member in the Selection Committee **does not invalidate** its decisions.

- So, absence does **not vitiate** the process.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

6. With reference to the State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs), consider the following statements:

1. SHRCs can inquire into matters related to subjects in the State List and the Concurrent List of the Constitution.
2. SHRCs can inquire into a case even if the NHRC or any other statutory commission is already investigating the same matter.

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. 1 only

Explanation

- SHRCs are empowered to inquire into violations of human rights **only in respect of subjects in the State List and Concurrent List**.
- SHRCs **cannot inquire** into any matter that is **already being investigated by the NHRC or any other statutory commission**.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

7. Consider the following statements regarding the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC):

1. The Chairperson and Members of the SHRC are appointed by the Governor but can be removed only by the President.
2. The salaries and service conditions of SHRC members can be altered by the State Government even after appointment, subject to financial necessity.

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. 1 only

Explanation

- The **Governor appoints** the Chairperson and Members of the SHRC, but they **can be removed only by the President**, following the same process as for NHRC members.
- While the **state government decides** the salaries and service conditions, **these cannot be altered to the disadvantage** of a member **after appointment**, to maintain independence.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

8. Consider the following statements:

Statement I The State Human Rights Commission cannot inquire into a human rights violation if more than one year has passed since its occurrence.

Statement II The functioning of the State Human Rights Commission is primarily judicial in nature, and its recommendations are binding on the state government.

Which one of the following is correct?

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I.
- C. Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
- D. Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

Answer C.

Explanation:

- The SHRC **cannot inquire into any matter** after **one year** from the date of the alleged violation.
- Though SHRC proceedings have a **judicial character**, its role is **recommendatory**, and its **recommendations are not binding** on the state government.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

9. Consider the following statements regarding Human Rights Courts under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993

- 1. A Human Rights Court can be established in a district only with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court of the concerned state.
- 2. Only a government-appointed public prosecutor can appear in Human Rights Courts; private advocates are not permitted.

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. 1 only

Explanation:

- A Human Rights Court in a district can be established **only with the concurrence of the Chief Justice** of the High Court of the respective state.
- The state government may either specify a **public prosecutor** or **appoint an advocate with at least seven years of experience** as a **special public prosecutor** — so **private advocates** can also be appointed.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

10. With reference to the institutional framework for human rights in India, consider the following statements

1. The Chairperson of the State Human Rights Commission submits its annual reports directly to the State Legislature.
2. The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 enables the National Human Rights Commission to transfer complaints to the concerned State Human Rights 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 B. 2 only

Explanation:

- The **SHRC submits its report to the State Government**, which in turn **lays it before the State Legislature**. It is not submitted **directly by the Chairperson** to the legislature.
- As per the **2006 Amendment**, the NHRC is empowered to **transfer complaints** to the concerned **SHRC** for appropriate action.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

1. With reference to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), consider the following statements:

1. The Central Vigilance Commission was granted statutory status in 2003.
2. The CVC is the only designated agency to receive whistleblower complaints under the Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers (PIDPI) Resolution, 2004.

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. Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- The CVC was originally an executive body (1964), but was **granted statutory status in 2003** through an Act of Parliament.
- Since **2004**, under the **PIDPI (Whistle Blowers) Resolution**, the CVC is the **only designated agency** to receive complaints of corruption or misuse of office from whistleblowers.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

2. With reference to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), consider the following statements:

1. The Central Vigilance Commissioner is appointed by the President.
2. The conditions of service of the Central Vigilance Commissioner can be altered after appointment with presidential approval.

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. 1 only

Explanation:

- The CVC is appointed by the President on the recommendation of a three-member committee:
 - Prime Minister (Chairperson)
 - Union Minister of Home Affairs
 - Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha
- The conditions of service of the Central Vigilance Commissioner are similar to that of the Chairman of the UPSC (not the CAG). Also, these conditions cannot be varied to his disadvantage after appointment, even with presidential approval.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

3. With reference to the organisational structure of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Technical Examiners' Wing of the CVC assists in technical audits, evaluates properties, and supports CBI in investigations involving engineering matters.
2. The Commissioners for Departmental Inquiries (CDIs) are responsible for conducting oral inquiries in departmental proceedings initiated against private contractors.

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. 1 only

Explanation:

- The Chief Technical Examiners' Wing (CTE) performs technical audits of construction works, investigates complaints related to such works, assists CBI in technical investigations and property valuation, and advises CVC/CVOs on technical matters.
- The Commissioners for Departmental Inquiries (CDIs) conduct oral inquiries in departmental proceedings against public servants, *not* private contractors.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

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

1. The Central Vigilance Commission was established by an executive resolution of the Government of India.
2. The CVC is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

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. 1 only

Explanation:

- The CVC was originally established in 1964 by an executive resolution of the Government of India, based on the recommendations of the Santhanam Committee.
- However, it was later given statutory status in 2003 through the Central Vigilance Commission Act.
- The CVC does not conduct investigations or prosecutions itself.
- It has supervisory powers over vigilance matters and over the CBI in corruption cases, but the actual investigation and prosecution are carried out by the CBI and other agencies.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

5. With reference to the jurisdiction of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), consider the following statements:

1. The CVC's jurisdiction covers Group A officers of the Central Government and members of All India Services serving in connection with the affairs of the Union.
2. The CVC has jurisdiction over all employees of Public Sector Banks, Insurance Companies, and local authorities under 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

Answer: A. 1 only

Explanation:

- The CVC does have jurisdiction over Group A officers of the Central Government and All India Services officers serving in the Union. This is explicitly mentioned.
- The CVC's jurisdiction does not extend to all employees in PSBs, insurance companies, or local authorities.
- It is limited to specific senior ranks:
 - Scale V and above in Public Sector Banks
 - Managers and above in General Insurance Companies
 - Senior Divisional Managers and above in LIC
 - Officers drawing salary of ₹8700 (pre-revised) or above in certain societies/local authorities

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

6. Which of the following statements is not correct regarding the advisory role of the CVC?

- (a) The Central Government is legally bound to accept the advice of the CVC.
(b) The CVC can advise the Central Government or its authorities on vigilance matters.
(c) If the government disagrees with the CVC's advice, it must record reasons in writing.
(d) The CVC's advice is considered while taking appropriate action by the concerned authorities.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The advice of the CVC is not binding.
- If the government does not accept the advice, it must record reasons in writing and communicate them to the CVC.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

7. Consider the following functions of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):

1. It may call for reports or information from Central Government authorities.
2. It regulates its own procedure.
3. It can remove officers found guilty of corruption.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The CVC can call for reports from the Central Government or its authorities.
- The CVC regulates its own procedure.
- The CVC is not an executive body and cannot remove officers; it can only recommend action.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

8. With reference to the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2011, consider the following statements:

1. The Act provides for the protection of the identity of whistleblowers.
2. The Act empowers the CVC as the competent authority to receive complaints.
3. Disclosures can be made anonymously under the Act and action will be taken.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Act provides protection of the identity of whistleblowers.
- The CVC is the designated competent authority under the Act.
- Anonymous disclosures are not accepted; if the identity is not indicated or found incorrect, no action is taken.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

9. Which of the following is/are *excluded* from the purview of the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2011?

1. Armed Forces
2. Jammu and Kashmir
3. Ministers of Central Government
4. Special Protection Group (SPG)

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Armed Forces, Jammu & Kashmir, and SPG are excluded from the Act's purview.
- Ministers are *not excluded*; they can be the subject of complaints.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)

10. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Chief Vigilance Officers (CVOs) act as a link between their respective ministries and both the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Statement II: CVOs are responsible for investigating allegations of corruption only when referred by the CVC.

Which one of the following is correct?

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I.
C. Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
D. Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- CVOs serve as the nodal points between their ministries and both the CVC and the CBI.
- CVOs do not require a reference from the CVC to investigate allegations of corruption. They are empowered to investigate verifiable allegations independently.

Source: Laxmikant (Polity)