

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

2nd Week, March, 2026

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

FORUMIAS



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Parliament

1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Governor of a State possesses the constitutional authority to reserve a Bill for the President's consideration even without the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.
2. Article 200 of the Constitution recognizes the granting of assent or reservation of Bills as a matter of the Governor's discretionary power.
3. The exercise of discretionary power by the Governor under Article 200 is immune from judicial review.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement I is Correct:** Under Article 200, the Governor can act in his discretion when reserving a bill, especially if it endangers the position of the High Court.
- **Statement II is Correct:** The wording of Article 200 and Article 163 implies that the Governor's decision to reserve a bill falls within his discretion.
- **Statement III is Incorrect:** In cases like *Nabam Rebia* (2016) and recent 2023-24 Supreme Court rulings, it has been established that the Governor's discretionary power is not absolute and is subject to judicial review if exercised arbitrarily or with mala fide intent.

2. Consider the following pairs regarding Parliamentary devices:

Device	Key Feature
I. Calling Attention Motion	Procedure to seek an authoritative statement from a Minister; no voting follows.
II. Adjournment Motion	Requires the support of 50 members to be admitted; involves an element of censure.
III. Censure Motion	Can be moved against an individual minister; if passed, the Council of Ministers must resign.
IV. Zero Hour	An informal Indian innovation not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure.
V. Special Mention	A device in the Lok Sabha used to raise matters that cannot be raised under other rules.

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three

- (c) Only four
- (d) All five

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair I is Correct:** Calling Attention is to get a statement; no voting is involved.
- **Pair II is Correct:** Adjournment motion is used to discuss a matter of urgent public importance and carries a censure element.
- **Pair III is Incorrect:** Passing a Censure Motion against a minister does **not** require the government to resign. Only a No-Confidence Motion leads to resignation.
- **Pair IV is Correct:** Zero Hour is an informal device (since 1962).
- **Pair V is Incorrect:** Special Mention is the device used in the Rajya Sabha. The equivalent in the Lok Sabha is known as a Notice under Rule 377.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. To be eligible for election as the President of India, a person must be qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha, whereas for the Vice-President, the qualification is tied to the Rajya Sabha.
2. The Constitution provides a reciprocal arrangement where the President submits his resignation to the Vice-President, and the Vice-President submits his to the President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** Article 58 (President) requires Lok Sabha qualification; Article 66 (Vice-President) requires Rajya Sabha qualification.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** Under Article 56 and Article 67, they submit their resignations to each other.

4. Consider the following bodies/offices:

1. Controller General of Accounts (CGA)
2. National Council for Transgender Persons (NCTP)
3. NITI Aayog
4. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

How many of the above are statutory bodies/offices?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **CGA:** Not statutory; it is an executive office under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- **NCTP: Statutory;** established under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
- **NITI Aayog:** Non-statutory, non-constitutional; created by an executive resolution.

- **CVC: Statutory;** it was originally an executive body but was given statutory status by the CVC Act, 2003.

5. With reference to Parliamentary Privileges in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India explicitly specifies only two privileges: freedom of speech in Parliament and the right of publication of its proceedings.
2. The Presiding Officer of the House is the final authority to determine if a breach of privilege has occurred.
3. Parliament has the penal power to punish both its members and non-members for contempt or breach of privilege.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** Article 105 mentions these two. Others are based on British House of Commons conventions until codified.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** The Speaker (LS) or Chairman (RS) decides on the admissibility and adjudication of privilege motions.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** Parliament acts as a High Court in this regard, with the power to commit individuals (members or outsiders) to prison.

6. To fulfill the constitutional requirement under Article 85 regarding the assembly of Parliament, what is the minimum number of sessions that must take place in a calendar year?

- (a) One
- (b) Two
- (c) Three
- (d) Four

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Article 85** states that six months shall not intervene between the last sitting of one session and the first sitting of the next. To ensure the gap never exceeds 6 months, the Parliament must meet at least twice a year.

7. Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India prescribes a fixed tenure of five years for the Governor of a State.
2. The Constitution does not stipulate any specific grounds for the removal of a Governor by the President.
3. In the event of a sudden vacancy in the office of the Governor, the Chief Justice of the relevant High Court may be appointed by the President to discharge the functions.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** The Governor holds office during the **pleasure of the President** (Article 156). While 5 years is mentioned, it is not fixed as he can be removed anytime.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** The Constitution is silent on the grounds of removal.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** While not explicitly a Constitutional text rule, the President makes such provisions under Article 160, and by convention, the CJ of the High Court is appointed as the acting Governor.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the President's power over legislation:

1. The Indian Constitution does not prescribe a specific timeframe within which the President must grant or refuse assent to a Bill.
2. The President of India cannot exercise an Absolute Veto over Bills passed by the Parliament.
3. The President of India does not possess the power of a Qualified Veto.

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** This is the basis of the Pocket Veto.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The President **can** exercise Absolute Veto (withholding assent) in two cases: Private Members' Bills and when the Cabinet resigns before assent is given.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** Qualified Veto (where a higher majority can override the veto) exists in the USA but not in India.

9. Which of the following parliamentary devices or motions can be introduced exclusively in the Lok Sabha?

1. Censure Motion
2. Adjournment Motion
3. Privilege Motion
4. No-Confidence Motion

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Censure, Adjournment, and No-Confidence Motions** are used to hold the government accountable. Since the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible only to the Lok Sabha (Art 75), these are exclusive to the LS.
- **Privilege Motion** can be introduced in **both** the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

10. How many of the following provisions are explicitly mentioned in the Constitution of India (not statutory laws) regarding the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)?

1. A fixed tenure of six years or up to the age of 65 years.
2. Removal from office only in a manner and on grounds similar to a Judge of the Supreme Court.
3. Ineligibility for further office under the Government of India or any State after ceasing to hold office.
4. Salary and other conditions of service to be equivalent to a Judge of the Supreme Court.

How many of the above provisions are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Correct Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Provision 1 is Incorrect:** The Constitution (Article 148) says the tenure is determined by Parliament. The 6 years/65 years rule is in the CAG Act, 1971 (Statutory).
- **Provision 2 is Correct:** This is explicitly mentioned in Article 148(1).
- **Provision 3 is Correct:** This is explicitly mentioned in Article 148(4).
- **Provision 4 is Incorrect:** The Constitution says the salary is determined by Parliament. The equivalence to a SC Judge is mentioned in the CAG Act, 1971 (Statutory).

Parliament and Miscellaneous

1. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: A person confined in police custody, whether as a convict or an under-trial, is legally barred from contesting elections to the Parliament or State Legislatures.

Statement II: Under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, no person is permitted to vote at any election if he is confined in a prison or is in the lawful custody of the police.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I.
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I.
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

• **Statement I is incorrect:** The Supreme Court and subsequent amendments to the RPA (2013) clarified that while a person in custody cannot vote, they do not lose their right to contest unless they are disqualified under Section 8 of the RPA (conviction).

- **Statement II is correct:** Section 62(5) of the RPA, 1951, explicitly prohibits persons in prison or police custody from voting (except those under preventive detention).

2. Which of the following offenses fall under the Scheduled Offenses of the NIA Act, 2008, following the 2019 Amendment?

- I. Human trafficking
- II. Offenses related to Counterfeit Currency
- III. Cyber-terrorism

IV. Manufacture or sale of prohibited arms

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) I and III only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I, II and IV only
- (d) I, II, III and IV

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation: The NIA (Amendment) Act, 2019 significantly expanded the agency's mandate. The schedule now includes human trafficking, counterfeit currency/banknotes, manufacture/sale of prohibited arms, and cyber-terrorism (Section 66F of the IT Act).

3. Consider the following statements regarding the NOTA option in Indian elections:

1. If NOTA polls more votes than any candidate, the election is declared null and void, and a fresh election must be conducted.
2. For the purpose of determining the forfeiture of security deposits, only the votes polled by the contesting candidates are considered, excluding NOTA.
3. The Supreme Court has ruled that the NOTA option is not applicable to elections held via the system of proportional representation (e.g., Rajya Sabha).

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement I is incorrect:** In India, NOTA is currently a "symbolic" tool. Even if NOTA gets the highest votes, the candidate with the second-highest votes is declared the winner.
 - **Statement II is correct:** For security deposits, valid votes refer to those cast for candidates.
 - **Statement III is correct:** The SC in 2018 (Shailesh Manubhai Parmar v. Election Commission) held that NOTA is meant only for universal adult suffrage and not for indirect elections like the Rajya Sabha.

4. With reference to the Union Council of Ministers, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Parliament, ensuring accountability to both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
2. Individual Ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President, reflecting the principle of individual responsibility.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement I is incorrect:** Under Article 75(3), the Council is collectively responsible only to the Lok Sabha (House of the People), not the Parliament as a whole.

- **Statement II is correct:** Article 75(2) states ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President; this is the legal basis for the Prime Minister to request a minister's resignation.

5. How many of the following situations will attract disqualification proceedings under the Tenth Schedule?

1. A member resigns from their party upon being elected as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
2. A member of an opposition party voluntarily gives up membership to join the ruling party after a merger of 2/3rds of the original party.
3. An independent member joins a political party three months after being elected.
4. A nominated member joins a political party seven months after taking their seat.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All the four

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **I: No.** Exempted under the 10th Schedule.
- **II: No.** Exempted under Merger rule.
- **III: Yes.** Disqualified. Independent members cannot join any party.
- **IV: Yes.** Disqualified. Nominated members must join within 6 months; after that, it attracts disqualification.

6. Which of the following statements is NOT correct?

- (a) The President, after consultation with the Governor, specifies the castes or tribes to be deemed as Scheduled Castes in a State.
- (b) Only the President has the authority to notify the list of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) for both Central and State government purposes.
- (c) State Governments have the power to sub-classify Scheduled Castes to provide preferential treatment to the most backward among them.
- (d) The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes must be consulted on all major policy matters affecting STs, though its advice is not binding.

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Following the 105th Constitutional Amendment Act (2021), the power of State Governments to identify and maintain their own state lists of SEBCs was restored. Statement (c) is correct following the landmark SC judgment in 2024 (State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh).

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Finance Commission:

- I. It is constituted as a quasi-judicial body by the President of India every five years or earlier.
- II. It recommends the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the local bodies on the basis of recommendations made by the State Finance Commission.
- III. The President is required to lay the Commission's recommendations along with an explanatory memorandum before both Houses of Parliament.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and III only

- (b) II only
- (c) I only
- (d) I, II and III

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation: All statements are correct. Statement II refers to Article 280(3)(bb) and (c), added by the 73rd and 74th Amendments. Statement III refers to Article 281.

8. With reference to the identification of minorities in India, consider the following statements:

1. Linguistic minorities are identified on a State-by-State basis, as language is often linked to regional boundaries.
2. As per current legal practice, religious minorities are notified by the Central Government at the national level.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

• **Statement I is correct:** In the T.M.A. Pai Foundation case, the SC held that for the purpose of Article 30, the unit for determining both religious and linguistic minorities is the **State**.

- **Statement II is correct:** Currently, the Center notifies religious minorities (Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis, and Jains) nationally under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

9. Which Constitutional Amendment Act replaced the single "Special Officer" with a multi-member "National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes"?

- (a) 102nd Amendment Act
- (b) 65th Amendment Act
- (c) 89th Amendment Act
- (d) 105th Amendment Act

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

• **65th Amendment (1990):** Established the combined Commission for SCs and STs.

- **89th Amendment (2003):** Bifurcated the combined commission into two separate bodies: NCSC (Art 338) and NCST (Art 338A).

10. Consider the following with regard to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC):

1. s Castes.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation: All are correct. Note: While the reservation for Anglo-Indians was removed in 2019, the NCSC's constitutional duty to investigate matters regarding them (Article 338(10)) remains in the text.

Representation of People's Act and Miscellaneous

1. Consider the following bodies/offices:

1. Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
2. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)
3. National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)
4. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

How many of the above submit their annual reports to the President of India?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All the four

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- UPSC (Art 323) and NCSC (Art 338) are constitutional bodies that submit reports directly to the President.
 - The CVC is a statutory body, and per the CVC Act 2003, it also submits its annual report to the President, who causes it to be laid before Parliament.
 - NHRC is a statutory body, but per the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, it submits its annual report to the Central Government (not the President), which then lays it before Parliament.

2. If a political party seeks recognition as a 'National Party' by the Election Commission of India, which of the following criteria must it satisfy?

- (a) It must be recognized as a 'State Party' in at least three States.
- (b) It must poll at least 6% of valid votes in any four or more states in a general election to Lok Sabha or Assembly, and in addition, win four seats in the Lok Sabha from any State(s).
- (c) It must secure at least 3% of the total seats in the Lok Sabha from at least three different States.
- (d) It must secure at least 8% of the total valid votes polled in the last general election in any four States.

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

According to the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, a party is recognized as a National Party if:

1. It is recognized as a State Party in four states.
2. It wins 2% seats in Lok Sabha from three different states.
3. It polls 6% valid votes in 4+ states (LS or LA) AND wins 4 LS seats from any state.

3. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India acts as a "friend, philosopher, and guide" to which of the following Parliamentary Committees?

- (a) Estimates Committee
- (b) Committee on Public Undertakings
- (c) Public Accounts Committee
- (d) Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Finance

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The CAG assists the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in examining the appropriation accounts and audit reports. The PAC relies on the CAG's expertise to scrutinize public expenditure and ensure the executive is held accountable to the legislature.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Under the 91st Amendment Act, a member disqualified on the grounds of defection is also disqualified from being appointed as a Minister until the expiry of their term or until re-election.
2. A person disqualified under the Tenth Schedule is constitutionally barred from contesting any election for a minimum period of six 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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

• **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 75(1B) and Article 164(1B) (added by the 91st Amendment) prohibit a defector from holding a ministerial post or a remunerative political post during the period of disqualification.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Tenth Schedule does not mention a 6-year ban on contesting. A disqualified member can contest a by-election immediately to return to the House (as seen in several recent state political developments).

5. Consider the following entities:

1. The President of India
2. Attorney General for India
3. Nominated members of the Rajya Sabha
4. Elected members of the Lok Sabha

How many of the above participate in the voting process for a resolution to remove the Vice-President of India?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All the four

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Vice-President is removed by a resolution passed by the Rajya Sabha by an effective majority and agreed to by the Lok Sabha (Art 67).

- Nominated members of Rajya Sabha vote (as they are members of the House).
- Elected members of Lok Sabha vote (as the resolution must be agreed to by LS).
- The President does not vote (he only receives the information/assent); the Attorney General has no voting rights in either house.

6. Consider the following grounds:

1. Misbehavior

2. Incapacity
3. Violation of the Constitution
4. Insolvency

How many of the above are constitutionally prescribed grounds for the impeachment of the President of India?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- "Violation of the Constitution" is the only ground mentioned in Article 61 for the impeachment of the President.
 - "Proved misbehavior" and "Incapacity" are grounds for the removal of Supreme Court/High Court judges, the CAG, and the CEC, but not the President.

7. With reference to the election of the Members of the Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. The election is conducted using the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
2. Members representing Union Territories are indirectly elected by an electoral college specially constituted for that purpose.
3. The election is held through a secret ballot system to ensure the independence of the members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** This is the prescribed method under Article 80.
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** Since UTs (like Delhi and Puducherry) have smaller populations, they use an electoral college (their Legislative Assembly members).
 - **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Rajya Sabha elections use an Open Ballot system (introduced in 2003) to prevent cross-voting and corruption/horse-trading.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Delimitation Commission:

1. It is a statutory body whose members are appointed by the President of India in consultation with the Election Commission.
2. The orders issued by the Commission have the force of law and cannot be called in question in any court.
3. The Commission was last constituted in 2002, and its current boundaries are frozen until the first census after 2026.

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:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is established under the Delimitation Act (Statutory) and appointed by the President.
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** This is a unique constitutional protection to ensure that electoral rolls and boundaries are not held up by litigation.
 - **Statement 3 is correct:** The 84th Amendment (2001) and 87th Amendment (2003) froze the seats and boundaries based on the 2001 census until the first census after 2026.

9. In a situation where both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha are absent, who among the following presides over a Joint Sitting of the Parliament?

- (a) The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
- (b) The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
- (c) A member of Parliament jointly decided by the Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition
- (d) The senior-most member of the Lok Sabha

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation: The order of precedence for presiding over a Joint Sitting is:

1. Speaker of Lok Sabha
2. Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha
3. Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha

The Chairman of Rajya Sabha (Vice-President) never presides over a joint sitting because he is not a member of either House.

10. Which of the following statements is/are correct with regard to the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha?

1. The office of the LoP is a constitutional office defined under Article 118.
2. The LoP is accorded statutory recognition and is ranked equivalent to a Cabinet Minister.
3. The Speaker is bound to recognize the leader of the largest opposition party as the LoP regardless of the party's strength.

Select the correct answer:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is a statutory office (Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977), not constitutional.
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** They are given the rank and status of a Cabinet Minister.
 - **Statement 3 is incorrect:** By convention and direction of the Speaker (Mavalankar Rule), a party must have at least 10% of the total strength of the House (55 seats in LS) to claim the LoP post.

Various Bodies and Miscellaneous

1. Consider the following functionaries:

1. Chairperson of the National Council for Transgender Persons
2. Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
3. Chairperson of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis
4. Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

How many of the above serve as ex-officio members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All the four

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Following the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019, the list of ex-officio members was expanded. It now includes the Chairpersons of the National Commissions for SCs, STs, Women, Minorities, BCs, Protection of Child Rights, and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities. The Chairperson of the National Council for Transgender Persons was also included in the ex-officio list later. The Chairperson of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis has historically been an ex-officio member.

2. Which of the following changes were introduced by the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act of 2003?

1. It deleted the provision in the Tenth Schedule that protected a "split" (one-third of members) from disqualification.
2. It mandated that the total number of Ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Union Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: The 91st Amendment strengthened the Anti-Defection Law.

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It abolished the "one-third split" rule, meaning only a "merger" (two-thirds) is now recognized as a valid defense against disqualification.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It inserted Article 75(1A) to limit the size of the Council of Ministers to 15% to prevent "jumbo cabinets" created for political appeasement.

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

1. The Election Commission is explicitly empowered by the Representation of the People Act, 1951, to de-register a political party on the grounds of violating the Constitution.
2. The scheduling and conduct of elections to both the Parliament and the State Legislatures fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the ECI.

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:

· **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While the RPA 1951 allows the ECI to register parties (Section 29A), the Supreme Court has ruled that the ECI does not have the statutory power to de-register them for internal violations (except in limited cases like fraud or the party becoming illegal).

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under Article 324, the ECI has the power of superintendence, direction, and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to Parliament and State Legislatures.

4. Which of the following types of Urban Local Bodies is typically established by an Act of the Union Parliament rather than by the State Government?

- (a) Municipal Corporation
- (b) Notified Area Committee
- (c) Port Trust
- (d) Town Area Committee

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

· Municipal Corporations, Notified Area Committees, and Town Area Committees are created by acts of the State Legislatures (or the President/Governor in certain UTs).

- Port Trusts are established in port areas (like Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai) by an Act of Parliament to manage both the port and provide civic amenities in the area.

5. Consider the following States:

1. Assam
2. Manipur
3. Meghalaya
4. Nagaland
5. Tripura

In how many of the above states can Autonomous Districts be established under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All the five

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Sixth Schedule applies to the tribal areas of four North-Eastern states, often remembered by the acronym AMTM: Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. Manipur and Nagaland are not covered under the Sixth Schedule (Nagaland is covered under special provisions of Article 371A).

6. Consider the following statements regarding All India Services:

1. The Rajya Sabha has the exclusive power to initiate the creation of a new AIS through a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.

2. The inclusion of the "All India Judicial Service" into Article 312 requires a formal Constitutional Amendment under Article 368.
3. Parliament is empowered to regulate the recruitment and service conditions of persons appointed to these services.

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)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under Article 312, the Rajya Sabha must pass a resolution in the national interest to create a new AIS.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Article 312 was already amended by the 42nd Amendment Act to include the provision for an All India Judicial Service. Creating the service now only requires a law of Parliament, not a new amendment to Article 368.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Article 312 clearly states that Parliament may by law regulate the recruitment and conditions of service.

7. Which functionary represents the President of India and presents the "Presidential Reference" before the Supreme Court under its Advisory Jurisdiction (Article 143)?

- (a) The Union Minister of Law and Justice
- (b) The Secretary to the President
- (c) The Attorney General for India
- (d) The Solicitor General of India

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Attorney General for India is the chief legal advisor to the Government of India and represents the Union/President in all references made by the President to the Supreme Court under Article 143.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the UPSC:

1. It acts as an advisory body to the Central Government on disciplinary matters concerning civil servants.
2. It is responsible for deciding the specific quantum of reservation (SC/ST/OBC) for various recruitment examinations.
3. The jurisdiction of the UPSC can be extended to any local authority or corporate body by an Act of Parliament.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The UPSC must be consulted on disciplinary matters; its advice is advisory but usually followed.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Reservation policy (quantum/allocation) is determined by the Government (Executive), not the UPSC. The UPSC only implements these rules during the recruitment process.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Article 321 allows the Parliament to provide for the exercise of additional functions by the UPSC regarding local authorities or public institutions.

9. With reference to the CBI, consider the following statements:

1. The CBI cannot investigate an offense in a State without the "General" or "Specific" consent of that State government.
2. Under current legal frameworks, the CBI must seek prior permission from the Central Government to conduct even a preliminary inquiry against any government servant.

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:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** As per the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, the CBI requires state consent to exercise jurisdiction.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In the Subramanian Swamy vs Director, CBI (2014) case, the Supreme Court struck down Section 6A of the DSPE Act, which required prior permission to investigate officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and above. However, newer amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act (Section 17A) require prior sanction for inquiry into "decisions" taken by public servants, but not a blanket "permission for any government servant" for all offenses.

10. Consider the following statements regarding the jurisdiction of the Lokpal:

1. The Lokpal has the authority to investigate allegations of corruption against the Prime Minister, subject to certain procedural safeguards.
2. Its jurisdiction covers all categories of public servants (Group A to D) and officials of institutions fully or partly funded by the Central Government.
3. NGOs receiving donations from foreign sources exceeding a specific limit (under FCRA) fall under the investigative ambit of the Lokpal.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The PM is within the ambit, except for allegations related to international relations, security, public order, atomic energy, and space.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It covers all Union ministers and Group A, B, C, and D officers.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act covers directors and managers of NGOs receiving more than Rs 10 lakh a year in foreign contributions or receiving government grants.

Supreme Courts and High Courts

1. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: A Constitutional Amendment Act can be challenged in the Supreme Court on the ground that it violates the Fundamental Rights.

Statement II: Article 13 of the Constitution provides that all laws that are inconsistent with or in derogation of any of the Fundamental Rights shall be void.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I.
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I.
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement I is correct:** Following the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973), the SC ruled that an amendment can be challenged if it violates the 'Basic Structure', which includes many Fundamental Rights.
- **Statement II is correct:** Article 13(2) gives the state a mandate not to make laws taking away FRs.

2. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Judiciary cannot strike down a legislative act solely on the basis that it is inconsistent with the spirit or words of the Preamble.

Statement II: The Preamble is non-justiciable in nature, and its provisions are not enforceable in a Court of law.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I.
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I.
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Preamble is neither a source of power to the legislature nor a prohibition upon the powers of the legislature. Because it is non-justiciable, it cannot be used as the sole legal yardstick to invalidate a law.

3. Consider the following functionaries:

1. Comptroller and Auditor General of India
2. Vice-President
3. Judges of the Supreme Court
4. Candidates for election to the Parliament
5. Governor of a State

How many of the above do NOT have their oaths of office enshrined under the Third Schedule of the Constitution of India?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) Only four

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Third Schedule contains the forms of oath for: Union Ministers, Candidates for Parliament, MPs, SC Judges, CAG, State Ministers, Candidates for State Legislature, MLAs, and HC Judges.
- The oaths for the President (Art 60), Vice-President (Art 69), and Governor (Art 159) are provided in their respective Articles, not in the Third Schedule.
- Functionaries 2 and 5 are outside the Third Schedule.

4. To be eligible for appointment as a Judge of a High Court in India, an individual must fulfill which of the following criteria?

1. Must have attained a minimum age of 35 years.
2. Must have held a judicial office in the territory of India for at least ten years.
3. Must have been an advocate of a High Court for ten years.
4. Should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the President.

How many of the above qualifications are mentioned in the Constitution?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All the four

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **1. Incorrect:** The Constitution prescribes no minimum age for appointment as an HC judge.
- **2. Incorrect:** The requirement is ten years of judicial office, not five.
- **3. Correct:** This is an eligibility criterion under Article 217.
- **4. Incorrect:** The Distinguished Jurist category is an eligibility criterion for the Supreme Court only; it is not available for High Court appointments.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Until Parliament provides otherwise, all proceedings in the Supreme Court must be in the English language.
2. With the previous consent of the President, the Governor of a State may authorize the use of Hindi in the proceedings of the High 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: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct (Art 348):** English is the default language for the SC and HCs until Parliament legislates otherwise.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under Art 348(2), the Governor (with President's consent) can authorize Hindi or any other official language for HC proceedings (though judgments must still be in English unless specified otherwise).

6. With reference to the Ninth Schedule, consider the following statements:

1. It was inserted into the Constitution via the 1st Amendment Act to protect land reform laws from judicial scrutiny.
2. In the I.R. Coelho case, the Supreme Court ruled that laws added to the Ninth Schedule after April 24, 1973, are open to judicial review.
3. Any law included in the Ninth Schedule is immune from being declared unconstitutional on any ground whatsoever.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Added in 1951.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The SC held that if a law in the 9th Schedule violates the Basic Structure (post-Kesavananda date), it can be struck down.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It is not absolute immunity; it is subject to the Basic Structure test.

7. Which of the following powers is/are exercised by the High Courts but NOT by the Supreme Court of India?

1. Power to issue writs for the enforcement of ordinary legal rights.
2. Supervisory jurisdiction over all courts and tribunals within its territorial jurisdiction.
3. Power to punish for contempt of itself.

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct: Writ Jurisdiction:** The SC (Art 32) can only issue writs for Fundamental Rights. The HC (Art 226) can issue them for FRs and any other legal right.
- **Statement 2 is correct: Supervisory Jurisdiction:** Under Art 227, the HC supervises all subordinate courts. The SC does not have a similar administrative supervisory power over HCs in that specific sense.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect: Contempt:** Both are Courts of Record and have contempt powers.

8. Which of the following statements is NOT correct regarding the removal of a Supreme Court Judge?

- (a) The only constitutionally recognized grounds for removal are proved misbehavior or incapacity.
- (b) The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, provides that the Speaker/Chairman has the discretion to admit or refuse the removal motion.
- (c) The removal motion must be passed by each House of Parliament by a simple majority of total membership and a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.
- (d) The President passes the final removal order after the address by Parliament is presented to him in the same session.

Answer: (c)

Explanation: It requires a Special Majority (which is a majority of the total membership of that House and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting).

9. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: A court cannot strike down a law as unconstitutional purely on the grounds that it fails to implement a Directive Principle.

Statement II: Unlike Fundamental Rights, the Directive Principles are not self-executing and require legislation for their implementation.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I.
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I.
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Because DPSPs require a law to be made (they aren't self-executing) and are non-justiciable, a court cannot force their implementation or void a law just because it doesn't follow a DPSP.

10. Which of the following fall under the Original Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under Article 131?

- 1. A dispute between the Government of India and one or more States.
- 2. A dispute between two or more States.
- 3. Matters concerning the election of the President and Vice-President.
- 4. Enforcement of Fundamental Rights.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Article 131 (Exclusive Original Jurisdiction):** Covers federal disputes (Centre vs States or State vs State).
- **Election Disputes:** Art 71 gives the SC original jurisdiction over President/VP elections, but it is not under Art 131 (Federal disputes).
- **Fundamental Rights (Art 32):** This is Original but not Exclusive because the High Courts also share this power. Technically, in many UPSC questions, Art 131 is the only one strictly called Original Jurisdiction in the federal sense.

Supreme Courts and High Courts

1. With reference to the Collegium System in India, who among the following comprises the collegium for the recommendation of Supreme Court judges?

- (a) The Chief Justice of India, the Union Law Minister, and two senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.
- (b) The Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.

- (c) The Chief Justice of India, two senior-most judges of the Supreme Court, and two senior-most Chief Justices of High Courts.
(d) The Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Chief Justice of India.

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Collegium system was born out of the Three Judges Cases. For the appointment of Supreme Court judges, the collegium consists of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court. If the successor CJI is not among the four senior-most judges, he/she is made part of the collegium as well.

2. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the Special Leave Petition (SLP) under Article 136?

- (a) It is a matter of right for any citizen to approach the Supreme Court via SLP.
(b) It can only be granted against the final judgments of a High Court.
(c) It is a plenary, residual, and discretionary power of the Supreme Court to grant justice.
(d) It cannot be exercised against the judgments of military courts or tribunals.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Article 136 provides the Supreme Court with the discretionary power to grant special leave to appeal from any judgment, decree, determination, sentence, or order in any cause or matter passed by any court or tribunal in India.
- It is not a right but a privilege.
- Crucial Exception: It does not apply to judgments passed by any court or tribunal constituted by or under any law relating to the Armed Forces.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the seat and constitution of the Supreme Court:

1. The Constitution of India explicitly names Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court.
2. The Chief Justice of India has the power to appoint other places as seats of the Supreme Court with the approval of the President.
3. The Supreme Court of India was inaugurated on 28 January 1950.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 & 2: Correct:** Under Article 130, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the CJI may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.
- **Statement 3: Correct:** While the Constitution came into force on Jan 26, the Supreme Court was formally inaugurated on January 28, 1950, succeeding the Federal Court of India.

4. If the President seeks the opinion of the Supreme Court under Article 143, which of the following is correct?

1. The Supreme Court is constitutionally bound to provide its opinion on any matter referred to it by the President.

2. The opinion expressed by the Supreme Court is binding on the President.
3. Such cases must be heard by a Bench consisting of at least five judges.

Select the correct answer:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect:** The SC may tender or refuse to tender an opinion on a matter of public importance. It is only bound to give an opinion on disputes arising out of pre-constitution treaties/agreements.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect:** The opinion is advisory and not binding.
- **Statement 3: Correct:** Under Article 145, any reference under Article 143 must be heard by a Constitution Bench (minimum 5 judges).

5. Consider the following statements with reference to Writ Jurisdiction:

1. Only the Supreme Court and High Courts have the power to issue writs in India.
2. Parliament can empower any other court to issue writs of all kinds for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights.
3. High Courts have a wider writ jurisdiction than the Supreme Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** While currently only SC and HCs issue them, Article 32(3) allows Parliament to empower other courts.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The SC (Art 32) issues writs only for Fundamental Rights. The HC (Art 226) issues them for Fundamental Rights and for any other purpose (Legal Rights).

6. With reference to the High Courts in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India specifies the maximum number of judges for each High Court.
2. The Parliament has the power to determine the numerical strength of a High Court from time to time.
3. A High Court can have jurisdiction over more than one State or Union Territory.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** The Constitution does not specify the strength; it leaves it to the discretion of the President.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** The President determines strength based on the workload.
- **Statement 3: Correct. Parliament** can establish a common High Court for two or more states (e.g., Punjab and Haryana High Court).

7. Consider the following statements regarding a Review Petition in the Supreme Court:

1. It is a discretionary power of the Court and not a matter of right for the litigant.
2. Oral arguments by lawyers are usually not permitted in Review Petitions; they are decided by circulation in judges' chambers.
3. A Curative Petition is a remedy available after the dismissal of a Review Petition.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

A review petition is filed under Article 137. It is generally decided without oral arguments unless the court directs otherwise. If a review is dismissed, the last judicial resort is a Curative Petition, a concept established in the Rupa Ashok Hurra vs. Ashok Hurra case (2002).

8. With reference to Public Interest Litigations (PILs) in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. PILs have resulted in the relaxation of the traditional rule of Locus Standi.
2. A PIL can be initiated by the Court on its own motion (Suo Moto).
3. PILs can be filed in the Supreme Court, High Courts, and District Courts.

Select the correct answer:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 & 2: Correct.** PIL allows any public-spirited citizen to move the court for those who cannot access it. The court can also take up cases based on news reports or letters (Suo Moto).
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** PILs can only be filed in High Courts (Art 226) and the Supreme Court (Art 32).

9. How many of the following statements regarding High Court judges are correct?

1. The oath of office to a High Court judge is administered by the President of India.
2. The salaries of High Court judges are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India, while their pensions are charged on the Consolidated Fund of the State.
3. The President can transfer a judge from one High Court to another after consulting the Chief Justice of India.

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two

- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** The oath is administered by the Governor of the State.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** Salaries are charged on the Consolidated Fund of the State, but pensions are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Under Article 222, the President can transfer judges after consultation with the CJI.

10. Which of the following is a power enjoyed by the High Courts but not the Supreme Court?

- (a) Power of Judicial Review.
- (b) Power to punish for contempt of itself.
- (c) Power of superintendence over all courts and tribunals within its territorial jurisdiction.
- (d) Power to grant special leave to appeal.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Under Article 227, every High Court has the power of superintendence over all courts and tribunals (except military ones) throughout its territory. While the SC is the apex court, its power of superintendence is not defined in the same administrative and judicial breadth as Article 227 is for High Courts.