

ForumIAS

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# Prelims Marathon

3<sup>rd</sup> Week, March, 2026

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*HISTORY  
ECONOMICS  
POLITY  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

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FORUMIAS



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## Lower Judiciary

### 1. Which of the following statements regarding Lok Adalats is correct?

- (a) Lok Adalats only have jurisdiction over cases that have not yet reached a court (pre-litigation).
- (b) Lok Adalats are empowered to settle both civil and non-compoundable criminal offenses.
- (c) The bench of a Lok Adalat may include judicial officers, eminent lawyers, or social workers.
- (d) An award passed by a Lok Adalat is non-binding and can be challenged in a higher court.

**Correct Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement (a) is incorrect:** Lok Adalats can handle both pre-litigation matters and cases pending in any court.
  - **Statement (b) is incorrect:** They can deal with civil cases and compoundable criminal offenses only. Non-compoundable offenses are outside their purview.
  - **Statement (c) is correct:** A Lok Adalat bench typically includes a sitting or retired judicial officer as the chairman, along with a lawyer and a social worker as members.
  - **Statement (d) is incorrect:** The award is deemed a decree of a civil court and is final and binding. No appeal lies against the award.

### 2. Consider the following statements:

1. The Advocate General of a State is appointed by the Governor and holds office during the pleasure of the President.
2. High Courts in India possess original and appellate jurisdiction, but they do not have advisory jurisdiction.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Advocate General is appointed by the Governor and holds office during the pleasure of the Governor (Article 165), not the President.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Unlike the Supreme Court (Article 143), High Courts do **not** have advisory jurisdiction. They have original (Art 226, etc.) and appellate jurisdiction.

### 3. With reference to Lok Adalats, consider the following statements:

1. Every award made by a Lok Adalat is final and no appeal lies to any court against such an award.
2. If parties are not satisfied with the award of a Lok Adalat, they are free to initiate fresh litigation by filing a case in the court of appropriate jurisdiction.

**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:**

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- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the award is final.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** While an appeal is not allowed (you can't ask a higher court to change the Lok Adalat's decision), the parties' right to litigate is not taken away; they can start a new regular court case if they didn't reach a settlement.

### 4. Consider the following statements regarding the district judiciary:

1. The District Judge is the highest judicial authority in the district in both civil and criminal matters.
2. Appointment, posting, and promotion of district judges in a State are made by the Governor in consultation with the High Court.
3. A capital punishment sentence passed by a Sessions Judge is subject to confirmation by the High Court even if no appeal is filed by the convict.

### 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

**Correct Answer: (d)**

### Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** He is called the District Judge on the civil side and Sessions Judge on the criminal side.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Per Article 233 of the Constitution.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Under Section 366 of the CrPC, a death sentence must be confirmed by the HC.

### 5. With reference to Gram Nyayalayas, consider the following statements:

1. They are established by the Central Government for every Panchayat at the intermediate level.
2. The Nyayadhikari (Presiding Officer) is appointed by the State Government in consultation with the High Court.
3. Gram Nyayalayas follow the summary procedure in criminal trials and are not bound by the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

### How many of the above statements are correct?

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

### Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** They are established by the State Government (after consultation with HC) for every Panchayat at the intermediate level or group of Panchayats.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** This ensures judicial independence.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** They are guided by principles of natural justice to ensure speedy trials.

### 6. Which of the following qualifications is/are required for a person to be appointed as a District Judge?

1. He should have been an advocate or a pleader for at least seven years.
2. He should not already be in the service of the Union or the State.
3. His appointment must be recommended by the High Court.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

To be appointed as a District Judge in India under Article 233, a person must meet the following criteria:

**Eligibility Criteria**

- **Citizenship:** The candidate must be a citizen of India.
- **Professional Experience:** They must have been an advocate or a pleader for at least seven years.
- **High Court Recommendation:** The appointment is made by the Governor in consultation with the High Court, which must specifically recommend the candidate for the role.

**7. The Dinesh Goswami Committee, Vohra Committee, and Tankha Committee are associated with which of the following?**

- (a) Reorganization of States
- (b) Electoral Reforms
- (c) Criminalization of Politics
- (d) Police Reforms

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- The Dinesh Goswami Committee (1990) dealt with electoral reforms (e.g., state funding).
- The Vohra Committee (1993) dealt with the nexus between politicians and criminals.
- The Tankha Committee (2010) dealt with a whole gamut of election laws.

**8. Consider the following statements regarding NALSA:**

1. It is a statutory body established to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of society.
2. Under NALSA, all senior citizens in India are entitled to free legal services regardless of their annual income.

**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:** Established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While women, children, SC/ST, and victims of disasters get free aid regardless of income, senior citizens are subject to income ceilings prescribed by the respective State Governments.

**9. With reference to the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, consider the following statements:**

1. It provides for a separate hierarchy of Commercial Courts at the District level and Commercial Divisions in High Courts.

- The Act mandates Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement for all suits that do not contemplate urgent interim relief.

**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:**

- The Act was introduced to improve the Ease of Doing Business in India. The mandatory mediation (introduced via 2018 amendment) aims to reduce the burden on the judiciary.

**10. Which of the following are recognized forms of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) in India?**

- Arbitration
- Conciliation
- Judicial Settlement through Lok Adalat
- Mediation

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

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

**Correct Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- Section 89 of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC) explicitly recognizes all four methods as alternatives to traditional litigation to ensure speedier justice and reduce pendency.

## Tribunals and Election

**1. Consider the following statements regarding Part XIV-A of the Constitution:**

- Article 323A empowers both Parliament and State Legislatures to establish administrative tribunals for public service matters.
- Article 323B allows for the establishment of tribunals for specific matters such as taxation, foreign exchange, and land reforms.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is incorrect:** Article 323A empowers **only the Parliament** to provide for the establishment of administrative tribunals.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Article 323B allows both Parliament and State Legislatures (within their competence) to establish tribunals for other matters like tax, labor, land reforms, etc. These provisions were added by the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.

**2. With reference to Articles 323A and 323B of the Constitution, which of the following statements are correct?**

1. Under Article 323A, only one tribunal for the Centre and one for each state (or two or more states) can be established, whereas under Article 323B, a hierarchy of tribunals may be created.
2. While Article 323A deals exclusively with public service matters, Article 323B covers a specific list of subjects including elections to Parliament and State Legislatures.
3. Tribunals under Article 323A can only be established by a law of Parliament, whereas those under Article 323B can be established by both Parliament and State Legislatures.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** All statements are technically accurate. Under 323A, there is no hierarchy; it is for service matters only and is Parliament-exclusive. Under 323B, a hierarchy can be created for diverse subjects (tax, land, elections, etc.) by the appropriate legislature.

**3. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT):**

1. The jurisdiction of CAT extends to the all-India services, Central civil services, and civilian employees of the defense services.
2. Members of the defense forces and the secretarial staff of Parliament are excluded from the jurisdiction of CAT.
3. The Chairman and members of CAT are appointed by the President and hold office for a term of five years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 and 2 are correct:** CAT excludes military personnel, SC officers, and Parliamentary staff.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While the Chairman serves until 65 years, the Members serve for a term of 5 years or until they attain the age of 62 years.

**4. Regarding State Administrative Tribunals (SATs), consider the following statements:**

1. The Administrative Tribunals Act of 1985 empowers the Central Government to establish an SAT upon a specific request from a State Government.
2. The Chairman and members of an SAT are appointed by the Governor of the concerned state in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court.

3. Several states, including Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, have abolished their SATs, though some have requested their re-establishment.

**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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Establishment is done by the Centre on State request.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Even for SATs, the appointment is made by the President (not the Governor) after consultation with the Governor.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** MP and TN abolished them; TN and Himachal have moved for re-establishment.

**5. Consider the following statements regarding Joint Administrative Tribunals (JATs):**

1. A JAT can be established for two or more states under the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.
2. The Chairman and members of a JAT are appointed by the President of India.
3. The President makes these appointments after consulting the Governors of all the concerned states.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

All statements are correct. JATs follow the same appointment logic as SATs/CAT (Presidential appointment) but require consultation with the Governors of all involved states.

**6. With reference to the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, consider the following statements:**

1. It prescribes a uniform tenure of four years for the Chairperson and members of various tribunals.
2. The minimum age for appointment as a Chairperson or member is fixed at 50 years.
3. The Act empowers the Central Government to act on the recommendations of the Search-cum-Selection Committee within three months.

**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

**Correct Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

The 2021 Act brought significant changes: Tenure is 4 years (Max age 70 for Chair, 67 for Members). The minimum age is 50. The 3-month timeline for government action on recommendations is a specific mandate of the Act.

**7. Consider the following statements:**

1. Currently, there is no law in India that restricts a candidate from contesting a Lok Sabha election from more than two constituencies.
2. In the 1991 Lok Sabha Election, Shri Devi Lal contested from three separate constituencies.
3. Existing rules mandate that if a candidate wins from multiple seats, their political party must bear the cost of the subsequent bye-elections for the vacated seats.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Section 33(7) of the RPA, 1951, was amended in 1996 to restrict candidates to a maximum of **two** constituencies.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In 1991 (before the 1996 amendment), Devi Lal did contest from three seats.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** There is no such rule requiring parties to bear bye-election costs; the government currently bears the cost.

**8. Consider the following statements:**

1. According to the Constitution of India, any person eligible to vote can be appointed as a Minister in a State for six months without being a member of the Legislature.
2. Under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a person convicted and sentenced to five years of imprisonment is permanently disqualified from contesting elections even after release.

**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: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While a non-member can be a minister for 6 months, the Constitution requires them to be at least 25 years old (for Legislative Assembly). A person "eligible to vote" (18 years) does not meet the age requirement for a Minister.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Disqualification lasts for the duration of the sentence plus **six years** after release. It is not permanent.

**9. Consider the following statements regarding the Election Commission of India:**

1. The ECI is currently a five-member body consisting of the Chief Election Commissioner and four Election Commissioners.
2. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs is the final authority that decides the election schedule for general elections.
3. The ECI is the designated authority to resolve disputes relating to splits or mergers of recognized political parties.

**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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** ECI is a three-member body (1 CEC + 2 ECs).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **ECI** (not MHA) decides the election schedule.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** ECI has the power to decide on symbols and disputes regarding splits/mergers.

**10. With reference to the Delimitation Commission, consider the following statements:**

1. The orders issued by the Delimitation Commission carry the force of law and cannot be called into question in any Court of Law.
2. When the orders are laid before the Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assemblies, these bodies have the power to suggest and implement modifications to the orders.

**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:** To ensure elections are not delayed, the orders are final and immune from judicial challenge.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While the orders are laid before the legislatures, they **cannot** make any modifications to them.

## Elections and RPA Act

**1. Consider the following statements regarding the Election Commission of India:**

1. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the two other Election Commissioners (ECs) enjoy equal powers and receive the same salary.
2. The CEC is entitled to the same salary and perks as provided to a Judge of the Supreme Court.
3. The CEC cannot be removed from office except in the same manner and on the same grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court.
4. The term of office for an Election Commissioner is five years or until they attain the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statements 1 & 2 are correct:** In a multi-member commission, all three commissioners have equal decision-making power and receive salaries equal to a Supreme Court judge.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The CEC has constitutional protection of tenure (Article 324), though this specific protection is not explicitly extended to the other two ECs by the Constitution.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The term is 6 years or until the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

**2. Consider the following statements regarding political parties in India:**

1. The Representation of the People Act, 1951, provides the legal framework for the registration of political parties.
2. The Election Commission of India is the sole authority for the registration and de-registration of political parties.
3. A political party is recognized as a National Party only if it is recognized as a State Party in four or more States.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Section 29A of the RPA, 1951, deals with registration.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While the EC registers parties, it does not have the statutory power to *de-register* a party for violating the Constitution or the law (except in very limited circumstances), a point often debated in judicial reforms.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** This is one of the three criteria for National Party status.

**3. Which of the following changes were introduced by the 1996 amendments to the election laws?**

1. Insulting the National Flag or the Constitution of India results in disqualification from contesting for six years.
2. A candidate is prohibited from contesting from more than two constituencies for the same election.
3. The death of a contesting candidate belonging to a recognized party no longer leads to the countermanding (cancellation) of the election.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

The 1996 amendments were landmark:

- **Statement 1:** Introduced disqualification for National Honour offenses.
- **Statement 2:** Restricted candidates to two seats (previously unlimited).
- **Statement 3:** Instead of countermanding, the election is now merely adjourned for a few days to allow the concerned party to nominate a new candidate.

4. When a voter casts a vote using an EVM with a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), which of the following information is visible on the printed slip?

1. Serial number of the candidate
2. Name of the candidate
3. Symbol of the party/candidate
4. A voter identity details

How many of the above are present on the VVPAT slip?

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

**Correct Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

The VVPAT slip contains: (1) Serial Number, (2) Name, and (3) Symbol of the candidate. It never contains voter identity details to ensure the Secrecy of the Ballot.

5. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** If a person is elected to both Houses of Parliament, he/she must intimate within 10 days which House he/she desires to serve in, otherwise his/her seat in the Rajya Sabha becomes vacant.

**Statement-II:** The rules regarding the vacation of seats in cases of dual membership are governed by the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

- (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.

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement-I is correct:** Ten days is the statutory limit. If the person fails to choose, the **Rajya Sabha** seat is vacated.
- **Statement-II is correct:** Sections 68 to 70 of the RPA, 1951, lay down these specific rules.

6. The Representation of the People Act, 1951, provides for which of the following matters?

1. Qualifications and disqualifications for membership of Parliament and State Legislatures.
2. The preparation of electoral rolls and the qualification of voters.
3. The conduct of elections and the curbing of corrupt practices.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 & 3 are correct:** These are the core focus of the 1951 Act.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The preparation of electoral rolls and the qualification of voters (registration of electors) are provided for by the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

**7. Recognized National Parties in India are entitled to which of the following privileges?**

1. Allocation of a permanent election symbol that cannot be used by any other party in any election across the country.
2. Provision of free copies of the electoral rolls by the Election Commission.
3. Exclusive access to airtime on state-owned electronic media (All India Radio/Doordarshan) during elections.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

Recognized parties (National and State) enjoy these privileges. A National Party's symbol is reserved for it throughout India, whereas a State Party's symbol is reserved only in that specific state. They also receive land/bungalows in Delhi for party offices at subsidized rates.

**8. A political party shall be eligible to be recognized as a National Party if it fulfills which of the following conditions?**

1. It secures at least 6% of the valid votes polled in any four or more states in a Lok Sabha or Assembly election and wins 4 seats in the Lok Sabha.
2. It wins 2% of the total seats in the Lok Sabha from at least three different states.
3. It is recognized as a State Party in at least four states.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

These are the three alternative criteria specified in the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968. Meeting any one of these is sufficient for recognition.

**9. Which of the following statements is correct regarding Electoral Trusts in India?**

- (a) They are established as for-profit entities to manage political investments.
- (b) They can receive contributions from foreign sources and NRI's without any restrictions.
- (c) They are required to distribute 95% of the total contributions received in a financial year to eligible political parties.
- (d) The registration of an Electoral Trust remains valid indefinitely once granted by the CBDT.

**Correct Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement (a) is incorrect:** They are non-profit (Section 8 companies).

- **Statement (b) is incorrect:** They cannot receive foreign contributions.
- **Statement (c) is correct:** This is to ensure the trust isn't used to hoard money.
- **Statement (d) is incorrect:** They must renew registration periodically.

**10. Consider the following statements regarding election funding:**

1. There is currently a legal limit on the amount of money a political party can spend on a general election campaign.
2. Individual candidates have a statutory limit on their election expenses, which varies depending on the size of the constituency.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** In India, while there are strict limits on Candidate expenditure, there is no legal cap on how much a Political Party can spend on its election campaign.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Expenditure limits for candidates are updated periodically (e.g., currently up to 95 Lakhs for large Lok Sabha constituencies).

## Panchayat

**1. Under Part IX of the Constitution (73rd Amendment Act), how many of the following provisions are mandatory for the State Governments to implement?**

1. Establishment of a three-tier Panchayati Raj system in all states.
2. Direct election to the post of Chairperson of the Gram Panchayat.
3. Constitution of a State Finance Commission every five years.
4. Reservation of seats for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Panchayats.

**Select the correct answer:**

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Provision 1 is mandatory**, but with an exception: states with a population below 20 lakhs may not constitute the intermediate tier. Thus, it isn't mandatory for *all* states in the same way.
- **Provision 2 is voluntary:** The provision for the State Legislature to decide the manner of electing a Gram Panchayat Chairperson (Sarpanch/Pradhan) is mandatory under the Indian Constitution, as per Article 243C (5)(a). While the 73rd Amendment requires the state to legislate, it gives states the freedom to choose between direct election by the Gram Sabha or indirect election from among members.
- **Provision 3 is mandatory:** Article 243-I requires the Governor to constitute a Finance Commission every five years.

- **Provision 4 is voluntary:** Reservation for OBCs is left to the discretion of the State Government.

**2. With reference to the District Planning Committee (DPC), consider the following statements:**

1. It is mandated to consolidate the plans prepared by both Panchayats and Municipalities in the district.
2. Four-fifths of the members of a DPC should be elected by the elected members of the district panchayat and municipalities in the district.
3. The Act specifies that the District Collector shall always be the Chairperson of the DPC.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under Article 243ZD, the DPC consolidates plans from both rural and urban local bodies.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Constitution specifies that 4/5ths of the members must be elected from among the elected members of the local bodies.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Constitution leaves the manner of choosing the Chairperson to the State Legislature. It does not mandate the District Collector for this role.

**3. Which of the following committees recommended that Panchayati Raj Institutions should be significantly strengthened by giving them compulsory powers of taxation to mobilize their own resources?**

- (a) Balwantrai Mehta Committee
- (b) Ashok Mehta Committee
- (c) G.V.K. Rao Committee
- (d) L.M. Singhvi Committee

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

The Ashok Mehta Committee (1977) recommended a two-tier system and emphasized that PRIs must have compulsory powers of taxation to ensure financial viability. The Balwantrai Mehta Committee focused more on the three-tier structure and "Democratic Decentralization."

**4. Consider the following pairs regarding the evolution of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs):**

No.	Committee	Primary Recommendation
1.	Balwantrai Mehta Committee	Introduction of "Democratic Decentralization"
2.	G.V.K. Rao Committee	District as the pivotal unit for planning
3.	L.M. Singhvi Committee	Constitutional recognition and protection for PRIs

**How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?**

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

**Correct Answer: (c) Explanation:**

- **Pair 1 is correct:** They proposed the 3-tier system under the label of democratic decentralization.
- **Pair 2 is correct:** This committee emphasized the role of the District Commissioner and made the district the pivotal point for planning.
- **Pair 3 is correct:** L.M. Singhvi (1986) was the first to strongly advocate for a new chapter in the Constitution for PRIs.

**5. Consider the following statements regarding reservations in Panchayati Raj Institutions:**

1. Exactly one-third of the seats must be reserved for women, and this cannot be increased by state laws.
2. Reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) is provided in every Panchayat in proportion to their population in that 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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Constitution mandates not less than one-third (minimum). Many states (like Bihar, MP, etc.) have increased this to 50%.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Reservation for SCs/STs is mandatory and based on the population ratio in the specific panchayat area.

**6. With reference to the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA), which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. The ownership of minor forest produce is vested in the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level.
2. Every Panchayat in the Scheduled Areas must have a Chairperson belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.
3. Prior recommendation of the Gram Sabha is mandatory for granting prospecting licenses for minor/major minerals in the Scheduled Areas.

**Select the correct answer:**

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** PESA empowers the Gram Sabha/Panchayat with ownership of Minor Forest Produce (MFP).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** All posts of Chairpersons of Panchayats at all levels in scheduled areas are reserved for STs.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** PESA mandates Gram Sabha consultation/recommendation for land acquisition and mining leases for minor minerals.

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

1. All States in India are constitutionally required to have a Panchayat at the intermediate (block) level.

2. The minimum age for a person to be eligible to contest elections for a Panchayat is 21 years.
3. The State Finance Commission is constituted by the Governor of the State to review the financial position of the Panchayats.

**Which of the statements given above are NOT correct?**

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** States with a population not exceeding 20 lakhs may not constitute Panchayats at the intermediate level.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Unlike the 25-year requirement for the Lok Sabha, the age for Panchayats is 21.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It is the Governor (not the CM) who constitutes the commission every five years (Article 243-I).

**8. Consider the following statements:**

1. If a Panchayat is dissolved before its five-year term, the newly reconstituted Panchayat serves for a fresh full term of five years.
2. A person can be disqualified from being a member of a Panchayat if they are less than 25 years of age but have attained 21 years of age.

**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: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** A Panchayat reconstituted after premature dissolution continues **only for the remainder** of the period.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Article 243F states that no person shall be disqualified on the ground that he is less than 25 years of age, if he has attained the age of **21 years**.

**9. The primary objective of the Panchayati Raj system, as envisioned in the Indian Constitution, is to facilitate which of the following?**

1. People's participation in development programs.
2. Political accountability of the bureaucracy.
3. Democratic decentralization of power.
4. Direct financial mobilization for the Central Government.

**Select the correct answer:**

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

The core goals are People's Participation and Democratic Decentralization. While it aids accountability, it is aimed at the political participation of the masses, not just "accountability of bureaucracy." It is certainly not for "financial mobilization for the Central Government" (which is the opposite of decentralization).

**10. In the areas covered under the PESA Act, 1996, which of the following powers are specifically given to the Gram Sabha?**

1. Power to enforce prohibition or to regulate the sale of any intoxicant.
2. Power to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas.
3. Power to manage village markets.

**Select the correct answer:**

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

**Correct Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

PESA provides the Gram Sabha with significant traditional and administrative powers, including:

- Control over local plans and resources.
- Management of village markets.
- Power to prevent land alienation and restore unlawfully alienated land.
- Control over intoxicants and minor water bodies.

## Panchayat

**1. Under Article 243Q of the Constitution of India, which of the following are the specified types of Municipalities to be constituted in every State?**

1. Nagar Panchayat
2. Municipal Council
3. Municipal Corporation
4. Industrial Township

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

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:** Article 243Q provides for three types of municipalities:

- Nagar Panchayat for a transitional area.
- Municipal Council for a smaller urban area.
- Municipal Corporation for a larger urban area.
- While an Industrial Township is mentioned in the proviso to Article 243Q, it is an *exception* where a municipality may not be constituted; it is not a "type of municipality" itself under the constitutional classification.

**2. Consider the following statements regarding the State Finance Commission:**

1. The Governor is mandated to constitute a Finance Commission every five years to review the financial position of both Panchayats and Municipalities.
2. The Constitution of India explicitly defines the qualifications and the manner of selection for the members of the State Finance 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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Articles 243-I and 243-Y mandate the Governor to constitute an SFC every five years for both rural and urban local bodies.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Unlike the Central Finance Commission, the Constitution states that the State Legislature may provide for the composition of the commission, the qualifications, and the manner of selection.

**3. With reference to the Gram Sabha as per the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, consider the following statements:**

1. The term 'Gram Sabha' is a constitutional entity defined under Article 243.
2. It consists of all persons above the age of 18 residing within the village 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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Gram Sabha is defined in Article 243(b) as a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It does not consist of the entire adult population or everyone above 18. It specifically consists of persons registered in the electoral rolls relating to a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level.

**4. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Constitution provides for the reservation of not less than one-third of the total number of seats for women, including the number of seats reserved for SC/ST women.
2. At least one-third of the total number of offices of chairpersons at all three levels of Panchayats must be reserved for women.
3. Currently, more than 20 States in India have implemented a 50% reservation for women in their respective Panchayati Raj Acts.

**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

**Correct Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** These are mandatory constitutional provisions under Article 243D.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** As per the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, 21 States (including Bihar, MP, Maharashtra, etc.) and 2 UTs have increased women's reservation to 50%.

**5. Consider the following States:**

1. Maharashtra
2. Goa
3. Arunachal Pradesh
4. Sikkim
5. Kerala

**How many of the above States currently have a three-tier Panchayati Raj System?**

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

**Correct Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** All the listed states have a three-tier system. While the Constitution allows states with a population of less than 20 lakhs (like Goa and Sikkim) the *option* to not have an intermediate tier, most states have chosen to maintain a three-tier structure or have crossed the threshold.

**6. With reference to the dissolution of Panchayats, consider the following statements:**

1. The Constitution of India specifies the exact grounds on which a State Government can dissolve a Panchayat.
2. A Panchayat reconstituted after a premature dissolution serves only for the remainder of the original five-year term.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Constitution does not specify the "grounds" for dissolution; this is determined by State Laws.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under Article 243E, a Panchayat elected upon dissolution does not get a full 5-year term; it only survives for the "remainder" period.

**7. The Dinesh Goswami Committee, Vohra Committee, and Tankha Committee are primarily associated with reforms in which of the following areas?**

- (a) Centre-State Relations  
(b) Panchayati Raj Institutions

- (c) Judicial Appointments
- (d) Electoral Reforms

**Correct Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Dinesh Goswami (1990):** Electoral reforms/State funding.
- **Vohra (1993):** Criminalization of politics.
- **Tankha (2010):** Comprehensive review of election laws.

**8. Arrange the following events in the evolution of local self-government in British India in correct chronological order (starting from the earliest):**

1. Mayo's Resolution on financial decentralization.
2. Lord Ripon's Resolution (The Magna Carta of Local Self-Government).
3. Royal Commission on Decentralization (Hobhouse Commission).
4. Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms (Transferred List).

**Select the correct answer:**

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Mayo's Resolution:** 1870
- **Lord Ripon's Resolution:** 1882
- **Royal Commission on Decentralization:** 1907
- **Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms:** 1919 (where Local Self-Gov became a 'Transferred' subject).

**9. Which of the following represents the correct chronological sequence of the committees appointed for Panchayati Raj?**

- (a) Balwant Rai Mehta — G.V.K. Rao — Ashok Mehta — L.M. Singhvi
- (b) Balwant Rai Mehta — Ashok Mehta — G.V.K. Rao — L.M. Singhvi
- (c) Ashok Mehta — Balwant Rai Mehta — L.M. Singhvi — G.V.K. Rao
- (d) G.V.K. Rao — Balwant Rai Mehta — L.M. Singhvi — Ashok Mehta

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Balwant Rai Mehta:** 1957
- **Ashok Mehta:** 1977
- **G.V.K. Rao:** 1985
- **L.M. Singhvi:** 1986
- **Thungon and Gadgil:** 1988.

**10. With reference to committees formed after the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, match the following:**

Committee	Year
A. Task Force on Devolution (Lalit Mathur)	1. 2001

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B. Expert Group on Planning (V. Ramachandran)	2. 2005
C. Committee on Leveraging Panchayats (Mani Shankar Aiyar)	3. 2012

**Select the correct match:**

- (a) A-1, B-2, C-3
- (b) A-2, B-1, C-3
- (c) A-3, B-2, C-1
- (d) A-1, B-3, C-2

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

These are post-constitutionalization committees. The Lalit Mathur Task Force (2001) focused on devolution; Ramachandran (2005) focused on grassroots planning; and the Mani Shankar Aiyar Committee (2012) looked into leveraging Panchayats for efficient service delivery.