

ForumIAS

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# Prelims Marathon

March, 2026

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*HISTORY  
ECONOMICS  
POLITY  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

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FORUMIAS



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## President and Governor

### 1. With reference to the Ordinance-making power of the President, consider the following statements:

1. An Ordinance possesses the same force and effect as an Act of Parliament and can be used to amend or repeal any existing Central Act.
2. Under Article 12, an Ordinance is defined as law, meaning it cannot abridge or take away Fundamental Rights guaranteed in Part III of the Constitution.
3. The President can exercise the power to promulgate an Ordinance even when one House of Parliament is in session.

### 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: (c)

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** Article 123(2) states an Ordinance has the same force as an Act. It can amend/repeal any regular Act of Parliament but **cannot** amend the Constitution (Art 368).
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** Article 13(3)(a) explicitly includes Ordinance in the definition of law. Therefore, an Ordinance is subject to judicial review and cannot violate Fundamental Rights (unless such rights are suspended during a National Emergency).
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** An Ordinance can be issued when either of the two Houses is not in session. A law cannot be passed by only one House; hence, the legislative machinery is considered stalled, allowing for an Ordinance.

### 2. Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India explicitly mentions that in certain spheres the Governor of a State acts in his/her own discretion.
2. The President of India can, of his/her own, reserve a bill passed by a State Legislature for his/her consideration without it being forwarded by the Governor of the State concerned.

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

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

### Correct Answer: (a)

### Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct:** The Constitution explicitly provides that the Governor acts in his/her discretion in certain matters, such as reservation of a Bill for the consideration of the President, recommendation for President's Rule etc.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect:** The President cannot suo motu reserve a Bill passed by a State Legislature for consideration. The Governor has the discretion to do so under Article 200, and only after the Governor reserves it, does the President consider it.

### 3. With reference to the Indian polity, consider the following statements:

1. The Governor of a State is answerable to court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of his/her office but in certain matters.

2. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the Governor during his/her term of office.
3. Members of a State Legislature are not liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said within the House.

**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: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1: Incorrect:** As per Article 361(1), the Governor is not answerable to any court for acts done in the exercise of official powers and duties.
- **Statement 2: Correct:** Under Article 361(2), no criminal proceedings can be instituted or continued against a Governor during their term of office.
- **Statement 3: Correct:** Article 194(2) grants members of a State Legislature freedom of speech and immunity from court proceedings for anything said or any vote given in the House.

**4. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Governor of the State only recognizes but cannot declares any community of that State as a Scheduled Tribe.
2. A community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in a State need not be so in another State.

**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:**

- Article 342 (1) states that "The President may with respect to any State or Union territory, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State or Union territory, as the case may be. Thus, it is the President and not the Governor who declares any community of that State as a Scheduled Tribe.
- Further, President can also specify parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall be included in Scheduled Tribes, making second statement correct.

**5. Consider the following statements:**

1. If the election of the President of India is declared void by the Supreme Court of India, all acts done by him/her in the performance of duties of his/her office of President before the date of decision become invalid.
2. Election for the post of the President of India can be postponed on the ground that some Legislative Assemblies have been dissolved and election are yet to take place.
3. When a Bill is presented to the President of India, the Constitution prescribes time limits within which he/she has to declare his/her assent.

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

- a) only one
- b) only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Correct Answer: (d)**

**Statement 1: Incorrect:** Article 71(2) of the Indian Constitution protects the actions of the President. As long as the President acted in good faith (meaning they believed they were rightfully elected and acting within their powers), their official actions before the election was declared void remain valid. This ensures continuity and stability in governance.

**Statement 2: Incorrect:** The Indian Constitution prioritizes continuity in the office of the President. The Presidential election is an independent process and takes place regardless of the status of Legislative Assemblies, even if they are dissolved.

**Statement 3: Incorrect:** There's no specific time limit mentioned in the Constitution for the President to approve (assent) a bill. However, conventions are followed. These conventions include:

- The President can sign the bill into law (assent).
- The President can return the bill to Parliament for reconsideration (veto).
- The President can withhold their assent (pocket veto) by neither signing nor returning the bill within a reasonable timeframe. This effectively kills the bill without a formal veto.

**6. Which one of the following suggested that the Governor should be an eminent person from outside the State and should be a detached figure without intense political links or should not have taken part in politics in the recent past?**

- a) First Administrative Reforms Commission (1966)
- b) Rajamannar Committee (1969)
- c) Sarkaria Commission (1983)
- d) National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000)

**Correct Answer: (c)**

- The Sarkaria Commission recommended a series of reforms to ensure the Governor's neutrality and effectiveness. These included: the Governor should be an **eminent person** with a distinguished career outside of active politics. This could include individuals from fields like academics, judiciary, administration, or social work. The Governor should ideally be from outside the state they are appointed to. This helps to maintain impartiality and avoid local political influence.
- Detachment from politics: The Governor should not have recent or active political affiliations. This ensures they approach their role with objectivity and avoid partisan politics.
- Rajamannar Committee (1969): It was formed by the Tamil Nadu government under the leadership of Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi. The primary objective was to examine and recommend measures for the improvement of Centre-State relations in India.
- National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000): This commission, established much later, might have reviewed aspects of Centre-State relations, but the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations in 1983 were the landmark ones regarding Governor selection.

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

1. The value of the vote of each MLA varies from State to State.
2. The value of the vote of MPs of the Lok Sabha is equal to the value of the vote of MPs of the Rajya Sabha.

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

- a) 1 only

- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

**Correct Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 correct:** The value of the vote of each Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) varies from state to state in the election of the President of India. It is determined based on the population of the state represented by the MLA.

**Statement 2 correct:** In the election of the President of India, the value of the vote of each Member of Parliament (MP) is the same, whether they are from the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha. The value of their votes is determined based on the total value of votes assigned to all elected MPs, which is distributed among them equally.

**8. Consider the following statements:**

1. No criminal proceeding shall be instituted against the Governor of a state in any court during his terms of office.
2. The emoluments and allowances of the Governor of a state shall not be diminished during his terms of office.
3. Civil proceedings regarding personal acts are permitted only after a one-month written notice, while no legal action can be taken for official 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: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1: Correct:** Article 361, it grants the Governor immunity from criminal prosecution while they are in office. This means no new criminal case can be filed against the Governor during their term. Any ongoing criminal proceedings against the Governor will be put on hold until he/she leaves the office. Once the Governor leaves office, they can be prosecuted for criminal acts committed during their tenure.
- **Statement 2: Correct:** This statement is based on Article 158(4) of the Constitution. It guarantees that the Governor's salary and allowances cannot be reduced during his/her term. This financial security serves to secure independence and dignity of the post.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect:** Civil lawsuits for personal actions are allowed but require a 2-month prior written notice.

**9. Which of the following are the discretionary powers given to the Governor of a State?**

1. Sending a report to the President of India for imposing the President's rule
2. Appointing the Ministers
3. Reserving certain bills passed by the State Legislature for consideration of the President of India
4. Making the rules to conduct the business of the State Government

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

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

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

Governor is vested with two types of discretionary powers under the Constitution: **Constitutional Discretion** (explicitly mentioned in the Constitution) and **Situational Discretion** (emerging from political circumstances).

- **Statement 1 is Correct (Constitutional Discretion):** Under **Article 356**, the Governor sends a report to the President recommending the imposition of President's Rule if he is satisfied that the government of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. He performs this function based on his own judgment, not on the advice of the Council of Ministers (CoM).
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect (Executive Power):** Under **Article 164**, the Governor appoints the Chief Minister, and other Ministers are appointed by him **only on the advice of the Chief Minister**. While he has "situational discretion" to appoint a CM in a hung assembly, the general act of "appointing ministers" is an executive function performed on aid and advice.
- **Statement 3 is Correct (Constitutional Discretion):** Under **Article 200**, the Governor can reserve a bill for the consideration of the President. This is a discretionary power. In fact, if a bill passed by the state legislature endangers the position of the State High Court, the Governor **must** reserve it for the President.
- **Statement 4 is Incorrect (Executive Power):** Under **Article 166(3)**, the Governor makes rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the government of the state. This is a formal executive power exercised on the advice of the Council of Ministers, not a discretionary one.

**10. Which one of the following statements is correct?**

- a) In India, the same person cannot be appointed as governor for two or more states at the same time
- b) The judges of the high court of the states in India are appointed by the Governor of the state just as the judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the president
- c) No procedure has been laid down in the constitution of India for the removal of a governor from his/her post
- d) In the case of a union territory having a legislative setup, the chief minister is appointed by the Lt. Governor on the basis of majority support

**Correct Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement (a) is Incorrect:** The 7th Constitutional Amendment Act (1956) facilitated the appointment of the same person as Governor for two or more states.
- **Statement (b) is Incorrect:** Judges of a High Court are appointed by the President (Article 217), not the Governor. The Governor is only consulted by the President during the process.
- **Statement (c) is Correct:** Under Article 156, the Governor holds office during the pleasure of the President. The Constitution does not lay down any grounds (like misbehavior or incapacity) or a specific procedure (like impeachment) for their removal.
- **Statement (d) is Incorrect:** In Union Territories with a legislative setup (like Delhi and Puducherry), the Chief Minister is appointed by the President, not the Lt. Governor. The Ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President.

## Ministers, Ministries and Secretariat

### 1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India classifies the ministers into four ranks viz. Cabinet Minister, Minister of State with Independent Charge, Minister of State and Deputy Minister.
2. The total number of ministers in the Union Government, including the Prime Minister, shall not exceed 15 percent of the total number of members in the Lok Sabha.

### 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 of India does not classify ministers into ranks. The classification into Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State, and Deputy Ministers is based on parliamentary convention and the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952. The Constitution only mentions the Council of Ministers (Articles 74 and 75).
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** According to the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act (2003), the total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Union Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15 percent of the total strength of the Lok Sabha (Article 75(1A)).
- **Article 74:** Deals with the status of the Council of Ministers. **Article 75:** Deals with the appointment, tenure, responsibility, qualification, oath, and salaries of the ministers. **Cabinet:** This term was inserted into Article 352 by the 44th Amendment Act (1978); it was not in the original text of the Constitution.

### 2. Consider the following statements regarding the evolution of administrative machinery in India:

1. The first Administrative Reforms Commission (1966) recommended that the Department of Personnel be placed under the Prime Minister's charge to ensure its authority was felt across all ministries.
2. The N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar Committee (1949) recommended the grouping of ministries into four categories and the creation of an Organization and Methods (O&M) division within the Cabinet Secretariat.
3. The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) acts as the cadre controlling authority for both the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS).

### 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: Correct.** On the recommendation of the First ARC (1966), the Department of Personnel was constituted in 1970 and placed directly under the Prime Minister's charge. It was felt that personnel management should be centralized and led by the head of the government to maintain uniform standards.

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- **Statement 2: Correct.** The Ayyangar Committee (1949) was a landmark in secretariat reorganization. It suggested the grouping of ministries (Bureaus) to improve coordination and the establishment of an O&M division (established in 1954) to analyze and improve office procedures.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** While the DoPT (under the Ministry of Personnel) is the cadre controlling authority for the IAS, it is not the authority for the IPS. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is the cadre controlling authority for the Indian Police Service (IPS), and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the authority for the Indian Forest Service (IFoS).

### 3. With reference to the administrative machinery of a State in India, consider the following statements:

1. The office of the Chief Secretary was first created by Lord Hasting, and the incumbent serves as the ex-officio Chairman of the State Civil Services Board.
2. Unlike the Cabinet Secretary at the Union level, the Chief Secretary of a state exercises direct administrative control over all the departments of the State Secretariat.
3. The Chief Secretary of each state within a Zonal Council acts as the Secretary to that Council on a rotational basis for a period of two year.

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

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

#### Correct Answer: (a)

#### Explanation

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** The post of Chief Secretary was created by Lord Wellesley in 1799 for the then Supreme Government in India. In the modern context, the Chief Secretary is the head of the state's civil services and serves as the ex-officio Chairman of the State Civil Services Board, which oversees transfers and postings of IAS officers.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** This is a key conceptual distinction. The Cabinet Secretary at the Union level is considered primus inter pares (first among equals) among secretaries and does not have direct administrative control over other Union Ministries. However, the Chief Secretary is the Secretary of Secretaries and the administrative head of the entire State Secretariat, exercising control over all departments.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** According to the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, the Zonal Council consists of a Chairman (Union Home Minister), Vice-Chairmen (CMs of the states by rotation), and members. The Chief Secretary of each state in the zone acts as the Secretary to the Council by rotation for a period of one year.

### 4. Consider the following statements regarding the Union Executive and its functioning:

1. Under Article 77, all executive actions of the Government of India are formally expressed to be taken in the name of the President, who also makes rules for the more convenient transaction of business.
2. The Vice-President of India, while acting as President, continues to exercise the power of casting a vote in the Rajya Sabha in the event of an equality of votes on a bill.
3. The Cabinet Secretariat is under the direct charge of the Prime Minister, yet its administrative head is a civil servant who is the senior-most member of the Indian Administrative Service.

#### 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: Correct.** This is a verbatim requirement of Article 77. It is the President who signs the Rules of Business, although the Cabinet Secretariat administers them.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** Under Article 64, when the Vice-President acts as President, he does not perform the duties of the office of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Since the power to cast a casting vote (Article 100) belongs to the Chairman/Speaker, the VP loses this power the moment he steps into the Presidential role. The Deputy Chairman would exercise that vote instead.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The Cabinet Secretariat is a department of the Government of India under the Prime Minister's portfolio. Its administrative head is the Cabinet Secretary, who is the ex-officio head of the Civil Services Board and the senior-most IAS officer in the country.

**5. Consider the following statements:**

1. The council of Ministers in the center shall be collectively responsible to the Parliament
2. The Union Ministers shall hold the office during the pleasure of the president of India
3. The Prime Minister shall communicate to the president about the proposals for legislation

**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: (b)**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** According to Article 75(3), the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible specifically to the Lok Sabha (the Lower House), not the Parliament as a whole. While the Parliament includes the Rajya Sabha and the President, the executive's survival depends solely on the confidence of the popularly elected House.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** Under **Article 75(2)**, Union Ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President. This is a constitutional formality; in practice, the President exercises this pleasure only on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** According to Article 78, it is the constitutional duty of the Prime Minister to communicate to the President all decisions of the Council of Ministers relating to the administration of the affairs of the Union and proposals for legislation.

**6. Regarding the administrative framework of the Union Government, consider the following statements:**

1. The Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 are framed by the President under Article 77 for the convenient transaction of government business.
2. The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for ensuring that the President and Vice-President are kept informed of major ministerial decisions through monthly summaries.
3. The Cabinet Secretary, while being the senior-most civil servant, holds a fixed tenure of five years to ensure administrative continuity.

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

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Article 77(3) empowers the President to make these rules.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** This is a specific administrative function of the Secretariat to facilitate the President's right to information under Article 78.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** The Cabinet Secretary does not have a fixed 5-year tenure. The tenure is generally 2 years, which can be extended up to a maximum of 4 years (as per All India Services Rules).

**7. To the Constitution of India, it is the duty of the President of India to cause to be laid before the Parliament which of the following?**

1. The Recommendations of the Union Finance Commission
2. The Report of the Public Accounts Committee
3. The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General
4. The Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes

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

- a) 1 Only  
b) 2 & 4 Only  
c) 1, 3 & 4 Only  
d) 1, 2, 3 & 4

**Correct Answer: (c)**

**Explanation**

The President acts as the constitutional conduit through which various reports of high-level bodies reach the Parliament. However, not all reports follow this path.

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** Under Article 281, the President is constitutionally mandated to cause the recommendations made by the Finance Commission to be laid before each House of Parliament, along with an explanatory memorandum on action taken.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is a Parliamentary Committee. Its report is submitted directly to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha (or Chairman of the Rajya Sabha), not to the President. Therefore, the President is not involved in laying this report before Parliament.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** Under Article 151, the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) relating to the accounts of the Union are submitted to the President, who then causes them to be laid before each House of Parliament.
- **Statement 4 is Correct:** Under Article 338(6), the National Commission for Scheduled Castes submits its annual report to the President, who is then duty-bound to cause it to be laid before each House of Parliament.

**8. Consider the following statements regarding the specialized funds managed by the Union Government:**

1. The PMNRF (National Relief Fund) is constituted entirely of voluntary contributions and does not receive any budgetary support, yet it has been granted the status of a Public Authority under the RTI Act by the Supreme Court.
2. The National Defence Fund (NDF) is an interest-bearing account kept with the RBI, intended for the promotion of national defence efforts, and is currently audited by the CAG.

3. Contributions to PM CARES are categorized as CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) expenditure, and unlike the PMNRF, it has received a specific exemption from all provisions of the FCRA, 2010.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** While PMNRF is voluntary and receives no budget support, its status as a Public Authority under the RTI Act remains a matter of legal dispute (the Delhi High Court gave a split verdict, and the matter is not yet settled as Public Authority).
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** NDF is indeed kept with the RBI and is audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** PM CARES is eligible for CSR credit under the Companies Act and is exempt from FCRA regulations regarding foreign donations.

**9. With reference to the Indian Parliamentary System, consider the following statements:**

1. The principle of Collective Responsibility (Article 75) is a functional requirement where the Cabinet's united front is legally enforceable in a court of law.
2. Individual Responsibility ensures that the President can dismiss a Minister even if the Council of Ministers enjoys the confidence of the Lok Sabha, provided the Prime Minister advises such a dismissal.
3. In the event of a defeat of a Government Bill in the Rajya Sabha, the Council of Ministers is constitutionally obligated to resign to uphold the principle of collective responsibility.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** Collective responsibility is a political/parliamentary convention and a constitutional requirement (Art 75), but it is not legally enforceable in a court of law. No court can compel a minister to resign based on this principle.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** This is the essence of Individual Responsibility. Ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President, but this pleasure is exercised only on the PM's advice.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** The Council is responsible only to the Lok Sabha. A defeat in the Rajya Sabha does not require the government to resign.

**10. Regarding the evolution and status of the PMO, consider the following statements:**

1. The PMO was accorded the status of a Department of the Government of India under the Allocation of Business Rules, 1961, effectively placing it on the same legal footing as a Ministry.
2. The Principal Secretary to the PM is the administrative head of the PMO, whereas the Cabinet Secretary serves as the senior-most coordinator for inter-ministerial disputes.
3. The PMO is a statutory body created through the Prime Minister's Secretariat (Change of Name) Act, 1977.

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

- (a) Only one  
(b) Only two

- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Correct Answer: (b)**

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** Under the 1961 Rules, the PMO is technically a Department.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** This reflects the dual-track system: the Principal Secretary manages the PM's immediate office, while the Cabinet Secretary manages the broader bureaucracy.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** The PMO is **neither constitutional nor statutory**. It was renamed by an executive order/notification in 1977, not an Act of Parliament.

## Union and State Legislature

**1. Consider the following statements regarding the Speaker of the Lok Sabha:**

1. To ensure the independence of the office, the Speaker must formally resign from their political party upon election, as mandated by the Constitution.
2. A resolution for the removal of the Speaker requires a majority of all the then members of the House, rather than a simple majority of those present and voting.
3. The Speaker does not vacate their office upon the dissolution of the Lok Sabha but continues until the first meeting of the new House.

**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: (b)**

**Statement 1: Incorrect.** While the 10th Schedule allows the Speaker to resign without being disqualified, the Constitution does not mandate it. In India, Speakers usually remain members of their party.

**Statement 2: Correct.** This refers to an Effective Majority (Total strength minus vacancies). **Statement 3: Correct.** Under Article 94, the Speaker is the only officer who does not lose their job the moment the House is dissolved.

**2. With reference to the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:**

1. The deciding authority for disqualification is the Presiding Officer of the House, and their decision is final and beyond judicial review.
2. The term 'Political Party' was absent from the original text of the Constitution and was first introduced via the 52nd Amendment Act.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 Incorrect;** the Kihoto Hollohan case (1992) established that the Speaker's decision is subject to judicial review.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The Constitution originally dealt with Members, not Parties. The term was legally injected only via the 52nd Amendment (1985).

**3. Which of the following statements accurately reflects the constitutional procedure for a Money Bill?**

1. The Speaker's decision on whether a bill is a Money Bill is final and cannot be questioned in a court of law.
2. If the Rajya Sabha does not return a Money Bill within 14 days, it is deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the form it was originally passed by the Lok Sabha.
3. The Rajya Sabha has the power to suggest amendments, but the Lok Sabha is under no legal obligation to accept them.

**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:**

**Statement 1: Correct.** Under Article 110(3), the Speaker's certificate is the ultimate authority. It is a Procedural Safeguard to prevent the Rajya Sabha from blocking financial legislation.

**Statement 2: Correct:** This highlights the secondary role of the Rajya Sabha in money matters (Article 109).

**Statement 3: Correct:** This emphasizes the Asymmetric Power in Indian bicameralism regarding the purse.

**4. With reference to the Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements:**

1. The Committee was originally constituted as an ad-hoc committee before becoming a permanent standing committee.
2. A complaint against a member can only be filed by another member of the Lok Sabha.
3. The Committee is barred from investigating any matter that is currently sub-judice in a court of law.

**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: Correct:** It became a permanent part of the Lok Sabha Rules only in 2015.

**Statement 2: Incorrect:** Any outsider can complain, but the procedure requires a Member to sponsor/route that complaint to the Speaker.

**Statement 3: Correct:** Parliamentary committees generally avoid parallel trials with the Judiciary to maintain the Separation of Powers.

**5. While a resolution for the removal of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is under consideration, which of the following applies?**

1. He/She is barred from presiding over the sitting but has the right to be present and speak in the House.
2. He/She can vote in the first instance on the resolution but cannot vote in the case of an equality of votes.
3. He/She is not considered a Member of the House for the duration of the proceedings.

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

- (a) 1 only

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is Correct:** Art 96, being under trial by the House removes authority to lead but not right as a representative to defend himself.

**Statement 2 is Correct:** Usually, the Speaker only votes in a tie (Casting Vote). But when their own removal is discussed, they vote like a normal member (First Instance) to ensure they have a say in their fate.

**Statement 3 is Incorrect:** He/She is a Member of the House for the duration of the proceedings

**6. In the context of the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, which of the following scenarios would result in the lapsing of a Bill?**

1. A Bill passed by the Rajya Sabha but still pending in the Lok Sabha.
2. A Bill passed by the Lok Sabha but still pending in the Rajya Sabha.
3. A Bill pending in the Rajya Sabha that has not yet been passed by the Lok Sabha.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

According to Article 107:

- (3) A Bill pending in Parliament shall not lapse by reason of the prorogation of the Houses.
- (4) A Bill pending in the Council of States which has not been passed by the House of the People shall not lapse on a dissolution of the House of the People.
- (5) A Bill which is pending in the House of the People, or which having been passed by the House of the People is pending in the Council of States, shall, subject to the provisions of article 108, lapse on a dissolution of the House of the People.
- Further, according Article 108 (5) A joint sitting may be held under this article and a Bill passed thereat, notwithstanding that a dissolution of the House of the People has intervened since the President notified his intention to summon the Houses to meet therein.

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

1. The President can prorogue a House even while it is in session, although it is typically done after an adjournment sine die.
2. The dissolution of the Lok Sabha is a discretionary power of the President that does not require the advice of the Council of Ministers under any circumstances.
3. Prorogation terminates a session, whereas adjournment only terminates a sitting of the House.

**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: (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 Correct:** The President has the power to end a session at any time. Usually, they wait for the Presiding Officer to adjourn sine die.

**Statement 2 Incorrect.** The President usually acts on the advice of the CoM for dissolution, except when the CoM has lost its majority and no alternative government is feasible.

**Statement 3 Correct.** Termination of a session of the House by an Order by the President under the constitutional provision is called 'prorogation'. Prorogation normally follows the adjournment of the sitting of the House sine die.

**8. With reference to Finance Bill (Category I) and Money Bill, consider the following statements:**

1. Both Bills require the prior recommendation of the President for introduction.
2. Both Bills can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha.
3. While a joint sitting is not permissible for a Money Bill, it is a valid mechanism to resolve a deadlock over a Finance Bill (I).

**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:**

**Statement 1 & 2: Correct.** Both are treated like Money Bills for introduction purposes to ensure the Executive controls the start of fiscal policy.

**Statement 3: Correct.** Finance Bill (I) is a hybrid—it starts like a Money Bill but is treated like an Ordinary Bill for passage, allowing the two Houses to sit together if they disagree. Finance Bill (I) contains matters of Art 110 but also other matters of general legislation, thus allowing a joint sitting.

**9. Which of the following is/are the exclusive power(s) of the Lok Sabha?**

1. To pass a resolution for the discontinuance of a National Emergency.
2. To initiate the procedure for the impeachment of the President of India.
3. To pass a motion of no-confidence against the Council of Ministers.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1: Correct.** While approving an Emergency requires both Houses, stopping it (Art 352) only requires a simple majority in the Lok Sabha.

**Statement 2: Incorrect.** Impeachment is a quasi-judicial power where both Houses have equal standing (Article 61).

**Statement 3: Correct.** The Lok Sabha holds the exclusive power to pass a no-confidence motion against the Council of Ministers, as they are collectively responsible only to this House under Article 75(3) of the Indian Constitution.

**10. With reference to the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements:**

1. The date of the election of the Deputy Speaker is fixed by the President of India.
2. When the Deputy Speaker presides over the House, they can exercise a casting vote in the case of a tie, just like the Speaker.
3. There is a constitutional mandate that the Deputy Speaker must be elected from the largest opposition party.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1: Incorrect:** The President fixes the Speaker's election date, but the Speaker fixes the Deputy Speaker's election date.

**Statement 2: Correct:** There is no appeal to the Speaker against a Deputy Speaker's ruling; they are the House while in the Chair.

**Statement 3: Incorrect:** it is a parliamentary convention (since the 11th LS), not a constitutional mandate.

## Cabinet Committees and Parliament

**1. Consider the following statements regarding Cabinet Committees:**

1. They are extra-constitutional bodies established under the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961.
2. While the Prime Minister sets them up according to the exigencies of the time, their nomenclature and number remain constant across different governments.
3. Ad hoc committees are constituted for special purposes and are disbanded after their task is completed, whereas Standing Committees are permanent in nature.

**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 Correct:** They are not mentioned in the Constitution but are created under the Transaction of Business Rules, 1961.

- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The PM sets them up, but the number, nomenclature, and composition vary from one government to another depending on the requirement.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** This is the standard definition of Standing (permanent) vs. Ad hoc (temporary) committees.

**2. With reference to Cabinet Committees in Indian polity, consider the following statements:**

1. All the Cabinet Committees are chaired by the Prime Minister.
2. Currently, there are twenty-four Cabinet Committees functioning in India.

3. No Cabinet Committee can take any binding decisions on any ministries/ departments without the approval of the full Cabinet.

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

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

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Most (not all) of the Cabinet Committees are chaired by the Prime Minister. Especially those cabinet committees of which PM is a part, he/she is the chairman by default. However, other important Ministers like those of Finance or Home are also chairman of some important Cabinet Committees, for example the cabinet committee on Parliamentary Affairs is chaired by the Home Minister.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** As of 2022, there are eight Cabinet committees functioning namely:

- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet
- Cabinet Committee on Accommodation
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
- Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs
- Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs
- Cabinet Committee on Security
- Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth
- Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** Cabinet committee is a group of ministers which can take collective decisions that are binding across various ministries/departments. Cabinet Committees do make recommendations for the Cabinet to act upon, however, some of the Cabinet committees are also empowered to take decisions on their own. The decisions of Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs or the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs is quite final and does not need the approval of the full Cabinet.

**3. Which of the following matters does the Rajya Sabha have equal powers with the Lok Sabha?**

- 1. Constitutional Amendment Bills.
- 2. Election of President.
- 3. Removing Union Ministers.
- 4. Approving Proclamation of Emergencies.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

• **Statement 1, 2, 4 are Correct:** In amending the Constitution, electing the President, and approving emergencies, both houses have equal power.

- **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** Ministers are collectively responsible only to the Lok Sabha (Art 75). Rajya Sabha cannot remove them via a No-Confidence Motion.

**4. With reference to the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), consider the following statements:**

1. MPLADS funds are non-lapsable, meaning funds not released in a particular year are carried forward to the next.
2. At least 15% of the annual entitlement must be used for areas inhabited by SC population and 7.5% for ST population.
3. The District Authority must inspect at least 10% of the works under implementation every year.

**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:** All statements are factual requirements of the MPLADS guidelines. The scheme is currently under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

- **Non-lapsable Nature:** MPLADS funds are uniquely categorized as non-lapsable at both the Central Government and District Authority levels. This means that any unspent balance or funds not released in a particular financial year do not expire; instead, they are carried forward to subsequent years for utilization.
- **SC/ST Population Allocation:** To ensure inclusive development, the scheme mandates that Members of Parliament (MPs) recommend works costing at least 15% of their annual entitlement for areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes (SC) and 7.5% for areas inhabited by Scheduled Tribes (ST).
- **Mandatory Inspection:** For effective monitoring and accountability, the District Authority (typically the District Collector or Magistrate) is responsible for inspecting at least 10% of the works under implementation every year.

**5. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 exempts several posts from disqualification on the grounds of Office of Profit.
2. The above-mentioned Act has been amended five times since its inception.
3. The term Office of Profit is explicitly defined under Article 102 of the Constitution of India.

**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: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 specifies certain offices that, even if they are under the government, do not disqualify their holders from being Members of Parliament. It includes roles like Ministers, Leaders of Opposition, and Chairpersons of certain Commissions.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Since its inception in 1959, the Act has been amended five times (specifically in 1960, 1992, 1993, 2006, and 2013) to expand or modify the list of exempted offices.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** The Constitution mentions Office of Profit as a disqualification (Art 102 for MP, Art 191 for MLA) but does not define the term. Definitions have evolved through judicial interpretations.

**6. With reference to the Legislative Council of a State in India, consider the following statements:**

1. While the maximum strength of the Council is fixed by the Constitution at one-third of the total strength of the Assembly, its specific actual strength is determined by the Parliament.
2. The Chairman of the Legislative Council is elected by the members of the Council from amongst themselves, yet the Governor possesses the power to remove the Chairman on the grounds of proven misbehavior.
3. In the event of a deadlock between the two Houses over an ordinary bill, the Legislative Council can delay the bill for a maximum period of four months, after which the will of the Assembly prevails.

**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 Correct:** Article 171 specifies the limit (maximum 1/3rd of the Assembly, minimum 40). However, the actual strength of a specific states Council is laid down by an Act of Parliament (e.g., the Legislative Councils Act).
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** While the Chairman is indeed elected by the members (not nominated by the Governor), the removal process is also internal. The Chairman is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the Council. The Governor has no role in the removal of the Chairman.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** This highlights the weak nature of the Council compared to the Rajya Sabha. The Council can delay a bill for 3 months in the first instance and 1 month in the second instance (Total 4 months). There is no provision for a joint sitting at the state level; if the Assembly passes the bill again, it is deemed passed.

**7. With reference to the Legislative Assembly of a State in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Governor makes a mandatory customary address to Members of the House at the commencement of the first session after each general election and the first session of every year.
2. In the absence of a specific rule on a matter, the State Legislature is constitutionally bound to follow the Rules of Procedure of the Lok Sabha.

**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:** This is analogous to the Presidents address to Parliament (Art 176).
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** Each house of the legislature has the power to make its own rules (Art 208). While they often model them on Lok Sabha rules, there is no constitutional mandate to follow them in case of a vacuum.

**8. In India, which of the following bodies/mechanisms review the functioning of independent regulators like PFRDA, IBBI, AERA, and PNGRB?**

1. Ad Hoc Committees appointed by the Parliament.

2. Parliamentary Standing Committees.
3. NITI Aayog.
4. Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission (FSLRC).
5. Finance Commission.

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

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 3, and 4
- (c) 2, 4, and 5
- (d) 2 only

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:** Statutory regulators are primarily reviewed by the Parliament through its Standing Committees and occasionally by Ad Hoc Committees. NITI Aayog is a policy think tank, and the Finance Commission deals with tax revenue distribution.

**Key Independent Regulators in India:**

- **Finance & Markets:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) (Banking), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (Capital Markets), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) (Insurance), Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) (Pension), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- **Infrastructure & Utilities:** Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) (Telecom), Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) (Electricity), Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA), Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).
- **General Regulation:** Competition Commission of India (CCI) (Monopolies), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) (Food Safety), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) (Aviation).

**9. Regarding a Money Bill, which of the following statements is NOT correct?**

- (a) A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and not in the Rajya Sabha.
- (b) The Rajya Sabha can neither reject nor amend a Money Bill; it can only make recommendations.
- (c) If any question arises whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not, the decision of the President of India is final.
- (d) A Money Bill is deemed to have been passed by both Houses if the Rajya Sabha does not return it within 14 days.

**Correct Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

The decision of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is final, not the President.

**10. Consider the following statements:**

1. In the first Lok Sabha, the single largest party in the opposition was the Communist Party of India (CPI).
2. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha received statutory recognition for the first time in 1977.
3. To be recognized as the Leader of the Opposition, a party must have at least one-tenth (10%) of the total strength of the House.

**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:**

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** CPI was the largest opposition party in 1952.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** While a leader was recognized in 1969, the **statutory** recognition (salary and allowances act) came in 1977.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** The 10% rule (55 members in Lok Sabha) is the numerical requirement for recognition. (UPSC 2018 PYQ theme).

## 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
<b>I. Calling Attention Motion</b>	Procedure to seek an authoritative statement from a Minister; no voting follows.
<b>II. Adjournment Motion</b>	Requires the support of 50 members to be admitted; involves an element of censure.
<b>III. Censure Motion</b>	Can be moved against an individual minister; if passed, the Council of Ministers must resign.

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<b>IV. Zero Hour</b>	An informal Indian innovation not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure.
<b>V. Special Mention</b>	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:**

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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:**

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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?**

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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.

## 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:**

- **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:**

- (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.
2. 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?**

1. Arbitration
2. Conciliation
3. Judicial Settlement through Lok Adalat
4. 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:**

1. Article 323A empowers both Parliament and State Legislatures to establish administrative tribunals for public service matters.
2. 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
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.

## Panchayati Raj and Local Governance

**1. With reference to the history of local self-governance in India, which of the following events occurred earliest?**

- (a) The issuance of Lord Ripon's Resolution on local self-government.
- (b) The appointment of the Royal Commission on Decentralisation.
- (c) The establishment of the first Municipal Corporation in India at Madras.
- (d) The enactment of the first Cantonments Act by the British.

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Madras Municipal Corporation:** Established in 1688 (First in India).
  - **Lord Ripon's Resolution: 1882** (Ripon is known as the Father of Local Self-Government).
  - **Royal Commission on Decentralisation: 1907** (Chaired by C.E.H. Hobhouse).
  - **Cantonments Act:** While various regulations existed, the major comprehensive Act was in **1924**.

**2. Consider the following statements regarding the duration of Municipalities under the 74th Amendment Act, 1992:**

- 1. Every municipality is provided a five-year term from the date of its first meeting.
- 2. A municipality constituted upon the dissolution of an existing one before its full term shall continue only for the remainder of the period.

**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:**

As per Article 243U. If a municipality is dissolved, elections must be held within 6 months. The new body does not get a fresh 5-year term; it only serves the remaining time of the dissolved body.

**3. With reference to Municipal Corporations in India, consider the following statements:**

- 1. They are created for the administration of large cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata.
- 2. The administration of all Municipal Corporations within a single state is governed by one common uniform Act.
- 3. Every Municipal Corporation consists of three distinct authorities: the Council, the Standing Committees, and the Commissioner.

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

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** They are meant for large urban areas.

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- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Municipal Corporations are created by special acts of state legislatures (or Parliament for UTs). There is often a separate act for each major corporation (e.g., the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** These three authorities form the organizational core.

### 4. Consider the following statements regarding the authorities of a Municipal Corporation:

1. The Council is headed by a Mayor, who serves as the chief executive officer of the corporation.
2. Standing Committees are established to handle specific functions like health or education because the Council is too large for detailed deliberation.
3. The Municipal Commissioner is generally a member of the IAS and is appointed by the State Government.

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

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Mayor is the formal head and presiding officer of the Council, but the Municipal Commissioner is the executive head (Chief Executive).
- **Statements 2 and 3 are correct:** Standing Committees deal with working details, and the Commissioner is the state-appointed executive authority.

### 5. Consider the following statements regarding the composition of Municipalities:

1. All seats in a municipality are filled by persons chosen by direct election from the territorial constituencies.
2. A member of the Rajya Sabha registered as an elector within the state is automatically a member of all municipalities within that state.

**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:** Direct election is the mandatory constitutional requirement for seats.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The State Legislature *may* provide for the representation of MP/MLAs in a municipality, but it is not automatic. Furthermore, a Rajya Sabha member would only be represented in a municipality where they are registered as an elector, not any or all municipalities in the state.

### 6. With reference to the District Planning Committee (DPC) under Article 243ZD, consider the following statements:

1. Its primary mandate is to consolidate the developmental plans prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the district.
2. One-fifth of the DPC are indirectly elected by the elected members of the district's Panchayats and Municipalities.
3. The Constitution mandates that the District Collector shall be the ex-officio Chairperson of the DPC.

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

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** This is the core functional definition of the DPC.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Only four-fifths (80%) of the members are elected by the local body members. The remaining members are nominated as per state law.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The manner of choosing the Chairperson is decided by the State Legislature. It is not constitutionally mandated to be the Collector.

**7. Which of the following matters are included in the 12th Schedule of the Constitution of India, which lists the functional items for Municipalities?**

1. Regulation of land-use and construction of buildings.
2. Roads and bridges.
3. Vital statistics including registration of births and deaths.
4. Regulation of slaughterhouses and tanneries.

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

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:** All four items are among the 18 functional items listed in the 12th Schedule (Article 243W) introduced by the 74th Amendment Act.

**8. Consider the following statements regarding the administration of Municipalities:**

1. The State Legislature may authorize a municipality to levy, collect, and appropriate specific taxes and duties.
2. The audit of municipal accounts is conducted directly by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.
3. The State Election Commission is responsible for the conduct of all elections to the municipalities.

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

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under Article 243X.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Article 243Z states that the State Legislature makes provisions for the maintenance and auditing of accounts. The CAG is not mandated by the 74th Amendment to audit them directly, though some states may involve the AG.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Article 243ZA vests the power of municipal elections in the State Election Commission.

**9. Consider the following statements regarding the 74th Amendment Act:**

1. The provisions of the Act do not automatically apply to the Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas mentioned in Article 244.
2. Courts are barred from interfering in the validity of any law relating to the delimitation of constituencies or the allotment of seats to such constituencies.

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

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct (Article 243ZC):** The act doesn't apply to Scheduled/Tribal areas or the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.
  - **Statement 2 is correct (Article 243ZG):** This bar on court interference is intended to prevent delays in the election process.

**10. With reference to the reservation of seats in Municipalities (Article 243T), which of the following statements is correct?**

- (a) Seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in a fixed ratio of 15% and 7.5% respectively.
- (b) The reservation for women must be at least one-half of the total number of seats.
- (c) The provision of reservation for the offices of Chairpersons for SCs and STs is left to the discretion of the State Legislature.
- (d) The Constitution provides for the mandatory reservation of seats for Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **(a) is incorrect:** Reservation for SC/ST is in proportion to their population in the municipal area.
- **(b) is incorrect:** The minimum reservation for women is one-third, not one-half.
- **(c) is correct:** While seat reservation for SC/ST/Women is mandatory, the reservation for the offices of Chairpersons for SC/ST is determined by the State Legislature.
- **(d) is incorrect:** OBC reservation is voluntary (discretionary) for the state legislature.

## Municipality and Special Provisions in Constitution

**1. Consider the following statements regarding the Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC):**

1. It is a constitutional body mandated by Article 243ZD for every metropolitan area having a population of 10 lakhs or more.
2. Two-thirds of the members of an MPC are elected by the elected members of the Municipalities and Chairpersons of the Panchayats in that metropolitan area.
3. The committee is responsible for preparing the draft development plan for the metropolitan area and forwarding it to the State Government.

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

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Detailed Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Article 243ZE mandates the creation of MPCs in large urban clusters (10 Lakh+ population).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Constitution specifies the 2/3rd elective quota from local bodies (Panchayats and Municipalities) in proportion to the population ratio.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Its primary output is a "Draft Development Plan" which considers shared priorities between local bodies.

**2. Consider the following statements regarding the financial resources of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in India:**

1. Internal Revenue of a municipality consists exclusively of tax revenues such as property tax and profession tax.
2. Devolution refers to the mandatory sharing of net proceeds of state taxes with municipalities based on recommendations 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

**Answer: (b)**

**Detailed Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Internal revenue includes Non-Tax Revenue as well, such as user charges (water, sanitation), rent from municipal properties, and fees for building plans.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Devolution is a top-down transfer of funds from the State's consolidated fund to local bodies, as mandated by the State Finance Commission.

**3. With reference to the Central Council of Local Government, consider the following statements:**

1. It was established by an order of the President of India under Article 263 of the Constitution.
2. It is an advisory body chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
3. Its composition includes the Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs and the State Ministers for Local Self-Government.

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

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Detailed Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It was established in 1954 under Article 263 (Inter-State Council provisions).

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is chaired by the Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs (formerly the Minister for Local Self-Government).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It serves as a coordinating body between the Centre and States regarding urban and local issues.

**4. Consider the following statements regarding Co-operative Societies in India:**

1. The subject of Co-operative Societies falls under the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule.
2. They are defined as democratic organizations where members participate in policy formulation and decision-making.
3. The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011 elevated them to a status similar to Panchayati Raj Institutions.

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

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Detailed Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Co-operative societies is a **State Subject** (Entry 32 of the State List). Only Multi-State Cooperatives fall under the Union List.
- **Statements 2 & 3 are correct:** They are recognized as voluntary, member-controlled institutions and were given constitutional protection via the 97th Amendment.

**5. The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act made which of the following changes to the Constitution of India?**

1. It added Co-operative Societies after unions in Article 19(1)(c), making the right to form them a Fundamental Right.
2. It inserted a new Directive Principle of State Policy (Article 43B) for the promotion of co-operative societies.
3. It added a new Part IX-B to the Constitution containing Articles 243ZH to 243ZT.

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

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Detailed Explanation:**

All three statements accurately describe the components of the 97th Amendment. It aimed to provide professional management and democratic control to cooperatives.

**6. Consider the following statements regarding the Board of Directors of a Co-operative Society under Part IX-B:**

1. The maximum number of directors in a co-operative society shall not exceed 21.
2. The term of office of elected members of the board is five years from the date of election.
3. The State Legislature must provide for the reservation of two seats for women and one seat for SCs/STs on the board.

**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)**

**Detailed Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 243ZJ fixes the cap at 21.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The term is 5 years, and elections must be completed before the term expiry.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** This reservation is mandatory for boards having individuals as members.

**7. Regarding the governance of Co-operative Societies, consider the following:**

1. The Board of a co-operative society can be kept under suspension for an indefinite period if it fails to conduct elections.
2. Every co-operative society must get its accounts audited within six months of the close of the financial year.
3. The provisions of Part IX-B apply to Multi-State Co-operative societies with the modification that State Government is read as Central Government.

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

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Detailed Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The maximum period of suspension is **6 months** (1 year for Co-operative Banks). Indefinite suspension is not permitted.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Audit and General Body meetings must be conducted within 6 months of the financial year end.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Article 243ZR ensures the same principles apply to Multi-State Cooperatives under Central jurisdiction.

**8. Consider the following statements with regard to the Anti-Defection Law:**

1. The Presiding Officer of the House can take suo moto cognisance of a member's defection to initiate disqualification.
2. As per the Tenth Schedule, the Presiding Officer must decide on a disqualification petition within a fixed period of three months.
3. The Supreme Court in the Kihoto Hollohan case (1992) held that the Speaker acts as a tribunal, and the decision is subject to judicial review.

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

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Detailed Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is NOT correct:** The Presiding Officer cannot act suo moto. A petition must be filed by another member of the House.
- **Statement 2 is NOT correct:** The Tenth Schedule prescribes no time limit. However, the Supreme Court has recently observed that it should ideally be decided within 3 months.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Speaker's decision is final but open to judicial review on grounds of mala fides or perversity.

**9. With regard to the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements:**

1. All members of the Lok Sabha are directly elected on the basis of Universal Adult Suffrage.
2. The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha among the States and UTs.
3. The Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023, provides for 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha.

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

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Detailed Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Post-removal of Anglo-Indian nominations, all members are now directly elected.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Fourth Schedule deals with seat allocation in the **Rajya Sabha**, not the Lok Sabha.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam reserves 1/3rd of seats for women for a period of 15 years.

**10. Consider the following situations involving a Member of Parliament:**

1. A member resigns from their political party after being elected as the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha.
2. An independent member joins a political party six months after taking their seat.
3. A nominated member joins a political party four months after becoming a member.
4. A member voluntarily gives up party membership because their party merged with another party (supported by 2/3rd members).

**How many of the above situations will attract disqualification under the Tenth Schedule?**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Detailed Explanation:**

- **Situation 1: No Disqualification.** Speakers/Deputy Speakers are exempt if they resign to maintain neutrality.
- **Situation 2: Attracts Disqualification.** An independent member cannot join any party.
- **Situation 3: Attracts Disqualification.** A nominated member must join a party within 6 months.
- **Situation 4: No Disqualification.** Mergers with 2/3rd majority are exempt.

## Special Provisions in Constitution

**1. The bifurcated constitutional status of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) was established by which amendment?**

- (a) 65th Constitutional Amendment Act
- (b) 89th Constitutional Amendment Act
- (c) 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act
- (d) 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

Originally, Article 338 provided for a combined commissioner. The 89th Amendment Act of 2003 bifurcated the combined National Commission for SCs and STs into two separate bodies: The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (Article 338) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (Article 338-A).

**2. Autonomous Districts can be established under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution in how many of the following states?**

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

**Select the correct answer:**

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

The Sixth Schedule (Article 244(2)) applies specifically 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 Article 371A). Autonomous District Councils (ADCs), have much higher autonomy than the 5th Schedule areas. They can make laws on land, forests, and inheritance, and even have their own regional courts.

**3. Consider the following statements regarding the legislative powers over Union Territories (UTs):**

- 1. Parliament has the power to legislate on any subject in any of the three lists, including the State List, for the Union Territories.
- 2. In UTs with a local legislature, a law made by the local assembly automatically prevails over a Parliamentary law in case of a conflict regarding a State List subject.

**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 Article 246(4), grants Parliament the power to legislate on any subject—including those in the State List—for any part of India not included in a State, such as Union Territories.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Because the legislative power of Parliament over UTs is supreme. Even if a UT has its own legislature (like Delhi or Puducherry), Parliamentary law prevails over the local law in case of inconsistency.

**4. With reference to the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, consider the following statements:**

1. The power to declare an area as a "Scheduled Area" and alter its boundaries rests with the President of India.
2. The Governor of the state is empowered to direct that a particular Act of Parliament or the State Legislature does not apply to a Scheduled Area.
3. The jurisdiction of the High Court is excluded from Scheduled Areas to protect tribal customs.

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

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Presidential prerogative.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Governor's discretionary power in 5th Schedule areas.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** The High Court and Supreme Court maintain full jurisdiction over Scheduled Areas just like any other part of the state.

**5. Regarding the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996, which of the following are mandatory provisions?**

1. Reservation of the post of Chairperson at all levels of Panchayats for Scheduled Tribes.
2. Granting ownership of Minor Forest Produce to the Gram Sabha or Panchayats.
3. Mandatory consultation with the Gram Sabha before land acquisition for development projects.

**Select the correct answer:**

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

PESA was enacted to "extend" the 73rd Amendment to 5th Schedule areas with modifications to protect tribal interests.

**Statement 1 is correct:** The 73rd Amendment (Panchayati Raj) didn't automatically apply to 5th Schedule areas to protect tribal customs. PESA was enacted to bridge this.

**Statement 2 is correct:** To ensure tribal leadership isn't diluted, all Chairperson posts (at all levels) must be reserved for Scheduled Tribes.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Gram Sabha empowered to manage local resources, prevent land alienation, and manage Minor Forest Produce.

**6. Which of the following amendments require ratification by the legislatures of at least half of the states?**

1. Changes to the Seventh Schedule (Distribution of legislative powers).
2. Amendment of Fundamental Rights.
3. Changes to the representation of states in Parliament (Fourth Schedule).
4. Admission or establishment of new states (First Schedule).

**Select the correct answer:**

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

Under Article 368, amendments affecting the federal character of the Constitution require state ratification. This includes the Seventh Schedule (List 1) and Fourth Schedule (List 3). Fundamental Rights (List 2) require a special majority but *not* state ratification. Admission of new states (List 4) is done by a simple majority and is not deemed an amendment under Article 368.

**7. Which part of the Constitution of India contains the specific provision for the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive?**

- (a) Article 14 under Fundamental Rights
- (b) Article 50 under Directive Principles of State Policy
- (c) Seventh Schedule under the Union List
- (d) Article 123 under the Legislative Powers of the President

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

Article 50 of the DPSP directs the State to take steps to separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State. This is a crucial feature for ensuring the independence of the judiciary.

**8. Consider the following statements regarding the official languages of the States in India:**

1. A State Legislature can only adopt a language as its official language if it is already included in the Eighth Schedule.
2. The State Legislature has the authority to choose any one or more languages used in the state as its official language.

**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:** A state is not restricted to the Eighth Schedule; for example, Kokborok is an official language in Tripura but is not in the 8th Schedule.

**Statement 2 is correct:** as per Article 345; A State Legislature is free to adopt any language as its official language, even if that language is not part of the 22 languages in the 8th Schedule.

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

1. It was introduced during the Prime Ministership of Jawaharlal Nehru to protect land reform laws.
2. Currently, any law placed in the Ninth Schedule enjoys absolute immunity from judicial review.
3. Adding a law to the Ninth Schedule requires a Constitutional Amendment.

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

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Added by the 1st Amendment (1951) by Jawaharlal Nehru to prevent land reform laws from being tied up in court.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** the Supreme Court in the I.R. Coelho case (2007) ruled that laws placed in the 9th Schedule after April 24, 1973, are open to judicial review if they violate the "Basic Structure."

**Statement 3 is correct:** since the Schedule itself is part of the Constitution, adding items to it requires an amendment.

**10. Which of the following languages is NOT recognized under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India?**

- (a) Konkani
- (b) Santhali
- (c) English
- (d) Sindhi

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

Despite being an official subsidiary language of the Union and the primary language of the higher judiciary, English is not among the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule. Konkani was added by the 71st Amendment; Santhali by the 92nd; and Sindhi by the 21st.

## Special Provisions in Constitution

**1. Consider the following statements regarding the Basic Structure of the Constitution:**

1. A Constitutional Amendment that places a law in the Ninth Schedule can be challenged if it violates the basic structure.
2. Ordinary legislation enacted by Parliament is immune from being challenged on the grounds of violating the basic structure.

**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:** In the I.R. Coelho vs. State of Tamil Nadu (2007) case, the Supreme Court ruled that while the Ninth Schedule provides a protective umbrella, any law added to it after April 24, 1973 (the date of the Kesavananda Bharati judgment) is subject to judicial review. If it violates the "Basic Structure," it can be struck down.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The doctrine of Basic Structure applies to both Constitutional Amendments and ordinary laws. No act of the legislature can override the fundamental features of the Constitution.

**2. How can an amendment to any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule (Union, State, or Concurrent List) of the Constitution of India be initiated and enacted?**

- (a) By a majority of the total membership of each House of Parliament.
- (b) By a majority of the total membership of each House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting.
- (c) By a majority of the total membership of each House and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, followed by ratification by the Legislatures of not less than one-half of the States.
- (d) By a majority of the total membership of each House and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, followed by ratification by the Legislatures of not less than two-thirds of the States.

**Correct Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

Under Article 368, there are three categories of amendments. The one applicable to the Seventh Schedule requires:

1. **Special Majority in Parliament:** The bill must be passed in each House (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) by a majority of the total membership of that House AND by a majority of not less than **two-thirds** of the members of that House present and voting.
2. **State Ratification:** Since this amendment affects the powers of the States, it also requires the consent of the Legislatures of not less than one-half (50%) of the States by a simple resolution before the Bill is presented to the President for assent.

The Constitution only requires consent from one-half of the states, not two-thirds. Requiring two-thirds of the states would make the process unnecessarily rigid, whereas one-half ensures a sufficient federal consensus.

**3. With reference to the Council of States, consider the following statements:**

1. The allocation of seats to the States and Union Territories is governed by the provisions of the Fifth Schedule.
2. Representatives of each State are elected by the elected members of the Legislative Assembly through a system of proportional representation.

**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 Fourth Schedule explicitly lists the number of seats allocated to each State and Union Territory (based on population).

· **Statement 2 is correct:** Under Article 80, the election is indirect. Members of the State Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) use the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system to elect representatives to the Rajya Sabha.

**4. Consider the following statements regarding the evolution of tribal administration:**

1. The Sixth Schedule (Amendment) Act, 1988, introduced specific administrative modifications for the State of Assam.
2. The Sixth Schedule (Amendment) Act, 1995, applied modifications to the tribal areas of Tripura and Mizoram.

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

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

**Correct Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

The Sixth Schedule is dynamic. The 1988 Amendment provided more autonomy to District Councils in Assam (Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills). The 1995 Amendment similarly empowered the Autonomous District Councils in Mizoram (Chakma, Mara, and Lai districts) and Tripura (TTAADC) to improve self-governance.

**5. Which of the following were features of the Sixth Schedule (Amendment) Act, 2003?**

1. It included the Bodoland Territorial Areas District (BTAD) in the list of tribal areas for Assam.
2. It created the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) as an autonomous self-governing body.
3. It provided for legal safeguards to protect the rights of non-tribals in the BTC area.

**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 2003 Amendment was a result of the Bodo Accord. It established the BTC with wide-ranging legislative and executive powers. Unlike other Sixth Schedule areas, this amendment explicitly included safeguards to ensure that the land and property rights of non-tribal residents were not adversely affected by the new autonomous structure.

**6. The Fifth Schedule (Amendment) Act, 1976, provided which of the following powers to the President?**

1. The power to increase the area of a designated Scheduled Area in a state.
2. The power to redefine or rescind the boundaries of a Scheduled Area in consultation with the State Chief Minister.

**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 correct:** Administration of Scheduled Areas (5th Schedule) is a high-level executive function. The 1976 Amendment clarified that the President is the final authority for the spatial definition of these areas.
- **Statement 2 incorrect:** While the Governor reports on the administration, only the President can increase, decrease, or rescind the Scheduled status of an area. The President of India holds the power to redefine, increase, decrease, or rescind the boundaries of a Scheduled Area. This action is taken under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution and must be done in consultation with the Governor of the respective state, not specifically the Chief Minister

**7. Arrange the following events in their correct chronological order:**

1. Inclusion of the Ninth Schedule in the Constitution.
2. Reorganisation of the State of Punjab.
3. Formation of the first non-Congress government at the Centre.
4. Passing of the Anti-Defection Bill (52nd Amendment).

**Select the correct answer:**

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

1. **Ninth Schedule:** 1951 (1st Amendment Act).
2. **Punjab Reorganisation:** 1966 (Separation of Haryana and Punjab).
3. **First Non-Congress Govt:** 1977 (Morarji Desai - Janata Party).
4. **Anti-Defection Bill:** 1985 (52nd Amendment Act).

**8. Match List I (Schedule) with List II (Content) and select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

List-I (Schedule)	List-II (Content)
A. Third Schedule	1. Powers and responsibilities of Municipalities
B. Seventh Schedule	2. Distribution of powers between Union and States
C. Ninth Schedule	3. Forms of Oaths and Affirmations
D. Twelfth Schedule	4. Validation of certain Acts (Land Reforms)

**Codes (A-B-C-D):**

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation::**

1. **A-3:** The **Third Schedule** contains the forms of oath for Union/State ministers, MPs/MLAs, Judges, and the CAG.
2. **B-2:** The **Seventh Schedule** (Article 246) divides legislative subjects into the Union, State, and Concurrent Lists.

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3. **C-4:** The **Ninth Schedule** was added by the 1st Amendment (1951) primarily to protect land reform laws from judicial review.
4. **D-1:** The **Twelfth Schedule** (74th Amendment) lists 18 functional items for Urban Local Bodies (Municipalities).
5. Allocation of seats belongs to the Fourth Schedule.

### 9. Match the following provisions with their respective Schedules in the Constitution:

List-I (Provisions)	List-II (Schedules)
A. Tribal areas in AMTM States	1. Second Schedule
B. All-India Services	2. Fifth Schedule
C. Control of Scheduled Areas/Tribes	3. Sixth Schedule
D. Comptroller and Auditor-General	4. Seventh Schedule

#### Codes (A-B-C-D):

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

#### Correct Answer: (a)

#### Explanation:

1. **A-3:** The **Sixth Schedule** specifically governs tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
2. **B-4:** **All-India Services** (IAS, IPS, IFoS) are listed under Entry 70 of the Union List in the **Seventh Schedule**.
3. **C-2:** The **Fifth Schedule** deals with the administration of Scheduled Areas and Tribes in states other than the AMTM states.
4. **D-1:** The **Second Schedule** specifies the provisions relating to the emoluments, allowances, and privileges of the **CAG**, Judges, and the President.

### 10. Match the Constitutional Provision with the specific Part or Schedule where it is contained:

List-I (Provision)	List-II (Contained In)
A. Administration of Tribal Areas	1. Part V of the Constitution
B. Official Language of the Union	2. Part XIII of the Constitution
C. Trade and Commerce within India	3. Part XVII of the Constitution
D. The Union Executive	4. Sixth Schedule of the Constitution

#### Codes (A-B-C-D):

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

#### Correct Answer: (a)

#### Explanation:

1. **A-4:** Provisions for the administration of Tribal Areas in the North-East are found in the **Sixth Schedule**.
2. **B-3:** **Part XVII** (Articles 343–351) deals with the Official Languages of the Union and the States.

3. **C-2: Part XIII** (Articles 301–307) governs Trade, Commerce, and Intercourse within the territory of India.
4. **D-1: Part V** (Articles 52–151) covers "The Union," including the Executive (President, VP, Council of Ministers), Parliament, and the Judiciary.

## Special Provisions in Constitution

### 1. Consider the following statements regarding Special Category Status (SCS) in India:

1. The Constitution of India does not contain specific provisions under Part XXI for the grant of Special Category Status to economically lagged states.
2. The criteria for identifying SCS states include hilly terrain, strategic border locations, and non-viable state finances.
3. The 16th FC did not remove the Special Category (SCS) distinction; rather, it continued the 14th/15th FC approach of doing away with distinct special status by treating states more equally while discontinuing revenue deficit grants.

### 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: (a)**

### Explanation:

• **Statement 1 is correct:** SCS is not a constitutional provision. It was an administrative classification introduced by the 5th Finance Commission in 1969 based on the Gadgil Formula.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The criteria involve geographical and socio-economic hurdles: hilly/difficult terrain, low population density/tribal population, strategic border locations, and economic/financial backwardness.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The 16th FC did not explicitly remove the Special Category (SCS) distinction in the manner described; rather, it continued the 14th/15th FC approach of doing away with distinct special status by treating states more equally while discontinuing revenue deficit grants (a key benefit for SCS states).

### 2. Consider the following statements regarding the languages of the Union:

1. Article 343 declares Hindi in the Devanagari script as the official language, but allows the continued use of English for all official purposes for an indefinite period.
2. The President is constitutionally required to appoint a commission at the end of five years from the commencement of the Constitution to report on the progressive use of Hindi.
3. The Official Languages Act (1963) was amended in 1967 to mandate the use of both English and Hindi for certain specific official purposes.

### 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: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Article 343 allowed English for only 15 years (until 1965). It is the Parliament, through the Official Languages Act, that extended its use indefinitely.
  - **Statement 2 is correct:** Article 344 mandates a Commission at 5 and 10 years to recommend the progressive use of Hindi and restrictions on English.
  - **Statement 3 is correct:** The 1967 amendment ensured that for certain documents (like resolutions, general orders, rules, etc.), both Hindi and English must be used.

**3. Consider the following statements regarding the Fazl Ali Commission:**

1. It recommended the reorganization of states by accepting the one Language, one state principle in its absolute form.
2. It identified the preservation and strengthening of the unity and security of India as the primary factor for the reorganization of states.

**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:** While the commission accepted language as a basis for reorganization, it rejected the One Language, One State theory, stating that a state cannot be formed solely on linguistic grounds without considering administrative and economic viability.
  - **Statement 2 is correct:** It laid down four major factors: Unity/Security of India, Linguistic/Cultural homogeneity, Financial/Administrative viability, and Planning/Promotion of welfare.

**4. Consider the following statements regarding linguistic provisions in the Constitution:**

1. Under Article 345, a State Legislature is restricted to adopting only those languages listed in the Eighth Schedule as its official language.
2. While a State Governor may authorize the use of a state language in High Court proceedings with the President's consent, this does not apply to the judgments or decrees passed by that 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

**Correct Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Article 345 gives states the freedom to adopt any language (or Hindi) as their official language. It does not have to be an Eighth Schedule language.
  - **Statement 2 is correct:** Under Article 348, the Governor can authorize the use of Hindi or a state language for High Court *proceedings*, but judgments, decrees, and orders must remain in English unless Parliament provides otherwise.

**5. Which one of the following statements is not correct regarding the Official Languages Act, 1963?**

- (a) It provided for the establishment of a Parliamentary Committee to review the progress of Hindi for Union purposes.
- (b) It mandated that English must be used for all communication between the Union and a state that has not adopted Hindi as its official language.
- (c) It ensures that every Bill introduced in the Parliament is accompanied by an authoritative Hindi translation.
- (d) It is the constitutional source that first established Hindi in the Devanagari script as the official language of the Union.

**Correct Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement (d) incorrect:** Hindi in the Devanagari script was established as the official language by Article 343 of the Constitution itself, not by the 1963 Act. The 1963 Act was intended to facilitate the continued use of English beyond the 15-year constitutional limit.

**6. Through which Constitutional Amendment Act was the Sindhi language incorporated into the Eighth Schedule?**

- (a) 21st Amendment Act of 1967
- (b) 42nd Amendment Act of 1976
- (c) 71st Amendment Act of 1992
- (d) 92nd Amendment Act of 2003

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

The Eighth Schedule originally had 14 languages. Sindhi was added as the 15th language by the 21st Amendment Act of 1967.

**7. Regarding the criteria for 'Classical Language' status in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The language must possess ancient early texts or recorded history spanning a period of 1,500–2,000 years.
2. There must be a clear discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.
3. In 2024, the Union Cabinet approved Marathi, Bengali, Pali, and Prakrit as new classical languages.

**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:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** High antiquity is a primary requirement.
  - **Statement 2 is correct:** The criteria specifically mention that the classical language may be distinct from its modern form, and there can be a discontinuity between the two.
  - **Statement 3 is correct:** In a landmark 2024 decision, Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali, and Prakrit were all granted classical status.

**8. The Constitution (71st Amendment) Act, 1992, amended the Eighth Schedule to include which of the following languages?**

1. Konkani

2. Manipuri
3. Nepali
4. Maithili

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:** The 71st Amendment added three languages: Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali. Maithili was added later by the 92nd Amendment in 2003 Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santhali.

**9. Under which of the following Constitution Amendment Acts were four languages added to the Eighth Schedule, raising the total number of languages to 22?**

- (a) 90th Amendment Act
- (b) 91st Amendment Act
- (c) 92nd Amendment Act
- (d) 93rd Amendment Act

**Correct Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** The 92nd Amendment Act of 2003 added Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali. This was the largest single addition to the schedule, bringing the total count from 18 to 22.

**10. Match List I (Article) with List II (Provision) and select the correct answer:**

List I (Article)	List II (Provision)
A) Art 16(2)	1. Right to property (Legal/Authority of law)
B) Art 29(2)	2. Prohibition of discrimination in public employment
C) Art 30(1)	3. Minorities' right to establish educational institutions
D) Art 31(1)	4. Non-discrimination in state-aided educational admissions

**Codes (A-B-C-D):**

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

**Correct Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Art 16(2):** No citizen shall be discriminated against for employment under the state on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, or residence.
  - **Art 29(2):** Specifically protects citizens from being denied admission to state-run/aided educational institutions on grounds of religion, race, caste, or language.
  - **Art 30(1):** Grants all minorities (religious or linguistic) the right to establish and administer educational institutions.
  - **Art 31(1):** Originally the Right to Property (no person deprived of property save by authority of law). While Art 31 was repealed as a Fundamental Right, the provision remains as Art 300A.

## Non-Constitutional Bodies

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

1. The recommendations made by the Commission to the government are mandatory and binding.
2. The Commission is barred from inquiring into any matter after the expiry of one year from the date on which the act of violation is alleged to have been committed.
3. The Commission has the power to inquire into violations of human rights committed by public servants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 incorrect:** NHRC recommendations are advisory in nature; the government is not bound to accept them.

**Statement 2 correct:** the NHRC has a timeframe of one year to initiate an inquiry.

**Statement 3 is correct:** its primary mandate is to check human rights violations by public servants or through their negligence.

### 2. With reference to the composition of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), consider the following statements:

1. The Chairperson must be a person who has been a Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court.
2. The Selection Committee for NHRC members is headed by the Union Home Minister.
3. The Chairpersons of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) are ex-officio members of the NHRC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 correct:** (per 2019 amendment).

**Statement 2 incorrect:** The Prime Minister chairs the selection committee.

**Statement 3 correct:** the list of ex-officio members includes chairpersons of NCBC, NCPDR, NCW, NCSC, NCST, NCM, and the Chief Commissioner for PwDs.

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

1. The Chairperson and members of the SHRC are appointed by the Governor of the state.
2. A person can hold the office of Chairperson or member of SHRC for a term of 5 years or until the age of 70 years.
3. The SHRC can inquire into violations of human rights only in respect of matters listed in the State List and Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule.

**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

**Answer: (b) Explanation:**

**Statement 1 correct:** The Chairperson and members of the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) are appointed by the Governor of the state. These appointments are made based on the recommendations of a special selection committee, and the members can only be removed by the President of India, not the Governor.

**Statement 2 incorrect:** The term is 3 years or 70 years of age.

**Statement 3 correct:** SHRC jurisdiction is limited to subjects in the State List (List II) and Concurrent List (List III).

**4. Consider the following statements regarding the functions of the National Commission for Women:**

1. It possesses the authority to take *suo moto* notice of matters relating to the deprivation of women's rights.
2. It is empowered to fund litigation involving issues affecting a large body of women.
3. It does not have power to fund litigation for issues affecting a large body of women.

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

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statements 1 and 2 are correct** functions of the NCW. While investigating matters, the commission possesses the powers of a civil court, including summoning witnesses and examining documents.

**Statement 3 incorrect:** Under Section 10 of the NCW Act, it is empowered to fund litigation for issues affecting a large body of women.

**5. How many of the following are statutory bodies in India?**

1. National Medical Commission
2. National Statistical Commission
3. National Commission for Women
4. Bar Council of India

**Select the correct answer:**

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

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

All four are statutory bodies (established by an Act of Parliament).

1. NMC Act, 2019.
2. Established via government resolution but functions under the Collection of Statistics Act.
3. NCW Act, 1990.
4. Advocates Act, 1961.

**6. With reference to the Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalat (PMLA), consider the following statements:**

1. Decisions rendered by the PMLA have the legal status of a court decree and are final and binding on all parties.
2. The NCW continues to be the sole funding agency for PMLA sessions to ensure free legal aid for women.
3. No appeal lies to any court against the award made by a PMLA.

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

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 correct:** Lok Adalat awards are deemed civil court decrees and are non-appealable.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The NCW discontinued direct funding in 2014-15, with the focus shifting to Nari Adalats under Mission Shakti.

**Statement 3 correct:** Under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, awards passed by a Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalat (PMLA) are final, binding, and deemed to be a decree of a civil court. Consequently, no appeal lies to any court against the award. Challenges are only possible through writ petitions (Article 226/227) on limited grounds like fraud

**7. Consider the following statements as per the Constitution of India:**

1. The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children from the age of birth until 14 years as a Fundamental Right.
2. Providing opportunities for education to a child between 6 and 14 years is a Fundamental Duty of the parent or guardian.
3. The directive to provide early childhood care for children until they complete 6 years of age is a non-justiciable provision.

**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

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Article 21A covers 6 to 14 years, not from birth.

**Statement 2 is correct:** (Article 51A(k)).

**Statement 3 is correct:** it is a DPSP (Article 45) and thus non-justiciable in court.

**8. With reference to the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a statutory body that defines a child as any person up to the age of 18 years.
2. The GHAR (Go Home and Re-unite) portal is an initiative launched by the NCPCR for the restoration and repatriation of children.
3. It was established under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

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

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 correct:** It defines a child as any person up to the age of 18 years

**Statement 2 correct:** GHAR portal to digitally monitor & track restoration and repatriation of children as per protocols under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

**Statement 3 incorrect:** NCPCR was established under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005, not the JJ Act.

**9. Regarding the powers of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), consider the following statements:**

1. While inquiring into any matter, the Commission has the powers of a Civil Court trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure.
2. The Commission has the authority to issue summons for the examination of witnesses but cannot require the discovery and production of any document.

**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:** According to Section 14 of the CPCR Act, 2005, the commission has the powers of a civil court, specifically for:

- Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining them on oath.
- Requiring the discovery and production of any document.
- Receiving evidence on affidavits.
- Requisitioning any public record or copy from any court or office.
- Issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents.

After an inquiry, it can recommend initiating prosecution or providing interim relief.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Commission can require the discovery and production of any document, receive evidence on affidavits, and requisition public records.

**10. Consider the following statements regarding the additional functions of the NCPCR:**

1. The Commission is mandated to monitor the implementation of the POCSO Act, 2012, and the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
2. It monitors the designation of Special Courts, appointment of Special Public Prosecutors, and formulation of state-level guidelines.

**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:** Monitoring both Acts is a specific mandate.

**Statement 2 is correct:** It monitors the designation of Special Courts, appointment of Special Public Prosecutors, and formulation of state-level guidelines. It also runs the POCSO e-Box to receive complaints.