

Q.1)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Prime minister office (PMO) can be defined as the administrative agency created under article 77 (3) in order to provide secretarial assistance. **It has the status of department** under Allocation of Business rules 1961. **It is accorded as extra-constitutional body and not a statutory body.**

On the other hand, Cabinet Secretariat is an executive body. The Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 (AoB Rules) and the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 (ToB Rules) have been framed under Article 77 (3) of the Constitution of India **and Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for administration** and implementation of both these rules.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Cabinet Secretariat functions directly under the Prime Minister. The administrative head of the Secretariat is the Cabinet Secretary who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board. Whereas, **PMO** is a staffing agency assisting the Prime Minister of India in the efficient discharge of his role, functions, and responsibilities. It **functions directly** under the **Prime Minister.**

Statement 3 is correct: The PMO provides secretarial assistance to the Prime Minister. It is headed by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister. PMO is an extra-constitutional body that has no mention in the Indian Constitution. However, it was given the **status of a department** under the Government of India Allocation of Business Rules, 1961.

On the other hand, the Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the **administration of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961** and the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961, facilitating **smooth transaction of business in Ministries/ Departments** of the Government.

Source: Laxmikant 6th Edition.pdf

<https://cabsec.gov.in/content.php?page=12>

<https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/25784/1/Unit-8.pdf>

Q.2)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect. Pitts India act 1784 separated the commercial and political functions of the company. **Commercial functions** were assigned to the **existing body of the Court of Directors**, while a **new body called the Board of Control** was created to look after the **political functions** of the company. Thus a **system of double government** was created.

Pair 2 is incorrect. It was charter act of 1833 (not Charter Act 1813) that took away the legislative power of Bombay and Madras Presidencies allowing Governor-General of India to exercise legislative powers over entire British India.

Pair 3 is correct. Charter Act of 1853 introduced an open competition system of selection and recruitment of **civil servants**. The covenanted **civil service** was, thus, thrown open to the Indians also.

Source: page 52 chapter 1 - Historical Background - M. LAXMIKANT

Q.3)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Option a is correct: Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha, the oldest member, was elected as the temporary President of the Assembly, following the French practice. Later, **Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as the**

President of the Assembly. Similarly, both H.C. Mukherjee and V.T. Krishnamachari were elected as the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly. Hence the Assembly had two Vice-Presidents.

Option b is correct: On December 13, 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru moved the historic 'Objectives Resolution' in the Assembly. It laid down the fundamentals and philosophy of the constitutional structure. **Objective Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Assembly on January 22, 1947.** It influenced the eventual shaping of the constitution through all its subsequent stages. Its modified version forms the Preamble of the present Constitution.

Option c is incorrect: The **representatives of the princely states gradually joined the constituent assembly.** On April 28, 1947, representatives of the six states were part of the Assembly. After the acceptance of the Mountbatten Plan of June 3, 1947, for the partition of the country, the representatives of most of the other princely states took their seats in the Assembly.

Option d is correct: The Indian Independence Act of 1947 empowered the Constituent Assembly with legislative Functions. In other words, two separate functions were assigned to the Assembly, that is, making of the Constitution for free India and enacting of ordinary laws for the country. Thus, the Assembly became the first Parliament of free India (Dominion Legislature). Whenever the Assembly met as the Constituent body it was chaired by Dr. Rajendra Prasad and when it met as the legislative body, it was chaired by G.V.Mavlankar. These two functions continued till November 26, 1949,

Source: page 72 chapter 2 - Making of the Constitution- M. LAXMIKANT

Q.4)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect: The **Twelfth Schedule** of the Indian Constitution outlines the powers, authority, and responsibilities of municipalities. It was **introduced through the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992**, which aimed to decentralize power and strengthen local governance in India. The **Eleventh Schedule** of the Indian Constitution outlines the powers, authority, and responsibilities of Panchayati Raj institutions, the village, intermediate, and district-level self-governing bodies. It was introduced through the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992**, which aimed to decentralize power and strengthen local governance in India.

Pair 2 is correct: The **Ninth Schedule** of the Indian Constitution exempts certain laws from judicial review. It was **introduced through the First Amendment Act of 1951**, shortly after the Supreme Court's decision in the Shankari Prasad case. In Shankari Prasad case the court had declared that laws enacted by the Parliament could be challenged if they violated the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

Pair 3 is correct: The **Tenth Schedule**, also known as the Anti-Defection Law, was introduced through the **52nd Amendment Act of 1985** to curb the rampant practice of political defections that had destabilized Indian politics since independence.

Source: page 114 chapter 3- Salient Features of the Constitution - M. LAXMIKANT

Q.5)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The recently released report by the FAO suggests that use of traditional farming practices including Akkadi Saalu could reduce the escalating human and environmental costs of producing food.

Option b is correct: Akkadi Saalu represents a biodiversity-centric ecological farming approach designed for rainfed regions in Karnataka. This method embraces **intercropping**, incorporating a diverse mix of legumes, pulses, oilseeds, trees, shrubs, and livestock, contributing to the enhancement of

soil health. Notably, this traditional farming practice stands out for its commitment to **zero chemical fertilizers, zero chemical pesticides, and limited reliance on groundwater.**

The essence of Akkadi Saalu lies in its adherence to proven **ecological principles seamlessly integrated into locally adopted farming systems.** By reducing the dependence on pesticides, this method plays a crucial role in preserving life within the soil. Additionally, Akkadi Saalu empowers farmers to optimize their land usage, particularly in rain-dependent agricultural landscapes, thereby promoting sustainability in farming practices.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/a-film-that-throws-light-on-the-connection-between-women-and-millet/article67610011.ece>

<https://snehakunja.org/public/assets/pdf/RRAN/Akkadi%20Saalu.pdf>

Q.6)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Option a is incorrect: Fraternity means a sense of brotherhood. The Constitution promotes this feeling of fraternity by the system of single citizenship. Also, the Fundamental Duties in Article 51-A say that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India.

Option b is incorrect: The term 'justice' in the Preamble embraces three distinct forms- social, economic and political. **Social justice** denotes the equal treatment of all citizens without any social distinction based on caste, colour, race, religion, sex and so on. **Economic justice** denotes the non-discrimination between people on the basis of economic factors. **Political justice** implies that all citizens should have equal political rights, equal access to all political offices and equal voice in the government.

Option c is incorrect: The term 'equality' means the absence of special privileges to any section of the society, and the provision of adequate opportunities for all individuals without any discrimination.

Option d is correct: The term 'liberty' means the absence of restraints on the activities of individuals, and at the same time, **providing opportunities for the development of individual personalities.** Liberty is very essential for the

successful functioning of the Indian democratic system. However, liberty does not mean 'license' to do what one likes, and has to be enjoyed within the limitations mentioned in the Constitution itself

Source: page 126 chapter 4- Preamble of the Constitution - M. LAXMIKANT

Q.7)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. The Indian Parliament has the authority to reorganize states under Article 3 of the Constitution. The Parliament is empowered by Article 3 to:

- 1) **create a new state by separating territory from any state** or by combining two or more states or their parts, or by combining any territory with a portion of any state.
- 2) **increase any state's area.**
- 3) reduce a state's total area.
- 4) change any state's boundaries.
- 5) **change any state's name.**

Statement 2 is correct. Article 3 of the Indian Constitution lays down two conditions related to the reorganization of the states:

- 1) A bill regarding the reorganization of states can be introduced in the Parliament only with the prior recommendation of the President of India.
- 2) Before recommending the bill, the President has to refer the same to the state legislature concerned for expressing its views within a specified period.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Article 4 of the Constitution clearly states that laws pertaining to the admission or creation of new states (as specified in Article 2), **the formation of new states, and the modification of areas, boundaries, or names of existing states (as stated in Article 3) shall not be deemed to be constitutional amendments under Article 368.** This means that the ordinary legislative process and a simple majority can both be used to pass such laws.

Source: M. Laxmikanth Page 136

Q.8)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Doctrine of Laches states that the **court will only assist those people who are vigilant about their rights and not those who are not.** The underlying principle is that the court should not examine stale cases, because the court is to help an individual or party that is vigilant and not indolent.

Option a is incorrect: Doctrine of Eclipse states that any law that violates fundamental rights is not null or void ab initio, but is only non-enforceable, i.e., it is not dead but inactive.

Option c is incorrect: Doctrine of Colourable Legislation: The expression “colourable legislation” simply means **what cannot be done directly, cannot be done indirectly too.** It means when a legislature does not have the power to make laws on a particular subject directly, it cannot make laws on it indirectly. This doctrine is a tool used to determine the legislative competence of laws enacted by various legislatures. Therefore, it is a means to implement the separation of powers and impose judicial accountability. Basically, this doctrine implies that whatever is prohibited directly is prohibited indirectly also. This is intended to bar the legislature from doing something indirectly or covertly what it has been prohibited from doing directly.

It was applied by the Supreme Court of India in the case **State of Bihar vs Kameshwar Singh** and it was held that the Bihar Land Reforms Act was invalid.

Option d is incorrect: Doctrine of Incidental or Ancillary Powers implies that the power to legislate on a particular issue also includes the **power to legislate on ancillary matters** that are reasonably connected to that issue or subject. For instance, the power to impose taxes would also include the power to search and seizure in order to prevent tax evasion. Nevertheless, if a subject is explicitly mentioned in a Union or State List, it cannot be said to be an ancillary matter.

Source: Doctrine of colourable legislation : an impediment to the legislative authority - iPleaders

Q.9)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Fundamental Rights are enshrined in Part III of the Constitution from Articles 12 to 35. Part III of the Constitution is referred to as the Magna Carta of India. The Constitution guarantees fundamental rights to all individuals without any discrimination. **Originally, the Constitution of India provided for seven Fundamental Rights:**

- 1) The Right to equality (Articles 14–18)
- 2) The Right to Freedom (Articles 19–22)
- 3) The Right against exploitation (Articles 23–24)
- 4) The Right to freedom of religion (Articles 25–28)

- 5) The Right to culture and education (Articles 29–30)
- 6) Property rights (Article 31)
- 7) Right to Recourse under the Constitution (Article 32)

At present, there are only six Fundamental Rights. The **44th Amendment Act of 1978 eliminated the right to property from the list of fundamental rights.** Article 300-A under Part XII of the Constitution made it a legal right.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Fundamental Rights (FRs) **guaranteed by the Indian Constitution are not permanent or sacrosanct.** The Parliament can **curtail or repeal them only through a constitutional amendment act** (and not by an ordinary act). **This can be done without affecting the 'basic structure' of the Constitution.**

Statement 2 is correct. FRs are **qualified rights rather than absolute rights.** They are **subject to reasonable restrictions from the state.** The courts determine that these restrictions are reasonable or not. As a result, they strike a balance between social control and individual liberty, as well as between the rights of the individual and those of the society.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The **six rights guaranteed under Article 19 are automatically suspended when emergency is declared on the grounds of war or external aggression** (i.e., external emergency) **and are not suspended on the ground of armed rebellion** (i.e., internal emergency).

Source: M. Laxmikanth, Page-179

Q.10)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA) picked up more than 10 new members during the United Nation Climate Change Conference held in the United Arab Emirates in 2023. **The new members include the US and the UAE.** Over 80 percent of OECD and EU countries are now committed to the alliance.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA) was introduced during the COP23 conference in Bonn, Germany, in 2017. The **United Kingdom and Canada** played a pivotal role in initiating this coalition, orchestrating the collaboration of leaders to transform their individual commitments into a diplomatic initiative aimed at accelerating the global shift away from coal power. **Initially, 27 national, provincial, state, and city governments joined,** expressing their support for the PPCA Declaration.

Statement 2 is correct: The Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA) is a **coalition of National, Subnational governments and businesses organizations** working to advance the transition from unabated coal power generation to clean energy. Hence the coalition includes private business organizations that focus on producing clean energy generation.

Statement 3 is incorrect: India is not a member of the Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA). The Membership of the PPCA spans across 182 national and sub-national governments, businesses, and organizations. Members commit to accelerating the transition from coal to clean energy, grounded in the objectives of the PPCA Declaration.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/pledges-made-at-the-cop28-climate-talks/article67634805.ece>

<https://poweringpastcoal.org/our-story/#/the-alliance-launches>

Q.11)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 24 of the Constitution of India prohibits the employment of children in factories, etc. Article 23 and 24 makes up the **Right against exploitation** and are not the part of the **Cultural and educational rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution.** Hence, **1 is incorrect.**

Article 29 and Article 30 constitutes the Cultural and Educational rights guaranteed by the Constitution of India:

- 1) **Article 29:** Any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- 2) **Article 30:** All minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. Hence **statement 3 is correct.**

Source: M. laxmikanth, Page-185

Q.12)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

“Exit-poll” is an opinion survey regarding how electors have voted at an election or how all the electors have performed with regard to the identification of a political party or candidate in an election.

Statement 1 is incorrect: An opinion poll is a pre-election survey to gather voters' views on a range of election-related issues. However, **an exit poll, is conducted immediately after people have voted**, and assesses the support for political parties and their candidates.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 contains a provision relating to Exit Polls. It states that "No person shall conduct any exit poll and publish or publicise by means of the print or electronic media or disseminate in any other manner, whatsoever, the result of an exit poll during such period as may be notified by the Election Commission in this regard."

Statement 3 is correct According to a 2009 provision, no person shall conduct any exit poll and publish or publicise by means of the print or electronic media or disseminate in any other manner, the result of any exit poll during the period notified by the Election Commission in this regard.

The Election Commission had announced that **Exit polls can be telecast** by agencies, including all websites, **only after final phase of polling.** Also, according to a 2009 provision, conducting exit polls and publishing results of exit polls would be prohibited during the election to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

Further, any person who contravenes this provision shall be punishable with **imprisonment of upto two years** or with fine or with both.

Source: Laxmikant 6th Edition.pdf

Q.13)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d the correct answer

The **dignity of the individual** refers to the **inherent worth, value, and moral standing** that each person possesses by virtue of being human. The idea is rooted in the belief that every individual is entitled to be treated with **respect, fairness, and consideration, irrespective of their background, characteristics, or circumstances.** The recognition of the dignity of the individual as one of the objectives of the Indian Constitution is embedded in various parts of the Constitution.

Option 1 is correct. The **Preamble** emphasizes **justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity** as core values. The term "fraternity" signifies a **sense of brotherhood and dignity among individuals.**

Option 2 is correct. The **Fundamental Duties**, added to the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment in 1976, include duties that citizens are expected to fulfil towards the nation. While they do not confer specific

rights, they contribute to a sense of responsibility and social consciousness, indirectly promoting the dignity of individuals. For Example, under Art 51A (e), every citizen must work towards fostering harmony and a sense of common brotherhood among the people of India, irrespective of differences such as religion, language, or region. Additionally, citizens are expected to renounce practices that are derogatory to the dignity of women.

Option 3 is correct. The **Fundamental Rights** are designed to **protect the dignity and freedoms of individuals from infringement by the state.** The Supreme Court, have interpreted Article 21 expansively to include within its ambit the right to a dignified life, right to privacy, right to health, right to clean environment, and various other rights that contribute to a meaningful and quality life.

Option 4 is correct. Though **Directive Principles of State Policy(DPSP)** is more focused on the socio-economic objectives of the state, certain principles **indirectly contribute to individual dignity.** For example, Article 38 emphasizes the duty of the State to work towards the welfare of the people by establishing a social order that is just, not only in terms of political justice but also in social and economic spheres. Also, **Article 39** emphasizes that the state shall direct its policy towards **securing justice and preventing the concentration of wealth and means of production.** The idea is to promote social and economic conditions that enable individuals to lead a dignified life.

Source: Indian Polity: M Lakshmikanth, chapter 4, chapter 7, chapter 8, chapter 9

Q.14)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer

The **Fundamental Duties** are a set of moral and civic obligations that are outlined in **Part IV-A of the Indian Constitution.** They were added by the **42nd Amendment in 1976**, and currently, there are eleven Fundamental Duties. These duties are applicable to all citizens of India and are intended to promote a sense of discipline, responsibility, and patriotism. The Fundamental Duties are listed in **Article 51A of the Constitution.**

Option a is correct. To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood among all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic, and regional or sectional diversities, is a fundamental duty given under **Article 51A(e).** It emphasizes the duty of citizens to foster a sense of unity and brotherhood among people, irrespective of differences.

Option b is incorrect. **Article 42 of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) in the Indian Constitution directs the State to ensure just and humane conditions of work and provide maternity relief to workers.** It emphasizes the welfare of laborers by promoting fair working conditions and offering support for maternity benefits. The article reflects a commitment to social justice and the well-being of those engaged in labour.

Option c is correct. **To develop the scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry and reform, is a fundamental duty given under Article 51A(h).** It encourages a scientific and rational outlook, promoting humanism and a willingness to question and reform.

Option d is correct. To safeguard public property and to abjure violence is a fundamental duty given under **Article 51A(i).** It stresses the duty of citizens to protect public property and renounce violence as a means of achieving goals.

Knowledge Base:

Other provisions of Fundamental Duties:

- 1) **To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions** (Article 51A(a)): It emphasizes loyalty and allegiance to the Constitution as the supreme law of the land.

- 2) **To cherish and follow the noble ideals that inspired the national struggle for freedom** (Article 51A(b)): Encourages citizens to remember and uphold the values and principles that were central to India's independence movement.
- 3) **To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India** (Article 51A(c)): Stresses the duty of citizens to safeguard the nation's sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity.
- 4) **To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so** (Article 51A(d)): Encourages citizens to contribute to the defense of the country and participate in national service when required.
- 5) **To value and preserve the rich heritage of the country's composite culture** (Article 51A(f)): Encourages citizens to appreciate and protect India's diverse cultural heritage.
- 6) **To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievement** (Article 51A(j)): Encourages citizens to pursue excellence in their personal and collective endeavors.
- 7) **To provide opportunities for education to one's child or, as the case may be, ward, between the age of six and fourteen years** (Article 51A(k)): Places an obligation on parents or guardians to ensure that children receive education between the ages of six and fourteen.

Source: Indian Polity: M Lakshmikanth, chapter 9

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Q.15)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Recently, the third edition of the India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) took place in 2023 in New Delhi under the theme "Moving Forward – Calibrating Bharat's Digital Agenda." **As a national platform within the broader context of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (UN IGF), the IIGF facilitates the exchange of Indian perspectives and experiences on the global stage.**

Statement 1 is correct: The UN IGF emerged as a significant result of the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which mandated the formal convening of the Forum by the United Nations Secretary-General on July 18, 2006. It is to be noted here that the IGF Secretariat is being administered by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

Statement 2 is correct: The United Nation Internet Governance Forum (UN IGF) is a multi-stakeholder platform bringing together **representatives from both public and private sectors**, considering all to be at par to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet. The IGF informs and inspires those with policy-making power in both the public and private sectors.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The United Nations Internet Governance Forum (UN IGF) does not provide financial assistance to nations. Rather, the IGF includes policy, outreach, and community and capacity-building activities, all dedicated to facilitating a common understanding of how to maximize digital opportunities and address digital risks and challenges.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1982217>

<https://www.intgovforum.org/en/about#about-us>

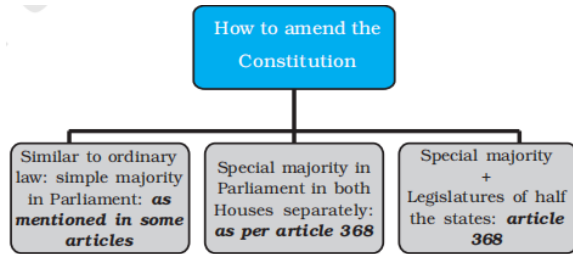
https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/11138/2452

Q.16)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer

The procedure for amending the Constitution of India is laid down in Article 368.



Statement 1 is incorrect. An **amendment to the Constitution** can be initiated by the introduction of a bill in **either House of Parliament** i.e. Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha. A **money bill** can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha (House of the People), the lower house of Parliament. It cannot be introduced in the Rajya Sabha (Council of States), the upper house.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Constitutional Amendment Bill does not have the provision of joint sitting.** The provision of joint sitting is applicable to ordinary bills or financial bills only and **not to money bills or Constitutional amendment bills.** In the case of a money bill, the Lok Sabha has overriding powers, while a **Constitutional amendment bill must be passed by each House Separately.**

Statement 3 is incorrect. The **President has no veto power over a Constitutional Amendment bill.** Once the Parliament passes the Constitutional Amendment Bill, it is sent to the President for assent. The President, in the case of a Constitutional Amendment Bill, does not have the power to veto it.

Knowledge Base:

Simplified process of the amendment:

- 1) **Introduction of Amendment Bill:** An amendment to the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill in either House of Parliament (Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha).
- 2) **Special Majority:** The amendment bill must be passed in each House by a special majority. A special majority implies: A majority of the total membership of the House, and a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting.
- 3) **Ratification by States:** In certain cases, if the amendment pertains to federal features (such as changes related to the representation of states in the Parliament, alteration of state boundaries, or changes to the representation of states in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha)), it must be ratified by the legislatures of not less than one-half of the states.
- 4) **President's Assent:** After being passed by both Houses with the required majority, the amendment bill is presented to the President for assent. The President can either give his assent or withhold his assent. Unlike an ordinary bill, the President has no power to return an amendment bill, so he must either accept or reject it.
- 5) **Not Considered as a Money Bill:** An amendment bill is not considered a "Money Bill" under Article 110, which means that it doesn't require the President's recommendation.
- 6) **No Veto Power for President:** The President has no veto power over an amendment bill; he must act on the advice of the Parliament.

Source: Indian Polity: M Lakshmikanth, chapter 10

Q.17)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement a is correct. Zero Hour is an Indian parliamentary innovation. **The phrase does not find mention in the Rules of Procedure of the House as well as in the Constitution of India.** The concept of Zero Hour started organically in the first decade of Indian Parliament when members felt the need for raising important constituency and national issues.

Statement b is incorrect. Parliamentary rules provide guidelines on the kind of matters that can be asked by Members of Parliament. It should be limited to 150 words. It should also be related to an area of responsibility of the Government of India. **They should not seek information about matters that are secret or are under adjudication before courts.** It is the presiding officers of the two Houses who finally decide whether a matter raised by an MP will be admitted for answering by the government.

Statement c is incorrect. A starred question requires an oral answer on the floor of the House. Hence, supplementary questions can follow in this instance, unlike **unstarred questions which are answered in written form.**

Statement d is incorrect. Question Hour in both Houses is held on all days of the session. But there are two days when an exception is made. There is no Question Hour on the day, the President addresses members from both Houses in the Central Hall. Also, Question Hour is not scheduled on the day the Finance Minister presents the Budget.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/an-expert-explains-what-are--hour-zero-hour-parliament-session-6580747/>

Q.18)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The 44th Amendment of the Constitution of India was enacted in 1978. The 44th Amendment was a significant step in restoring the democratic principles of the Indian constitution.

Option a is correct: The 44th Amendment added a new clause to Article 38, which states that the state shall strive to **minimise inequalities in income, status, facilities, and opportunities**, not only among individuals but also among groups of people. This clause was added to address the problem of social and economic inequality in India. **Article 38 is part of Part IV of the Constitution, which contains the Directive Principles of State Policy.**

Option b is incorrect: The 42nd Amendment made the changes in the preamble by including the terms "socialist" and "secular". The addition of the words "socialist" and "secular" to the preamble was intended to reflect the government's commitment to those values.

Option c is incorrect: The 44th Amendment of 1978 removed the right to property from the list of fundamental rights in the Indian Constitution. The amendment also added Article 300-A, which states that "no person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law". Article 300-A requires the state to follow due procedure and authority of law to deprive a person of their private property.

Option d is incorrect: The 52nd Amendment extended the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies by another 10 years, from 1990 to 2000. The amendment was passed to provide further representation to these communities, who have historically been marginalized and discriminated against in Indian society.

Source: Laxmikanth - Indian Polity - 5th Edition - Chapter 8 " Directive Principles of State Policy " heading - "NEW DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES"

Q.19)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) is a legislation which extends the provisions of Panchayats to the Fifth Schedule Areas. Total ten States are covered under PESA. These States are: Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: Following legal powers have been given to Gram Sabha/PRI's under PESA Act:

- 1) Safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the people, their cultural identity, community resources and the customary mode of dispute resolution.
- 2) Approve plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before such plans, programmes and projects are taken up for implementation by the Panchayat at the village level.
- 3) Identification or selection of persons as beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation and other programmes.
- 4) Certification of utilisation of funds by the Panchayat for the plans, programmes and projects for identification or selection of persons as beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation and other programmes.
- 5) Right to be consulted before making acquisition of land in the Scheduled Areas for development projects and before re-settling or rehabilitating persons affected by such projects in the Scheduled Areas.
- 6) Right to plan and **manage minor water bodies** in the Scheduled Areas.
- 7) Recommendations prior to grant of prospecting licence or mining lease for minor minerals and for grant of concession for the exploitation of minor minerals by auction in the Scheduled Areas.
- 8) Power to enforce prohibition or to regulate or restrict the sale and consumption of any intoxicant.
- 9) **Ownership of minor forest produce.**
- 10) Power to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas and to restore any unlawfully alienated land of a Scheduled Tribe.
- 11) Power to manage village markets.
- 12) **Power to exercise control over money lending to the Scheduled Tribes.**
- 13) Power to exercise control over institutions and functionaries in all social sectors.
- 14) Power to control over local plans and resources for such plans including tribal subplans.

Statement 3 is incorrect: PESA Act provides power to exercise control over money lending to the Scheduled Tribes (**and not Scheduled castes**) to the Gram Sabha.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikant – 6th Edition – Chapter 38 - Panchayati Raj.

<https://panchayat.gov.in/documents/20126/0/FAQ+-+PESA+-+12042019.pdf/5cfb9c63-9e55-8522-63fd-15e13407c26c?t=1555072755144>

Q.20)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Diel Vertical Migration (DVM) (also known as diurnal vertical migration) involves the daily, synchronized movement of marine animals between the ocean's surface and deep layers. It is the planet's largest animal migration, involving trillions of animals across all oceans every single day.

Statement-I is incorrect: Diel Vertical Migration (DVM) does not involve significant release of Carbon dioxide (CO₂) from Ocean into atmosphere. In fact, **DVM plays a crucial role in carbon sequestration by transporting carbon-rich organic matter from the surface to deeper ocean layers** where it gets locked away for long periods.

Statement-II is correct: DVM is the daily vertical movement of marine organisms, typically from deep waters to the surface at night and back down again during the day. This movement often serves various purposes, like feeding, predator avoidance, and seeking optimal environments. This type of migration is the largest animal migration on the planet and is undertaken every single day by trillions of animals in every ocean. The deep-sea marine animal, especially tiny free-floating zooplanktons, exhibits this kind of migration.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/science-for-all-what-is-diel-vertical-migration-and-its-role-in-carbon-sequestration/article67609159.ece>

Q.21)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer

The Indian federation was created by the Indian Constitution, which was adopted in 1950. The Constitution established a federal system of government, with a central government and state governments.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Indian federation is not the result of an agreement among the states like the American federation. India follows the Canadian model of federation. In the United States, the states existed before the federal government was created. The states voluntarily agreed to join the federal government, and they retained a significant amount of power. **In India, on the other hand, the states were created by the central government for the effective governance. The states do not have the same degree of power as the states in the United States.**

Statement 2 is correct: The Supreme Court of India in the case of S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994) laid down that the Constitution of India is a federal one and that federalism is a basic feature of the Constitution. The Court also held that the **states are not subordinate to the Union government**, but that they have their independent powers and functions.

Source: Laxmikanth - Indian Polity - 5th Edition - Chapter 13 "Federal System" Heading - "CRITICAL EVALUATION OF THE FEDERAL SYSTEM"

Q.22)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Indian Constitution divides the powers of the government between the central government and the state governments. This division is done through a list of subjects that are under the jurisdiction of each government. The subjects are divided into **three lists: the Union List, the State List, and the Concurrent List.**

Option a is correct: If the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution by a two-thirds majority (special majority) that Parliament should make laws on a matter in the State List, then Parliament can do so. When the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution of concurrence, it is effectively giving its consent to the Parliament to make laws on a matter in the State List. This is a significant power, as **it allows Parliament to encroach on the powers of the state legislatures.**

Option b is incorrect: During a National Emergency, Parliament can enact laws on any subject, including those that are normally under the jurisdiction of the states. This is because **Article 250** of the Constitution of India gives Parliament the power to make laws on any subject. This power is intended to **allow Parliament to take swift action to deal with threats to the nation's security.**

Option c is incorrect: When the legislatures of two or more states pass resolutions requesting the Parliament to enact laws on a matter of state list, Parliament can enact law on state subject. When this happens, the Parliament can enact a law on the subject, even though it is not listed in the Union List. **However, the law must be passed by a simple majority of the members present and voting in each House of Parliament.** It must also be approved by the President of India.

Option d is incorrect: The Constitution also provides that the Parliament can make laws on a subject in the State List if it is necessary for implementing an international treaty, agreement, or convention. This is because, in a federal system, the states are responsible for their internal affairs, while the **central government is responsible for dealing with other countries.** Therefore, the central government must have the power to make laws on subjects that are related to international relations, even if those subjects are normally within the jurisdiction of the states.

Source: Laxmikanth - Indian Polity - 5th Edition - Chapter 14 - "Centre-State Relations" Heading - "3. Parliamentary Legislation in the State Field"

Q.23)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

According to the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, contempt of court can either be civil contempt or criminal contempt. A contempt of court may be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Attorney General's consent is **mandatory when a private citizen** wants to initiate a case of contempt of court against a person. But **when the Supreme court itself initiates** a contempt of court case; the **Attorney General's consent is not required**. This is because the court is exercising its inherent powers under the Constitution to punish for contempt and such Constitutional powers cannot be restricted because the AG declined to grant consent.

Statement 2 is incorrect: According to the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, contempt of court can either be civil contempt or criminal contempt. Wilful disobedience to writ or order of a court is considered as civil contempt. **Civil contempt** means **wilful disobedience** to any judgment, decree, direction, order, **writ or other process of a court** or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court.

Statement 3 is correct: The expression 'contempt of court' has **not been defined by the Constitution**. However, the expression finds **mention in the Contempt of Courts Act of 1971**. As per the Act, contempt refers to the offence of showing disrespect to the dignity or authority of a court.

Source: Laxmikant

Q.24)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.**Statement I and II both are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation for the statement I.**

To protect the interest of states in the financial matters, the Constitution lays down that certain bills can be introduced in the Parliament only on the recommendation of the President. **The certain bills reserved for the president's recommendation to be introduced in the Parliament are:**

- a. A bill which imposes or varies any tax or duty in which states are interested;
- b. **A bill which varies the meaning of the expression 'agricultural income' as defined for the purposes of the enactments relating to Indian income tax.**
- c. A bill which affects the principles on which moneys are or may be distributable to states;
- d. A bill which imposes any surcharge on any specified tax or duty for the purpose of the Centre.

Source: Indian Polity- M. Laxmikant- Chapter 14-Centre-State Relations

Q.25)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

In a recent 28th Conference of Parties (**COP28**) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), **countries deliberated on the loss and damage component within the framework of the Global Stocktake (GST)**. The **G77 and China group** emphasized the necessity for national inventories focusing on loss and damage.

Additionally, they advocated for standardized metrics to gauge progress in addressing loss and damage, as well as more robust language establishing connections between the Loss and Damage Fund and the Santiago Network.

Option a is correct: The Santiago Network was established **at COP 25 in Madrid** as part of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) under the UNFCCC. **The 'Santiago Network'** is envisioned as a mechanism to offer technical expertise and resources to developing nations for the

prevention, mitigation, and management of **loss and damage** resulting from climate change. **Hosted by the United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations Office for Project Services**, the network's draft text is currently open for adoption by participating Parties.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/climate-change/cop28-diary-december-3-countries-agree-on-host-for-the-santiago-network-divergences-on-gst-93160>

<https://www.lossanddamagecollaboration.org/santiago-network-project>

Q.26)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Article 312 of the constitution authorizes the Parliament to create new All-India Services on the basis of a Rajya Sabha resolution to that effect. Each of these All-India Services, irrespective of their division among different states, form a single service with common rights and status and uniform scales of pay throughout the country.

Option a is incorrect: Creation of All-India Services is the **exclusive privilege of the Rajya Sabha**, not Lok Sabha.

Option b is correct: The **Parliament can create new All-India Services** (including an All-India Judicial Service), **if the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution** declaring that it is necessary or expedient in the national interest to do so. **Such a resolution in the Rajya Sabha should be supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting.** This power of recommendation is given to the Rajya Sabha to protect the interests of the states in the Indian federal System.

Option c is incorrect: Rajya Sabha passes a resolution **supported by two-thirds** of the members present and voting, **not by simple majority.**

Option d is incorrect: The creation of All-India Services is the exclusive privilege of the Rajya Sabha, not Lok Sabha.

Source: Indian Polity-M.Laxmikant- Chapter 14- Centre-State relations

Q.27)

Ans) a

Exp) option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The Constitution expressly **secures the predominance of the Union List over the State List and the Concurrent List and that of the Concurrent List over the State List.** Thus, in case of overlapping between the Union List and the State List, the former should prevail. In case of overlapping between the Union List and the Concurrent List, it is again the former which should prevail. **Where there is a conflict between the Concurrent List and the State List, it is the former that should prevail.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: In India, the power to make laws with respect to residuary subjects (i.e., the matters which are not enumerated in any of the three lists) is **vested in the Parliament.** This residuary power of legislation includes the power to levy residuary taxes.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Originally, concurrent list had **47 subjects which grew to 52 by the 42nd constitutional amendment act of 1976 (it increased the number of subjects).**

Source: Indian Polity by M. Laxmikant

Q.28)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The successful functioning of the Indian federal system depends not only on the harmonious relations and close cooperation between the Centre and the states but also between the states inter se.

Statement 1 is correct: Article 262 of the constitution provides for the adjudication of inter-state water disputes.

Statement 2 is correct: Article 262 of the Constitution provides for the adjudication of inter-state water disputes. It makes two provisions:

- (a) **Parliament may by law provide** for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley.
- (b) **Parliament may also provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint.**

Source: Indian Polity- M-Laxmikant- Chapter 15-Inter-State Relations

Q.29)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The inter-state council is a recommendatory body that has been empowered to investigate and discuss subjects of common interest between the Union and state(s), or among states. It was set up under Article 263 of the Constitution of India.

Zonal councils are advisory councils made up of Indian states that have been divided into five zones in order to enhance collaboration among them. Part III of the States Reorganisation Act of 1956 established these.

Statement 1 is correct. The Inter-State Council is a constitutional body. It was set up under Article 263 of the Constitution of India. The President of India can establish such a council to inquire into and advise upon disputes between states, investigate and discuss subjects in which some or all of the states, or the Union and one or more of the states, have a common interest.

Zonal Councils, on the other hand, are statutory bodies. They were established under the States Reorganization Act of 1956. The Act provides for the creation of five Zonal Councils to promote interstate cooperation and coordination among the states.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Inter-State Council is chaired by the Prime Minister. It was established in 1990 by presidential order. The Council should convene at least three times per year.

The Zonal Councils are not chaired by the Prime Minister. Each Zonal Council is chaired by the union Home minister. Each Zonal Council consists of the Chief Ministers of the states in the zone and two Union Ministers, one from each zone.

Knowledge Base:

- 1) **The Northeastern states aren't covered by any of the Zonal Councils**, and their unique challenges are addressed by another statutory organization, the North Eastern Council, which was established by the North Eastern Council Act of 1971.

Source: M Lakshmikanth Ch-15 Inter-State Relations

Q.30)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

10th December 2023 marks the **75th anniversary** of one of the world's most groundbreaking global pledges known as the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**.

Statements I and II are correct and statement-II is the correct explanation for the Statement-I: The International Human Rights Day is celebrated on 10th December every year to promote the value of human rights. This specific date commemorates the adoption and proclamation of the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations General Assembly on 10th December 1948. The UDHR stands as the inaugural global declaration of human rights and represents one of the early significant accomplishments of the newly established United Nations.

The theme for **Human Rights Day 2023** is "**Equality, Reducing Inequalities, Advancing Human Rights**." This theme connects closely with **Article 1** of the UDHR, stating that "**All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights**." The emphasis on equality and reducing inequalities reflects the important principles of the UDHR, making it a meaningful focus for this year's observance.

On 10th December 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was **adopted by most of the then members of the United Nations**. The UN's Membership back in 1945 amounts to 51 (currently has 193 members). Among these **51 members, 48 members (including India) adopted UDHR**.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-global/universal-declaration-of-human-rights-marking-75th-anniversary-9061964/>

Q.31)

Ans) b

Exp) **Option b is the correct answer.**

Constitutional provisions for emergencies are outlined in Part XVIII, spanning Articles 352 to 360. These empower the Central Government to address abnormal situations effectively. Article 352 specifies the National Emergency declaration by the President in case of war, armed rebellion, or external disturbance. An External Emergency arises from external disturbances, while an Internal Emergency is triggered by armed rebellions.

Statement 1 is correct. During a National Emergency, the Lok Sabha's usual five-year term can be extended through parliamentary legislation, extending it by one year at a time and for any duration. Nevertheless, this extension cannot persist for more than six months after the cessation of the emergency. For instance, the Fifth Lok Sabha (1971–1977) had its term extended twice, each time by one year.

Statement 2 is incorrect. As per Article 359 of the Constitution even during the National Emergency, the right to protection from criminal prosecution (Article 20) and the right to life and personal liberty (Article 21) remain enforceable. The scope of Article 359 was limited by the 44th Amendment Act of 1978. The right to appeal to the Court for the enforcement of fundamental rights protected by Articles 20 to 21 cannot be suspended by the President. When a proclamation of national emergency is issued, the six Fundamental Rights enshrined in Article 19 are automatically suspended, according to Article 358.

Option 3 is correct. When a state of national emergency is declared, the President has the authority to alter the constitutional revenue distribution between the center and the states. This indicates that the president has the right to reduce or cancel fund transfers from the Centre to the states.

Source: Laxmikant Ch-16 Emergency Provisions

Q.32)

Ans) a

Exp) **Option a is the correct answer.**

The President of India holds executive powers to appoint the Prime Minister, Council of Ministers, and key officials, grant pardons, and represent the nation internationally. However, these powers are exercised on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers.

Option 1 is incorrect. The Prime Minister recommends persons who can be appointed as ministers by the president. The President can appoint only those persons as ministers who are recommended by the Prime Minister.

Option 2 is incorrect. The Prime Minister presides over the meeting of the council of ministers and influences its decisions. He guides, directs, controls, and coordinates the activities of all the ministers

Option 3 is incorrect. The Governor appoints the chairman and members of the state public service commission. However, they can be removed only by the president and not by a governor

Option 4 is correct. The Chief Minister of Delhi is appointed by the President. The other ministers are appointed by the president on the advice of the chief minister.

Source: Laxmikant Ch-17, President

Q.33)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

A bill enacted by Parliament can only become an act if it receives the President's assent. The President has veto power over measures enacted by Parliament, which means he can refuse to approve them. The purpose of granting the President this power is twofold: (a) to prevent rushed and ill-considered legislation by Parliament; and (b) to prevent legislation that may be unlawful.

Statement 1 is incorrect. In case of the **Absolute Veto (Article 111), the President can withhold their assent to a bill. This is a complete rejection of the bill. It was used by Dr. Rajendra Prasad as President in 1954, and then by R Venkataraman as President in 1991.** In 1954, an absolute veto was exercised against the PEPSU Appropriation Bill. In 1991, it was used in the Salary, Amendments and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill.

Statement 2 is correct. In case of the **Suspensive Veto (Article 74), the President can return a non-money bill for reconsideration of the Parliament.** The President can suggest amendments but must ultimately give assent if Parliament re-passes the bill. This veto applies to non-money bills, and the President cannot prevent their eventual enactment. **This suspensive veto power is not valid for money bills.**

Statement 3 is incorrect. In case of the Pocket Veto (No Specific Constitutional Provision), the President neither gives assent nor explicitly withholds it. The President takes no action on the bill, effectively delaying its enactment. **While the Constitution does not explicitly mention a pocket veto, it may occur in practical situations when the President neither signs nor explicitly rejects a bill, allowing it to lapse.** The Indian President has before used his veto power. President Zail Singh used his pocket veto in 1986.

Source: Laxmikant Ch-17, President

Q.34)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is incorrect: To be eligible for election as Vice-President, a person should fulfil the following qualifications:

1) He should be a citizen of India.

2) He should have completed 35 years of age.

3) He should be qualified for election of a member of the Rajya Sabha. (Not Lok Sabha)

4) He should not hold any office of profit under the Union government or any state government or any local authority or any other public authority.

Statement 3 is incorrect: A person contesting the Vice-Presidential election **should not hold any office of profit under the Union Government or any state government** or any local authority or any other public authority. But, a sitting President or Vice-President of the Union, the **governor** of any state and a minister for the Union or any state is **not deemed to hold any office of profit** and hence qualified for being a candidate for Vice-President.

Source: Indian polity by M. Laxmikanth 6th edition chapter- vice president

Q.35)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Large-scale destruction of forests has always been a concern for the environment, but with climate change, deforestation has become a critically sensitive issue globally in recent years. The process of forest certification offers a hope to reduce the indiscriminate deforestation of forest by certifying the forest based products.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched the Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme. **This national forest certification scheme offers voluntary third-party certification designed to promote sustainable forest management and agroforestry in the country.** The scheme includes forest management certification, tree outside forest management certification, and chain of custody certification.

Statement 2 is incorrect: **The Indian Forest & Wood Certification Scheme was not formulated by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).** The Forest Management certification is based on the Indian Forest Management Standard, incorporated in the National Working Plan Code 2023 with 8 criteria, 69 indicators, and 254 verifiers. The standard is developed by the **Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF).**

Statement 3 is correct: **The Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme, will be overseen by the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Council,** which will act as a multi stakeholder advisory body.

The Council is **represented by members from eminent institutions** such as Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Forest Survey of India, Quality Council of India, Indian Institute of Forest Management including representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Ministry of Commerce and Industry, State Forest Departments, Forest Development Corporations, and representatives from wood-based industries.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1985119>

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/centre-launches-forest-certification-scheme-to-counter-foreign-agencies-9073713/>

Q.36)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Option 1 is correct: **Prime Minister of India acts as the as the Chairperson of NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India).** Governing Council comprising the Chief Ministers of all the States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories

Option 2 is incorrect: The Prime Minister usually chairs the committee, but in some cases, other Cabinet ministers such as the Home Minister or the finance minister may assume the role. However, If the Prime Minister is a committee member, he will be the head of the committee.

Currently, all committees except **Cabinet Committee on Accommodation** and Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs are usually headed by the Prime Minister. **The Cabinet Committee on Accommodation is headed by the Home Minister.**

Option 3 is incorrect: Defense Acquisition Council is the highest decision-making body in the Defence Ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services (Army, Navy and Air Force) and the Indian Coast Guard. **The Minister of Defence is the Chairman of the Council.**

Option 4 is correct: The NIC ("National Integration Council") of India was formed in the year 1961 after the assembly conducted by Jawaharlal Nehru, then the prime minister of India. The chairman of the national integration council is the prime minister of India and the central government acts as an advisory body.

Option 5 is incorrect: National Security Council of India is a three-tiered organization that oversees political, economic, energy and security issues of strategic concern. **The National Security Advisor (NSA) presides over the NSC** and is also the primary advisor to the prime minister. The current National Security Advisor is Ajit Doval.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=114273>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1842780>

[https://www.mha.gov.in/en/page/zonal-](https://www.mha.gov.in/en/page/zonal-council#:~:text=Chairman%20%2D%20The%20Union%20Home%20Minister,one%20year%20at%20a%20time.)

[council#:~:text=Chairman%20%2D%20The%20Union%20Home%20Minister,one%20year%20at%20a%20time.](https://www.mha.gov.in/en/page/zonal-council#:~:text=Chairman%20%2D%20The%20Union%20Home%20Minister,one%20year%20at%20a%20time.)

<https://static.mygov.in/indiancc/2022/11/mygov-10000000001076141652.pdf>

Indian polity by M. Laxmikanth 6th edition chapter- Prime Minister

Q.37)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Assertion is true and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion: The fundamental principle underlying the working of parliamentary system of government is the principle of collective responsibility. Article 75 clearly states that the council of ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. **This means that all the ministers have joint responsibility to the Lok Sabha for all their acts of omission and commission.** They work as a team and swim or sink together. **When the Lok Sabha passes a no-confidence motion against the council of ministers, all ministers must resign, including those from the Rajya Sabha.**

Source: Indian polity by M. Laxmikanth 6th edition chapter- council of ministers

Q.38)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Article 74 in the constitution states that There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice. **The advice tendered by Ministers to the President shall not be inquired into in any court.**

Statement 2 is correct: In India, there is no provision in the Constitution for the system of legal responsibility of a minister. It is not required that an order of the President for a public act should be countersigned by a minister. In Britain, on the other hand, every order of the King for any public act is countersigned by a minister. If the order is in violation of any law, the minister would be held responsible and would be liable in court.

Statement 3 is correct: The President shall administer the oaths of office and secrecy to a minister. The council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. **The ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.**

Statement 4 is correct: The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha. This provision was added by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003.

Source: Indian polity by M. Laxmikanth 6th edition chapter- council of ministers

Q.39)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Parliamentary privilege refers to rights and immunities enjoyed by Parliament as an institution and MPs in their individual capacity, without which they cannot discharge their functions as entrusted upon them by the Constitution.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Constitution (Article 105) explicitly mentioned two privileges, that is, freedom of speech in Parliament and right of publication of its proceedings. Hence parliamentary privileges are mentioned in the constitution, but they are not defined in the constitution.

Statement 2 is incorrect: It should be noted here that the Parliament, till now, has not made any special law to exhaustively codify all the privileges.

They are based on five sources, namely,

- 1) Constitutional provisions,
- 2) Various laws made by Parliament,
- 3) Rules of both the Houses,
- 4) Parliamentary conventions, and
- 5) Judicial interpretations.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Constitution has also extended the parliamentary privileges to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a House of Parliament or any of its committees. These include the attorney general of India and Union ministers **but parliamentary privileges do not extend to the president who is also an integral part of the Parliament.**

Source: <https://prsindia.org/theprsblog/parliamentary-privilege-faqs?page=64&per-page=1>
Indian polity by M. Laxmikanth 6th edition chapter- Parliament

Q.40)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Global River Cities Alliance (GRCA), an India led initiative was recently launched at the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Statement 1 is correct: The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), which implements the government's flagship Namami Gange programme, has launched the Global River Cities Alliance (GRCA) during the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai. The GRCA was inspired by **India's River Cities Alliance (RCA)**, which is an initiative of the Namami Gange programme.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The GCRA does not aim to interlink major rivers across nations; rather it primarily aims to foster global collaboration for river conservation and sustainable water management. It is a unique alliance to propagate **river-sensitive development in cities** around the world.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) are not part of the GCRA initiative. The GCRA is a **nine nation alliance led by India**. The other eight nations are **Denmark, Cambodia, Japan, Bhutan, Australia, Netherlands, Egypt, and Ghana**.

It must be noted here that the Multilateral funding agencies such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank have pledged their support for the initiative.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-to-lead-nine-member-global-river-cities-alliance-101702301508833.html>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1985500#:~:text=The%20Global%20River%20Cities%20Alliance,Netherlands%2C%20Denmark%2C%20Ghana%2C%20Australia>

Q.41)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Ethics Committee was constituted in Rajya Sabha in 1997 and in Lok Sabha in 2000. It enforces the code of conduct of members of Parliament. The Lok Sabha committee has 15 members, while the Rajya Sabha committee has 10 members.

Statement 2 is correct: The functions of this ethics committee are semi-judicial in nature. The Ethics Committee examines the cases of misconduct and recommends appropriate action. Thus, it is engaged in maintaining discipline and decorum in Parliament. If the Ethics Committee finds merit in the complaint, it can make recommendations. **The potential punishment it can recommend typically involves Suspension of the MP for a specified period, censure, or fine.**

Source: page 584 chapter 23 - Parliamentary Committees - M. LAXMIKANT

Q.42)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Option a is incorrect: The Committee on Government Assurances (CGA) is a standing committee of the Parliament of India, responsible for examining the assurances, promises, undertakings, and statements made by Ministers in the House and to report on their implementation. The CGA scrutinizes the assurances, promises, undertakings, and statements made by Ministers in the House, ensuring that they are specific, time-bound, and actionable.

Option b is incorrect: The Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) is a standing committee of the Parliament of India, responsible for examining the reports and accounts of public sector undertakings (PSUs). The COPU examines the annual reports, accounts, and other documents of PSUs to assess their financial performance, operational efficiency, and adherence to government policies.

Option c is incorrect: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is a standing committee of the Parliament of India, responsible for examining the accounts of the Government of India. It plays a crucial role in ensuring financial accountability and transparency in government spending. The PAC examines the audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), which highlight irregularities, misappropriation, and wasteful expenditure in government departments and public undertakings.

Option d is correct: **The Estimates Committee** is a standing committee of the Lok Sabha. It is empowered with **scrutinizing the budgetary allocations**, this committee meticulously **reviews the financial plans** and recommends cost-saving measures to optimize public spending. The committee also **suggests alternative policies** in order to bring about efficiency and economy in administration. The committee examines the estimates included in the budget. The committee identifies areas where economies can be made in public expenditure without compromising the quality of services or the implementation of government programs. The committee submits its reports to Parliament, which are considered by the House and may lead to further action.

Source: page 573 chapter 23 - Parliamentary Committees - M. LAXMIKANT

Q.43)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Under the Constitution, the Parliament of India consists of three parts viz, the President, the Council of States and the House of the People.

Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I: Though the President of India is not a member of either House of Parliament and does not

sit in the Parliament to attend its meetings, he is an integral part of the Parliament. This is because a bill passed by both the Houses of Parliament cannot become law without the President's assent. He also performs certain functions relating to the proceedings of the Parliament, for example, he summons and pro-rogues both the Houses, dissolves the Lok Sabha, addresses both the Houses, issues ordinances when they are not in session, and so on.

Source: page 573 chapter 23 - Parliamentary Committees - M. LAXMIKANT

Q.44)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is the presiding officer and the highest authority of the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Parliament of India. The Speaker is elected generally in the first meeting of the Lok Sabha following general elections. Serving for a term of five years, the Speaker is chosen from sitting members of the Lok Sabha.

Option 1 is incorrect: Whenever the Lok Sabha is dissolved, the Speaker does not vacate his office and continues till the newly elected Lok Sabha meets.

Option 2 is incorrect: The Speaker decides the questions of disqualification of a member of the Lok Sabha, arising on the ground of defection under the provisions of the tenth schedule. **President decides the question of disqualification of MPs under the other constitutional provisions.** His decision is final regarding the disqualification of a member of either house of Parliament. However, the President does take the opinion of the Election Commission before taking a decision on disqualification

Option 3 is incorrect: The institutions of Speaker and Deputy Speaker originated in India in 1921 under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1919 (Montague-Chelmsford Reforms).

At that time, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker were called the President and Deputy President respectively and the same nomenclature continued till 1947

Source: page 478 chapter 22 - Parliament - M. LAXMIKANT

Q.45)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Goods & Services Tax (GST) Council by the Government of India to make recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax. Recently, the Union Government has **reconstituted the ministerial group within the GST Council**, to simplify the complex tax structure and to revise its various rates.

Statement 1 is incorrect: While the **GST Council can make recommendations** regarding anti-evasion measures, the actual responsibility for investigation and to organize operations to unearth evasion of GST lies with **the Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DGGI).**

Statement 2 is correct: According to the **Constitution of India**, **GST Council can set up a mechanism to adjudicate any dispute between the Centre and one or more states or between states on issues arising from the Council's decisions.**

Statement 3 is correct: According to the **Constitution of India**, **Every decision of the Goods and Services Tax Council shall be taken at a meeting, by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting**, in accordance with the following principles, namely:-

(a) the vote of the Central Government shall have a weightage of one-third of the total votes cast, and (b) the votes of all the State Governments taken together shall have a weightage of two-thirds of the total votes cast, in that meeting.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/centre-rejigs-gom-to-simplify-gst-rates/article67635249.ece>

<http://dggi.gov.in/history>

Q.46)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

A Money Bill is a special type of bill introduced in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Parliament of India. It deals with financial matters such as taxation, public expenditure, and the appropriation of public funds. Money Bills are accorded special privileges and procedures in the Indian parliamentary system.

Option 1 is correct: A money bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha and that **too on the recommendation of the president.**

Option 2 is incorrect: A **Money Bill can only be introduced by a Minister in the Lok Sabha**, the lower house of the Parliament of India. This is a special privilege accorded to Money Bills, reflecting their importance in the government's financial control and the principle of parliamentary sovereignty.

Option 3 is correct: After a money bill is passed by the Lok Sabha, it is transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its consideration. The **Rajya Sabha has restricted powers with regard to a money bill. It cannot reject or amend a money bill.** It can only make recommendations. It must return the bill to the Lok Sabha within 14 days, whether with or without recommendations. The Lok Sabha can either accept or reject all or any of the recommendations of the Rajya Sabha.

Knowledge Base:

Article 110 of the Constitution deals with the definition of money bills. It states that a bill is deemed to be a money bill if it contains 'only' provisions dealing with all or any of the following matters:

- 1) The imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax.
- 2) The regulation of the borrowing of money by the Union government.
- 3) The custody of the Consolidated Fund of India or the contingency fund of India, the payment of moneys into or the withdrawal of money from any such fund.
- 4) The appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India.
- 5) Declaration of any expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India or increasing the amount of any such expenditure.
- 6) 6. The receipt of money on account of the Consolidated Fund of India or the public account of India or the custody or issue of such money, or the audit of the accounts of the Union or of a state.

Source: page 523 chapter 22 - Parliament - M. LAXMIKANT

Q.47)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

A **joint sitting** of both houses of Parliament refers to a special session where members of **both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha** convene together to deliberate on a particular matter. A joint sitting is called when there is a **deadlock between both the houses regarding the passage of a bill**. A deadlock occurs when the two houses have **differences over the provisions of a bill, and repeated attempts to reach an agreement fail**. The provision for a joint sitting is outlined in **Article 108 of the Constitution**.

Option 1 is correct. A joint sitting of both houses of Parliament **can be called for an ordinary bill** in India. Ordinary bills are the type of bills which are concerned with any matter other than financial subjects.

Option 2 is incorrect. Joint sittings are **not called for money bills** in the Indian parliamentary system. Money bills have a separate and distinct process outlined in the Constitution of India, primarily in **Article 110**. Money bills are concerned with financial matters like **taxation, public expenditure, etc.**

Option 3 is correct. A joint sitting of both houses of Parliament **can be called for finance bills that are not classified as money bills**. Finance bills are the type of bills which are also concerned with financial matters (but are different from money bills). In a general sense, any Bill that relates to revenue or expenditure is a financial Bill. A money Bill is also a specific type of financial Bill, that must deal only with

matters specified in Article 110 (1) (a) to (g). Financial bills are responsible for fiscal matters such as government spending or revenue.

Option 4 is incorrect. A joint sitting of both houses of Parliament in India is not called for **Constitutional amendment bills**. The process of passing Constitutional amendment bills is specified under **Article 368 of the Indian Constitution**. The procedure for amending the Constitution is distinct from the joint sitting provision.

Knowledge Base: **Key points about a joint sitting:**

- 1) **Purpose:** The primary purpose of a joint sitting is to resolve a deadlock between the two houses of Parliament on a non-money bill. A deadlock occurs when the two houses disagree on a particular piece of legislation, and efforts to reach a consensus through the normal legislative process have failed.
- 2) **Initiation:** The **President of India has the authority to summon a joint sitting**. This is typically done when one house has passed a bill, and the other house has either rejected it or suggested amendments that are not acceptable to the first house.
- 3) **Presiding Officer:** The **Speaker of the Lok Sabha presides over a joint sitting**. If the Speaker is not available, the Deputy Speaker or, in their absence, any other member chosen by the members present may preside.
- 4) **Decision:** The decision on the bill is usually determined by a simple majority of the total number of members present and voting. It is important to note that the joint sitting is convened specifically for that bill, and members deliberate and vote only on that particular legislation.
- 5) Three instances when joint sitting has been called
 - a. Banking Service Commission (Repeal) Bill, 1978.
 - b. Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2002.
 - c. The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement (Amendment) Bill, 2015.

Source: Indian Polity: M Lakshminanth, chapter 22

Q.48)

Ans) a

Exp) Options a is the correct answer.

The budget is based on the principle of annuity, that is, the Parliament grants money to the government for one financial year.

Under the '**Rule of Lapse**' if the granted money is not spent by the end of the financial year, **then the balance expires and returns to the Consolidated Fund of India**. It facilitates **effective financial control** by the Parliament as no reserve funds can be built without its authorization. However, the observance of this rule leads to heavy rush of expenditure towards the close of the financial year. This is popularly called as '**March Rush**'.

Knowledge Base: Page 540, Laxmikant 6th Edition.pdf

Source: Laxmikant 6th Edition.pdf

Q.49)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The beginning of a common law system can be traced to the establishment of 'Mayor's Courts' in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta in 1726 by the East India Company. With the Company's transformation from a trading company into a ruling power, new elements of the judicial system were introduced.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Under the **Regulating Act of 1773 (and not the Charter Act of 1813)**, a Supreme Court was established at Calcutta in 1774 comprising one chief justice and three other Judges. It was competent to try all British subjects within Calcutta and the subordinate factories, including Indians and Europeans. It had original and appellate jurisdictions.

Statement 2 is correct. A Law Commission was set up under Macaulay **for codification of Indian laws** under the provisions of the Charter Act of 1833. As a result, a Civil Procedure Code (1859), an Indian Penal Code (1860) and a Criminal Procedure Code (1861) were prepared.

Statement 3 is incorrect. **Government of India Act of 1935 (and not the Act of 1919)** provided for the establishment of a Federal Court, which was set up in 1937. The court could settle disputes between the federated units and could hear limited appeals from the High Courts.

Statement 4 is correct. **During the British Period, the Privy Council acted as the highest court of appeal.** Appeals came from the colonies and certain other locations over which Britain exercised jurisdiction. The Privy Council served as a bridge between the Indian and the English legal systems. After India attained independence, the jurisdiction of the Privy Council was abolished by the Abolition of the Privy Council Jurisdiction Act, 1949.

Source: Indian Polity, Laxmikanth, Chapter-1

Modern History, Spectrum, Chapter-26, Pg. 522-523

Q.50)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The southern bench of the National Green Tribunal in Chennai has sent notices to the Union Government, Karnataka and Kerala State Governments and their pollution control boards. The notices are in response to a complaint about the suspected **illegal and unscientific dumping of endosulfan in the hilly region of Minchinpadavu in Kerala's Kasaragod district**, near the village of Nettanige-Mudnur in Karnataka.

Statement 1 is correct: Endosulfan, identified as a **Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP)**, **resists quick biodegradation** and contributes to its **potent bioaccumulation in living organisms**, posing risks to both wildlife and human health. Due to this property, Endosulfan disposed of in a distant area can leach into the groundwater and impact geographically separated regions.

Statement 2 is correct: Endosulfan is a cream to brown-colored solid that may appear in the form of crystals or flakes. It has a smell like turpentine, but does not burn. **It does not occur naturally in the environment.**

Statement 3 is correct: **The Supreme Court had banned the manufacture, sale, use and export of endosulfan** in India on May 13, 2011.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/ngt-issues-notice-to-union-karnataka-and-kerala-governments-on-dumping-endosulfan-in-minchinpadavu/article67673736.ece>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1896140#:~:text=ARE%20BANNED%20AND-,RESTRICTED,-USE%20%3A>

<https://www.cdc.gov/TSP/substances/ToxSubstance.aspx?toxid=113#:~:text=Summary%3A%20Endosulfan%20is%20a%20pesticide,occur%20naturally%20in%20the%20environment.>

Q.51)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Option 1 is incorrect. Right to vote and to be elected is a Constitutional right guaranteed under Article 326 of the Constitution of India. The **rights guaranteed to Indian citizens by the Indian Constitution that are not included under Part III are referred to as constitutional rights.**

Option 2 is correct. The **Supreme Court**, in its verdict in the Hadiya case, 2018, **stated that the right to marry a person of one's choice is integral to right to life and liberty (Article 21)**, which is a fundamental right guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution of India. **Choosing a partner**, whether within or outside of the marriage, **is solely a personal decision of each individual.**

Option 3 is correct. Article 20(3) of the Indian Constitution provides that no one can be forced to be a witness against himself. It is **a fundamental right guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution of India. The Right to remain silent is also referred to as the right against self-incrimination** (a fundamental canon of the law).

Source: <https://main.sci.gov.in/jonew/judis/33868.pdf>

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/right-to-marry-supreme-court-hadiya-case-5131055/>

[https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/accused-have-right-to-silence-can-t-be-forced-to-speak-supreme-court-101689276196503.html#:~:text=from%20Uttar%20Pradesh.-,The%20right%20to%20silence%20emanates%20from%20Article%20\(3\)%20of,a%20fundamental%20c](https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/accused-have-right-to-silence-can-t-be-forced-to-speak-supreme-court-101689276196503.html#:~:text=from%20Uttar%20Pradesh.-,The%20right%20to%20silence%20emanates%20from%20Article%20(3)%20of,a%20fundamental%20c)

[anon%20of%20law.](https://archive.pib.gov.in/archive/releases98/lyr2002/rdec2002/18122002/r181220021.html)

<https://archive.pib.gov.in/archive/releases98/lyr2002/rdec2002/18122002/r181220021.html>

Q.52)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

NALSA's mandate is to provide free legal aid to the poor, disadvantaged and weaker sections of society. It also provides legal awareness to the public. It also organizes Lok Adalats for settlement of disputes.

Option a is incorrect: The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is a statutory body established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The Act was enacted to provide free legal aid to the poor and disadvantaged sections of society. NALSA is **responsible for the implementation** of the Act and for **coordinating** the work of the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs).

Option b is incorrect: The chairman can be a retired as well as current serving judge of the Supreme Court of India. The chairman of the NALSA is **appointed by the President** of India, in consultation with the Chief Justice of India. The Chairperson is assisted by a Vice-Chairperson.

Option c is correct: NALSA can initiate public interest litigation (PIL) on matters related to the protection of the rights of the marginalized. The purpose of PIL is to bring to the attention of the courts the plight of the marginalized and to seek legal redress for their grievances. **NALSA has initiated a number of PILs** on matters related to the protection of the rights of the marginalized.

Option d is incorrect: NALSA can provide free legal aid to different sections of the people.

- 1) Women and children
- 2) Members of Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribe
- 3) Industrial workmen
- 4) Victims of mass disaster, violence, flood, drought, earthquake, industrial disaster
- 5) Disabled persons
- 6) Persons in custody
- 7) Victims of trafficking in human beings or begar.

Source: Laxmikanth - Indian Polity - 5th Edition - Chapter 35 "Subordinate Courts" Heading "NATIONAL LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY"

Q.53)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Constitution has not prescribed a minimum age for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court of India. The Constitution establishes several qualifications for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court. They are -

He should be a citizen of India.

- (a) He should have been a judge of a High Court (or high courts in succession) for five years; or
- (b) He should have been an advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years; or
- (c) He should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the President.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The number of judges in the Supreme Court is decided by the Parliament and not the President. Originally, the Supreme Court had eight judges (one chief justice and seven others). The Parliament has increased the number of judges over time. **The current strength of the Supreme Court is 34 judges (one chief justice and 33 others).**

Statement 3 is correct: The salaries of the Supreme Court judges are charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India. This ensures that the judges are not dependent on the government for their salaries and can make decisions independently.

Source: Laxmikanth - Indian Polity - 5th Edition - Chapter 26 "Supreme Court " Heading "Qualifications of Judges "

[https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1812352#:~:text=The%20sanctioned%20judge%20strength%20of,incl%20Chief%20Justice%20of%20India\).](https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1812352#:~:text=The%20sanctioned%20judge%20strength%20of,incl%20Chief%20Justice%20of%20India).)

Q.54)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Governor cannot return a money bill to the state legislature for reconsideration. A money bill is a bill that deals with the raising and spending of money. Therefore, the **Governor has only two options when presented with a money bill:** either give their **assent** to the bill or withhold their assent. If the Governor **withholds** their assent, the bill is not enacted.

Statement 2 is correct: Governor of a state can reserve the bill for the consideration of the President. The reservation is obligatory where the bill passed by the state legislature endangers the position of the state High Court. However, the Governor can also reserve the bill if it is of the following nature:

- 1) Against the provisions of the Constitution
- 2) Opposed to the DPSP
- 3) Against the larger interest of the country
- 4) Of grave national importance
- 5) Deals with compulsory acquisition of property under Article 31A of the Constitution.

This means that the Governor can choose to send a bill that has been passed by the state legislature to the President for approval. **The President then has the option of either signing the bill into law or withholding assent.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Governor of India does not have a qualified veto over state legislative bills. Instead, the **Governor has a suspensive veto**, which means that the Governor can return a bill to the state legislature for reconsideration. However, if the state legislature passes the bill again with a simple majority, the Governor is then required to give their assent to the bill. This means that the Governor's veto power is ultimately limited by the state legislature. **The Governor's suspensive veto power is enshrined in Article 200 of the Indian Constitution.**

Source:

Laxmikanth - Indian Polity - 5th Edition - Chapter 17 "President " Heading "Presidential Veto over State Legislation "

Q.55)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: The Adaptation Gap Report is published by the United Nations Environment**Programme (UNEP).** The report finds that amid growing climate change impacts, progress on adaptation is slowing. The report noted that this will have massive implications for losses and damages, particularly for the most vulnerable countries.**Pair 2 is incorrect: The Emissions Gap Report has been published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),** not by the World wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The report notes that the emissions of **methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and fluorinated gas** which have higher global warming potentials and account for about one quarter of current Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, are **increasing rapidly**.**Pair 3 is correct: The State of Global Climate Report is published by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).** The report confirms that 2023 is set to be the warmest year on record. It uses the following four parameters to gauge climate change viz greenhouse gas concentrations, sea level rise, ocean heat and ocean acidification.Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/ahead-of-cop28-three-unep-reports-paint-a-grim-picture-of-climate-reality/article67580553.ece><https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/2023-set-to-be-hottest-year-ever-un/article67590946.ece#:~:text=The-,WMO,-published%20its%20provisional><https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1988675>

Q.56)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The discretionary powers of a governor are those powers that are not specifically enumerated in the constitution.

Statement 1 is correct: The dismissal of the council of ministers when it fails to maintain the confidence of the State Legislative Assembly is a discretion power of the governor. It is a situational discretionary power. The governor must exercise this power in accordance with the circumstances of the case.**Statement 2 is correct: Recommendation for the imposition of the President's Rule in the state is a discretion power of the Governor.** The Governor has the discretion to recommend the imposition of the President's Rule in a state. **He/she can do so if he/she is satisfied that the conditions mentioned in Article 356 are met.**

Source: Laxmikanth - Indian Polity - 5th Edition - Chapter 30 "Governor "

Q.57)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The concept of positive and negative liberty has been propounded by philosopher JS Mill.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Negative liberty' seeks to define and defend an area in which the individual would be inviolable, in which he or she could 'do, be or become' whatever he or she wished to 'do, be or become'. **This is an area in which no external authority can interfere. It is a minimum area that is sacred and in which whatever the individual does, is not to be interfered with.** The existence of the 'minimum area of non- interference' is the recognition that human nature and human dignity need an area where the person can act unobstructed by others. How big should this area be, or what should it

contain, are matters of discussion, and will continue to be matters of debate since the bigger the area of non-interference the more the freedom.

Statement 2 is correct: Positive liberty recognises that one can be free only in society (not outside it) and hence tries to make that society such that it enables the development of the individual. **It is concerned with looking at the conditions and nature of the relationship between the individual and society and of improving these conditions such that there are fewer constraints to the development of the individual personality.** The individual to develop his or her capability must get the benefit of enabling positive conditions in material, political and social domains. That is, the person must not be constrained by poverty or unemployment; they must have adequate material resources to pursue their wants and needs.
Source: <https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/keps102.pdf>

Q.58)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Article 163 deals with the status of the council of ministers in a state, while **Article 164** deals with the appointment, tenure, responsibility, qualification, oath, salaries and allowances of the ministers in a state.

Statement 1 is incorrect: 91st Amendment Act, 2003 fixes the strength of the council of ministers in a state **to 15%** of the strength of the legislative assembly of the state.

Statement 2 is incorrect: In states where the total number of Ministers including the Chief Minister in the Council of Ministers of any State at the commencement of the Constitution (Ninety-first Amendment) Act, 2003 exceeds the said 15%, then, the total number of Ministers in that State shall be brought in conformity with the provisions of this clause **within six months from such date as the President may by public notification prescribe.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: Article 164 states that, in the states of **Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha, there shall be a Minister of tribal welfare.** There is **no mention in the constitution to constitute a tribal ministry in every state** with more than 10% tribal population.

Source: https://www.india.gov.in/sites/upload_files/npf/files/amend91.pdf
Indian Polity, M Laxmikanth: Chapter-32

Q.59)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

According to Article 1 of the Constitution, the territory of India comprises three categories of territories: (a) territories of the states; (b) union territories; and (c) territories that may be acquired by the Government of India at any time. At present, there are **28 states and 8 Union territories** in the country. Union Territories are administered by the President through an Administrator appointed by him/her. Following Union Territories of India formed in the chronological order given below:

- 1) **Lakshadweep (1956):** On 1 November 1956, during the reorganization of Indian states, the Lakshadweep islands were separated from Malabar District and organized into a separate union territory for administrative purposes. The new territory was called Laccadive, Minicoy, and Amindivi Islands before adopting the Lakshadweep name on 1 November 1973. Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Delhi were also formed as separate union territory in 1956.
- 2) **Dadra and Nagar Haveli (1961-62):** From 1954 to 1961, Dadra and Nagar Haveli existed as a de facto state known as Free Dadra and Nagar Haveli. It was administered by a body called the Varishta Panchayat of Free Dadra and Nagar Haveli, with administrative help from the government of India. The **Tenth Amendment of the Constitution of India** was passed to incorporate **Dadra and Nagar Haveli as a union territory**, effective 11 August 1961.

In December 2019, the Parliament of India passed legislation to merge Dadra and Nagar Haveli with the nearby union territory of Daman and Diu to create a single union territory to be known as Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu on 26 January 2020. Puducherry was also recognized as Union Territory in 1962.

- 3) **Chandigarh (1966)**: On 1 November 1966, the newly formed state of Haryana was carved out of the eastern and southern portion of East Punjab, to create a new state for the majority Haryanvi-speaking people in that portion, while the western portion of East Punjab retained a mostly Punjabi-speaking majority and was renamed as Punjab. Chandigarh was located on the border of both states and the states moved to incorporate the city into their respective territories. However, the city of **Chandigarh was declared a union territory** to serve as capital of both states.
- 4) **Ladakh (2019)**: In August 2019, a reorganization act was passed by the Parliament of India which contained provisions to reconstitute **Ladakh as a union territory**, separate from the rest of Jammu and Kashmir (also a union territory) on 31 October 2019

Source: Laxmikanth Chapter 40 Union Territories

Q.60)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Recently, **Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) initiated a program in Saint Lucia** (a Country in the Caribbean) with **India serving as the Partner Administration** by contributing Tax Experts. The objective is to assist Saint Lucia in bolstering its tax administration by transferring technical knowledge and skills, as well as sharing best practices.

Option c is correct: Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) is a joint initiative between the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** and the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**). It aims to enhance the tax audit capabilities of countries. The program aligns with broader global endeavors to strengthen cooperation on tax issues and supports the domestic resource mobilization efforts of developing nations.

TIWB's objective is to facilitate the exchange of tax audit knowledge and skills with developing countries' tax administrations through a focused, hands-on "learning by doing" approach. Specifically, experts will collaborate directly with local tax officials on ongoing audits, addressing international tax matters and general audit practices relevant to specific cases. This assistance is tailored to the unique focus of providing support on real, current cases in the specialized area of tax audit.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1986833>

<https://www.tiwb.org/about/>

Q.61)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Article 169 of the Indian Constitution deals with the abolition or creation of a legislative council in a state. If a state Legislature passes a resolution by an absolute majority, together with not less than two-thirds of the members actually present and voting in favor of the creation of the second chamber, and if Parliament gives concurrence to such a resolution, the concerned State can have two Houses in the Legislature.

Option a is incorrect: The president has no role in fixing the strength of the legislative council.

Option b is incorrect: The state legislative assembly passes the resolution for the creation of a legislative council in the state but does not fix its strength as it is **decided by making amendments in The Legislative Council Act, 1957 by the parliament.**

Option c is correct: The **parliament fixes the strength** of the legislative council by making amendments to **The Legislative Council Act, 1957**. The **Parliament can abolish a Legislative Council** (where it already exists) **or create** it (where it does not exist) **by a simple majority**, that is, a majority of the members of each House present and voting, **if the legislative assembly of the concerned state, by a special majority, passes a resolution to that effect**. The creation of the legislative assembly is **done in accordance with The Legislative Council Act, 1957, Representation of the People Act, 1950, and Representation of the People Act, 1951**.

Option d is incorrect: The Governor of a state plays no role in the fixing of the strength of the legislative council.

Source: Indian Polity, M Laxmikanth: Chapter-33

http://164.100.47.4/billtexts/lbills/lbills/introduced/46_1957_LS_eng.pdf

Q.62)

Ans) b

Exp) **Option b is the correct answer.**

The disqualification of members of the legislative assembly in India is governed by the rules prescribed in the Constitution, the Representation of People Act, 1951, and on the grounds of defection under the provisions of the Tenth Schedule.

Statement 1 is correct: The disqualification under the provisions mentioned in the constitution and the Representation of People Act, 1951 is **decided by the governor** of the state, and his **decision in this regard are considered as the final authority**. However, he should obtain the **opinion of the Election Commission of India and act accordingly**.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The constitution mentions that a member can be disqualified on the ground that, he is of unsound mind and has **been declared so by a court of law**.

Statement 3 is correct: Under the Representation of People Act, 1951, a member is disqualified if he is director or managing agent and holds an office of profit in a corporation in which the government has at least 25% share.

Source: Indian Polity, M Laxmikanth: Chapter-33

Q.63)

Ans) a

Exp) **Option a is the correct answer.**

Each house of the state legislature has its own presiding officer. There is a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker for the legislative assembly and a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman for the legislative council. A panel of Chairman for the assembly and a panel of Vice-Chairman for the Council is also appointed.

Statement a is incorrect: As a presiding officer, the powers and functions of the Chairman in the council are similar to those of the Speaker in the assembly in most cases. However, the **Speaker have some special powers** which are not enjoyed by the Chairman. For example, the **Speaker decides whether a bill is a Money Bill** or not and his decision on this question is final.

Statements b and d are correct: The salaries and allowances of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the assembly and the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the council **are fixed by the state legislature**. They are **charged on the Consolidated Fund of the State** and thus are not subject to the annual vote of the state legislature.

Statement c is correct: The Chairman vacates his office if he is removed by a resolution passed by a **simple majority of all the then members** of the Council.

Source: Indian Polity, M Laxmikanth: Chapter-33

Q.64)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Constitution lacks a defined process for choosing and appointing the Chief Minister. **Article 164** simply states that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor, without specifying a particular procedure.

1) The Governor, as per constitutional conventions, appoints the Chief Minister by inviting the leader of the majority party in the state legislative assembly. In the absence of a clear majority, the Governor may exercise discretionary powers, often appointing the leader of the largest party or coalition.

Statement 1 is incorrect. According to the **conventions (not mentioned in Constitution) of the parliamentary system, the Governor is generally expected to appoint the leader of the majority party** in the state legislative assembly as the Chief Minister.

Statement 2 is correct. When no party has a clear majority, the Governor may exercise personal discretion, typically appointing the leader of the largest party or coalition, who is then required to seek a vote of confidence in the assembly.

Statement 3 is correct. A person who is not a member of the state legislature can be appointed as Chief Minister by the Governor for six months, within which, they must be elected to the state legislature, or they cease to be the Chief Minister.

Source: M Laxmikanth Ch-31 Chief Minister

Q.65)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Recently, the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) has created a landmark in the history of generic medicines in the country by selling medicines worth Rs. 1000 Crore in the financial year 2023-24. Also because of this scheme people saved approximately 5000 crores by purchasing medicines from Jan Aushadhi Kendras which are present in more than 785 districts of the country.

Statement 1 is incorrect: PMBJP focuses on providing generic medicines, which are typically much cheaper than branded drugs to the poor at affordable rates. Generic drugs are available at lesser prices but work in the same way and provide the same clinical benefit as the branded medicine.

Statement 2 is incorrect: PMBJP scheme is functioned under the overall aegis of the Department of Pharmaceuticals functioning under **the Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**. The scheme aims to make quality medicines available at affordable prices for all, particularly the poor and disadvantaged and to reduce their out of pocket expenses in healthcare.

Statement 3 is correct: Under the PMBJP scheme, Government hospitals can establish new Jan Aushadhi stores. **Private hospitals, State Governments**, organizations, reputed NGOs, Trusts, charitable institutions, doctors, unemployed pharmacists, and individual entrepreneurs can apply for new Jan Aushadhi stores. Applicants must ensure the presence of a Pharmacist with a B Pharma or D Pharma degree in their proposed store.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1988675>

<https://transformingindia.mygov.in/scheme/pradhan-mantri-bhartiya-janaushadhi-pariyojana/>

Q.66)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The High Court judges hold office until they attain the age of 62 years. Their Removal requires impeachment by a special majority in Parliament. The High Court judges can be transferred with the Chief Justice's initiation.

Statement 1 is incorrect. A High Court judge can be removed **only on the grounds of proven misbehavior or incapacity.**

Statement 2 is incorrect. Article 222 allows the transfer of Judges, including the Chief Justice, between High Courts. The **consent of the concerned judge isn't needed for a Judge's transfer.** Transfers serve the public interest, promoting better administration of justice nationwide.

Source: M Laxmikanth Ch- 34 High Court

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/transfers-unexplained-the-hindu-editorial-on-the-transfer-of-high-court>

[judges/article66191935.ece#:~:text=The%20Memorandum%20of%20Procedure%20is,of%20justice%20throughout%20the%20country.](https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/transfers-unexplained-the-hindu-editorial-on-the-transfer-of-high-court-judges/article66191935.ece#:~:text=The%20Memorandum%20of%20Procedure%20is,of%20justice%20throughout%20the%20country.)

<https://doj.gov.in/memorandum-of-procedure-of-appointment-of-high-court-judges/>

Q.67)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was established in 1985 under Article 323A of the Constitution of India. The CAT has jurisdiction over a wide range of service matters relating to central government employees. The CAT has jurisdiction over a wide range of service matters, including appointment, promotion, transfer, dismissal, pay, pension, allowances, gratuity etc.

1) **Members of the defense forces, as well as officers and servants of the Supreme Court, are not subject to the CAT's jurisdiction.**

Statement 1 is incorrect. The CAT is not bound by the procedure laid down in the Civil Procedure Code of 1908, following the principles of natural justice. This flexibility in approach allows the CAT to adhere to fair and just practices.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The members in CAT are appointed based on a high-powered selection committee's recommendation, chaired by a sitting Supreme Court Judge who is nominated by the Chief Justice of India. After Chief Justice's concurrence, appointments receive approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). **The members of CAT shall be eligible for the reappointment in the same manner as the original appointment.**

Statement 3 is incorrect. Initially, only the Supreme Court had jurisdiction over appeals against CAT orders, excluding high courts. However, **in the 1997 Chandra Kumar case, the Supreme Court deemed this restriction on high courts' jurisdiction as unconstitutional, asserting judicial review as integral to the Constitution's basic structure.** Now appeals against CAT orders can be made in High Court.

Source: M Laxmikanth Ch-35 Tribunals

https://dopt.gov.in/sites/default/files/For%20Judicial%20Member_compressed.pdf

Q.68)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Lok Adalat is a **statutory organization** in India that provides an alternative method of resolving disputes outside of court. It was established in accordance with the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.**

Option a is incorrect. The **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 was amended in 2002 to provide for the establishment of the Permanent Lok Adalats to deal with cases pertaining to the public utility services like transportation services, postal, telegraph, and telephone etc.**

Option b is correct. There is **no court fee payable when a matter is filed in a Permanent Lok Adalat.** If a matter pending in the court of law is referred to the Lok Adalat and is settled subsequently, the court fee originally paid in the court on the complaints/petition is also refunded back to the parties.

Option c is incorrect. The Permanent Lok Adalat shall **have no jurisdiction in respect of any matter relating to an offence not compoundable under any law.**

Option d is incorrect. According to **the Legal Services Authorities Act of 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is final and binding on all parties.** It is considered to be a decree of a civil court and has the same force as a judgement from a civil court. No appeal can be made against an award from a Lok Adalat in any court of law.

Source: M Laxmikanth Ch- 36 Subordinate Courts

[https://nalsa.gov.in/lok-](https://nalsa.gov.in/lok-adalat#:~:text=Lok%20Adalats%20have%20been%20given,before%20any%20court%20of%20law.)

[adalat#:~:text=Lok%20Adalats%20have%20been%20given,before%20any%20court%20of%20law.](https://nalsa.gov.in/lok-adalat#:~:text=Lok%20Adalats%20have%20been%20given,before%20any%20court%20of%20law.)

Q.69)

Ans) c

Exp) **Option c is the correct answer.**

The **Gram Nyayalayas Act of 2008 was introduced to establish Gram Nyayalayas** at the grassroots, ensuring citizens' doorstep access to justice. It aims to eliminate barriers based on social, economic, or other disabilities, ensuring equal opportunities for justice to all.

Statement 1 is correct. The Gram Nyayalaya shall be a **mobile court and shall exercise the powers of both Criminal and Civil Courts.**

Statement 2 is correct. A **person accused of an offence may file an application for plea bargaining in Gram Nyayalaya** in which such offence is pending trial. Gram Nyayalaya shall dispose of the case in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XXIA of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973

Knowledge Base: About Plea bargaining:

- 1) Plea bargaining is a negotiation between the prosecution and the defense in a criminal case. The defendant agrees to plead guilty to a lesser charge or to a reduced sentence in exchange for a concession from the prosecutor or the court. The concession could be a lesser punishment, recommendations, or a specific sentence

Source: M Laxmikanth Ch- 36 Subordinate Courts

Q.70)

Ans) c

Exp) **Option c is the correct answer.**

Recently, 500 Channapatna toys made of ivory and wood were sent to children in Afghanistan for educational and entertainment purposes for children affected by civil wars. These toys were specially made by local women's self-help groups.

Option c is correct: Channapatna toys originate from the town of Channapatna in Karnataka and received a GI tag in 2005. These toys are made of ivory and wood. The wooden toys are inanimate and **ideal for children as the chemical dye is not used in them and they do not have sharp edges.** The demand for Channapatna's toys increased after the government imposed a ban on the import of toys from China.

Knowledge Base:

Kondapalli Bommallu, from Kondapalli in Andhra Pradesh, obtained the **GI tag in 1999.** These toys, beyond being children's playthings, hold cultural significance and are meticulously crafted in homes during festivals like Navratri and Sankranti.

Rajasthan's Kathputlis, delightful puppets made of wood, metal wire, and cloth, captivate children through puppet shows, providing a creative means for storytelling. The string doll has played a crucial role in conveying folk and historical stories to the masses. These toys received **GI tag in the year 2006**.

Nirmal toys, wooden creations from Nirmal town in Telangana, were granted the **GI tag in 2009**. Crafted from softwood, these toys are cut into various shapes and sizes, adhered together using chinta lappam—a glue made from sawdust and tamarind seeds.

Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2023/Dec/15/channapatna-toys-now-a-part-of-academic-activities-in-afghanistan-2641668.html>

Q.71)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Article 19 of Indian Constitution guarantees **Freedom of Movement** i.e. the right to move freely throughout the territory of India. The rights under article 19 are protected against only state action and not private individuals.

Statement 1 is correct: Article 19(1)(d) of the Indian Constitution entitles every citizen to move freely throughout the territory of the country. **This right is protected against only state action and not private individuals.**

Statement 2 is correct: The grounds of imposing reasonable restrictions on this freedom are two, namely, the interests of general public and **the protection of interests of any scheduled tribe. The entry of outsiders in tribal areas is restricted** to protect the distinctive culture, language, customs and manners of scheduled tribes and to safeguard their traditional vocation and properties against exploitation.

Statement 3 is correct: These rights are available only to the citizens and to shareholders of a company but **not to foreigners** or legal persons like companies or corporations, etc.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The freedom of movement has two dimensions, viz, **internal** (right to move inside the country) and **external** (right to move out of the country and right to come back to the country). Article 19 protects only the first dimension. **The second dimension is dealt by Article 21** (right to life and personal liberty) i.e. **Right to move out of the country and right to come back to the country is not provided under Article 19 of the Constitution.**

Source: Laxmikant 6th Edition.pdf

Q.72)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Option a is incorrect. A panchayat constituted upon the dissolution of a panchayat before the expiration of its duration shall continue only for the remainder of the period for which the dissolved panchayat would have continued had it not been so dissolved. In other words, **a panchayat reconstituted after premature dissolution does not enjoy the full period of five years but remains in office only for the remainder of the period.**

Option b is correct. In order to be eligible for a Panchayat election, an individual needs to be **at least 21 years old**. Also, the **minimum age required to be a Sarpanch of a gram panchayat or Ward Member is 21 years.**

Option c is incorrect. Article 243E of the Constitution of India provides that fresh elections to constitute a panchayat shall be completed-

(a) before the expiry of its duration of five years; or

(b) in case of dissolution, before the expiry of a period of **six months** from the date of its dissolution.

But, where the remainder of the period (for which the dissolved panchayat would have continued) is less than six months, it shall not be necessary to hold any election for constituting the new panchayat for such period.

Option d is incorrect. Article 243 K establishes a State Election Commission in every state as a constitutional body with **powers of 'superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of all elections to the Panchayats in the State.**

Knowledge Base: The State Election Commission is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering elections to the 3rd tier of governance i.e. the Local Self Government, which includes the Panchayati Raj Institutions and the Urban Local Bodies.

Source: M. Laxmikanth Indian Polity

<https://www.mea.gov.in/Images/pdf1/Part9.pdf>

<https://mahasec.maharashtra.gov.in/Site/1376/Role-of-SEC?format=print>

Q.73)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct. Candidates from a national party require **only one proposer** or person to file their nominations. The proposers must also be electors from the concerned constituency, but a proposer can also be a candidate from the same constituency.

Statement 2 is correct. The candidates of recognized National Parties are entitled to **two sets of electoral rolls** free of cost by the Election Commission during the general elections.

Statement 3 is incorrect. National parties get **dedicated broadcast slots** on **public broadcasters** (and not on private broadcasters) Doordarshan and All India Radio during the general elections.

Statement 4 is incorrect. Political parties are entitled to nominate 'star campaigners' during general elections. A **national party** can have a **maximum of 40 'star campaigners'** while a registered **unrecognised party** can nominate a **maximum of 20 star campaigners.**

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/what-does-national-party-status-mean/>

<https://www.firstpost.com/india/lok-sabha-election-2019-who-can-file-nominations-to-contest-polls-documents-required-heres-how-it-works-6369451.html>

Q.74)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Option a and b are incorrect. India is home to a representative democracy, sometimes referred to as an **indirect democracy**. In this type of democracy, the **citizens elect their representatives to make decisions on their behalf**. In India, **election of the members of state assemblies and the Parliament represents the example of Indirect democracy.**

Option c is correct. Direct democracy is also referred to as pure democracy. It is a system in which the citizen directly becomes a part of the decision-making process. In India, **Gram Sabha is the perfect example of direct democracy**. It is a **district-level local self-governing body, in which the village people decide on policy initiatives directly.**

Source: M. Laxmikanth Indian Polity

<https://ncert.nic.in/ncerts/1/fess305.pdf>

Q.75)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Sickle cell anemia is a genetic disorder where abnormal hemoglobin (HbS) causes red blood cells to adopt a rigid, sickle shape, leading to blockages in small blood vessels and reduced oxygen delivery to tissues and organs.

Statement-I is correct: Scientists have developed successful **gene-editing therapies using CRISPR** to treat certain genetic disorders, including **Sickle Cell Anaemia**. Recently the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) **approved the first CRISPR Gene Editing Treatment for Sickle Cell Disease** in the United States. The treatment, called **exa-cel** that involves CRISPR technology, edits a gene involved in red blood cell shape and function. The FDA's decision makes the U.S. the second country to approve a CRISPR therapy, following exa-cel's approval for sickle cell disease in the United Kingdom.

Statement-II is correct and explains the Statement-I: CRISPR functions as a gene-editing tool, enabling precise modifications to DNA sequences in living organisms. Specifically, the CRISPR system employed in exa-cel focuses on genes responsible for hemoglobin production, the protein crucial for oxygen transport in blood cells. In sickle cell anemia, a variant of the disease, mutations in the HBB gene alter the protein's structure, resulting in the deformation of red blood cells into a sickle shape. This deformation leads to blood vessel blockages, causing intense pain and fatigue. **The precision of CRISPR in targeting genes makes it a promising treatment for genetic disorders like Sickle Cell Anemia.**

Source: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/fda-approves-first-crispr-gene-editing-treatment-for-sickle-cell-disease/#:~:text=On%20>

December%208%20the%20U.S.,blood%20cell%20shape%20and%20function.

Q.76)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The **74th Amendment Act of 1992 provides that four-fifths of the members of a district planning committee should be elected by the elected members of the district panchayat and municipalities** in the district from amongst themselves. The **representation of these members in the committee should be in proportion to the ratio between the rural and urban populations in the district.** The chairperson of such committee shall forward the development plan to the state government.

Statement 2 is correct. **Article 243 ZE inserted by the 74th Amendment Act of 1992 prescribes that, at the district level, district planning committee must consolidate the plans prepared by panchayats and municipalities and prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole.**

Source: M Laxmikanth Indian Polity Page 852

https://cag.gov.in/uploads/download_audit_report/2010/Uttar_Pradesh_TL_PRI_2010_Chap_2.pdf

Q.77)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Articles 239 to 241 in Part VIII of the Constitution deal with the union territories. Even though all the union territories belong to one category, there is no uniformity in their administrative system.

Option b is correct: The Chief Minister of the National Capital Territory of Delhi is appointed by the President of India. **Article 239AA** of the Indian Constitution deals with special provisions with respect to Delhi. It states: "The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the President and other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Chief Minister and the Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President." Therefore, the President holds the authority to appoint the Chief Minister

based on the recommendations and support of the majority party or coalition in the legislative assembly of the Union Territory.

Source: page 874 chapter 40- Union Territories- M. LAXMIKANT

Q.78)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The **Fifth Schedule** of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in any state except the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The president is empowered to declare an area to be a **scheduled area**. He can also **increase or decrease** its area, **alter its boundary lines**, rescind such designation or make fresh orders for such redesignation on an area in consultation **with the governor of the state concerned**.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The governor is empowered to direct that any particular act of Parliament or the state legislature does not apply to a scheduled area **or apply** with specified modifications and exceptions.

Source: Chapter-41 Scheduled and Tribal Areas, M Laxmikant.

Q.79)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Election Commission of **India** is a permanent and an independent body established by the Constitution of India to ensure free and fair elections in the country. **Article 324** of the Constitution provides that the power of superintendence, direction and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of President of India and the office of Vice-President of India shall be vested in the Election Commission.

Option a is incorrect: The Constitution has not prescribed the qualifications like legal, educational, administrative or judicial for **the members of the Election Commission of India**. The Constitution has not specified the term of the members of the Election Commission.

Option b is correct: The Election Commission of India consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the president may from time-to-time fix. The **appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other election commissioners is made by the President**.

Option c is correct: The Election Commission of India is not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate State Election Commission.

Option d is correct: The Chief Election Commissioner of India is provided with the security of tenure. He cannot be removed from his office except in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court. In other words, he **can be removed by the President on the basis of a resolution passed to that effect by both the Houses of Parliament with special majority**, either on the ground of proved misbehavior or incapacity. Thus, he does not hold his office till the pleasure of the president, though he is appointed by him.

Source: Chapter 42 Election Commission, M Laxmikant

Q.80)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The recent report submitted at the United Nation Climate Change Conference held in Dubai, identified five critical tipping points. They are the **Greenland and West Antarctic Ice Sheets, the North Atlantic subpolar Gyre Circulation, warm-water coral reefs and some permafrost regions**. These tipping points pose threats of a magnitude that has never been faced before by humanity.

Opinion c is correct: In climate science, a **tipping point is a critical threshold that, when crossed, leads to large and often irreversible changes in the climate system**. The concept of tipping points was introduced by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 20 years ago, but then it was thought they would only occur if global warming reached 5°C. Recent IPCC assessments, however, suggested that tipping points could be reached between 1°C and 2°C of warming.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/climate-change/5-climate-tipping-points-un-climate-conference-9056993/>

<https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2021/11/11/how-close-are-we-to-climate-tipping-points/>

Q.81)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Article 76 of Constitution of India has provided for the office of the Attorney General for India. He is the highest law officer in the country.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Attorney General of India can appear on behalf of the Government of India in **all cases in the Supreme Court** in which the Government of India is concerned. He can also represent the Government of India in any reference made by the president to the Supreme Court **under Article 143** of the Constitution

Statement 2 is correct: Attorney General of India can **give advice to the Government of India** upon such legal matters, which are **referred to him by the President**.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Attorney General of India **should not advise or hold a brief against the Government of India** in order to avoid any complication and conflict of duty.

Source: Chapter 52 Attorney General of India, M Laxmikant

Q.82)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The NDMA is the apex body for disaster management in the country. It works under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The NDMA consists of a chairperson and other members, not exceeding nine.

The Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairperson of the NDMA. The other members are nominated by the chairperson of the NDMA. The chairperson of the NDMA designates one of the members as the vice-chairperson of the NDMA. The vice chairperson has the status of a cabinet minister while the other members have the status of a Minister of State

Statement 2 is correct: NDMA provide such support to other countries affected by major disasters as may be determined by the central government.

Source: Chapter 63 National Disaster Management Authority, M Laxmikant

Q.83)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigative agency of India established in 1963 by the Indian government. **CBI is not a statutory body;** it derives its power from the Delhi Special Police

Establishment Act 1946. It operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

Option 1 is correct: The agency was established as a result of the **recommendation of the Santhanam Committee. In 1962, Lal Bahadur Sastri appointed Santhanam to preside over the committee on anti-corruption**, the committee submitted its report in Jan 1963, and the report was known as the "Santhanam Committee Report".

Option 2 is correct: **The Director of CBI has been provided security of two-year tenure in CBI by the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.** The CVC Act also provides a mechanism for the selection of the CBI Director and other officers of the rank of SP and above in the CBI.

Option 3 is incorrect: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs. **Later, it was transferred to the Ministry of Personnel and now it enjoys the status of an attached office**

Source: Indian Polity, M Laxmikanth: Chapter-58

Q.84)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Article 30 of the Indian Constitution identifies both religious and linguistic minorities. It says, "**All minorities, whether based on religion or language**, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice."

Statement 2 is incorrect: The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) is an autonomous body established by the Indian government in 1992 under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

Statement 3 is correct: Article 350-B provides for a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities, who is known as the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in India (CLM) to investigate all the matters relating to the Safeguards provided for the linguistic minorities in India under the Constitution. **The Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities is to be appointed by the President of India.**

Source: <http://164.100.166.181/safeguards/safeguards.pdf>

Q.85)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Recently, the Codex Alimentarius Commission praised India for its standards on Millets. The objective of it includes protecting consumer's health and ensuring fair practices in food trade. India became the member of Codex Alimentarius in 1964 and the Commission has 189 Members including 188 Member Countries and 1 Member Organization (The European Union).

Statement 1 is correct: The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is an international food safety and quality standard-setting body established in 1963. It is **created by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).**

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Codex Alimentarius includes standards for all the principal foods, whether processed, semi-processed or raw for distribution to the consumer. **Codex standards and related texts are voluntary in nature and do not compel the nation to adhere to standards set by the commission.**

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1981504>

<https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/en/>

Q.86)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The Cabinet Secretariat functions directly under the Prime Minister. The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 and Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 facilitating smooth transaction of business in Ministries/ Departments.

Statement 2 is correct: The Cabinet Secretariat provides secretarial assistance to the Cabinet Committees-Political Affairs Committee, Economic Affairs Committee, Appointments Committee, and Committee on Parliamentary Affairs (Chairperson-Home Minister). Functions as the chief coordinating agency in the central government. In this respect, it settles disputes between ministries.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure is entrusted with allocating financial resources to different ministries.

Statement 4 is correct: Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for monitoring the implementation of decisions taken by the Cabinet and its Committees.

Source: <https://cabsec.gov.in/aboutus/functions/>

Q.87)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Electoral bonds are **interest-free bearer bonds** or money instruments that can be purchased by companies and individuals in India from **authorized branches of the State Bank of India (SBI)**. These bonds are sold **in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore**. They can be purchased through a KYC-compliant account to make donations to a political party.

Option 1 is incorrect: Electoral Bonds have a life of only 15 days during which it can be used for making donations to the political parties.

Option 2 is incorrect: The Government of India has authorized only the State Bank of India (SBI), to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 authorized Branches.

Option 3 is incorrect: There are two criteria a political party must meet to receive funds through electoral bonds. The first is it must get registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) and the second is it must have **secured not less than one per cent of the votes polled in the last Election to the Lok Sabha or the Legislative Assembly of the State**, is eligible to receive the Electoral Bonds.

Source:

https://loksabhadocs.nic.in/Refinput/New_Reference_Notes/English/27072020_141527_102120474.pdf

Q.88)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Delimitation Commission in India** is a body responsible for the **redrawing of parliamentary and assembly constituencies' boundaries** based on population changes. The primary objective of the Delimitation Commission is to readjust the boundaries of constituencies to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of representation based on the latest population data.

Statement 1 is correct. The **Delimitation Commission** is composed of a chairperson and other members appointed by the **President of India**. The composition may include a retired judge of the Supreme Court as the chairperson, the Chief Election Commissioner of India, and the respective State Election Commissioner(s) for the states involved in the delimitation process.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The legal framework for the Delimitation Commission is provided by the Delimitation Acts enacted by the Parliament of India. **Delimitation commissions in India have been established four times till now, in the years 1952, 1962, 1972, and 2002.**

Statement 3 is correct and statement 4 is incorrect: Delimitation Act mandates that the **Delimitation Commission's orders are final and cannot be questioned before any court** as it would hold up an election indefinitely. **When the orders of the Delimitation Commission are laid before the Parliament or State legislature**, they cannot affect any modification in the orders.

Source: <https://old.eci.gov.in/delimitation-website/delimitation/#:-:text=The%20Delimitation%20Commission%20in%20India,of%20India%20in%20this%20behalf>.

https://www.indiacode.nic.in/show-data?actid=AC_CEN_5_5_00002_196320_1517807317637§ionId=15719§ionno=41&orderno=43

Q.89)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The anti-defection law was passed in 1985 through the 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act. **It added the Tenth Schedule to the Indian Constitution** and amended four articles in the Constitution. (It amended Articles 101, 102, 190 and 191 which are related to the vacating of seats and disqualification of MPs and MLAs.)

Statement 2 is correct: The presiding officer of the house (Speaker in Lok Sabha, Chairman in Rajya Sabha) has the power to make rules to give effect to the Tenth Schedule. However, it must be placed before the house for 30 days. The House can modify or disapprove the rules.

Statement 3 is correct. If an independent member, after winning an election as an independent candidate, decides to join a political party at a later stage, **the Anti-Defection Law comes into play.** The law considers it as an act of defection. By joining a political party, an independent member loses their status as an independent. The defection is treated in a manner similar to a member defecting from one party to another.

Knowledge Base:

Key features of the Anti-Defection Law in India:

- 1) **Definition of Defection:** The law defines defection as voluntarily giving up the membership of a political party or voluntarily not voting in the legislature according to the party's directive.
- 2) **Disqualification of Members:** If a member of a house (either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha) or a state legislature voluntarily gives up the membership of the political party from which they were elected, or votes against the party whip, they may face disqualification.
- 3) **Exception to Disqualification:** There are certain exceptions to disqualification. For example, a member is not disqualified if they are part of a merger of a political party with another party and one-third of the members of the original party join the other party.
- 4) **Amendments:** The Anti-Defection Law has undergone amendments over the years to address loopholes and strengthen its provisions. The 91st Amendment Act of 2003 clarified certain aspects of the law.

Source: https://prindia.org/files/parliament/discussion_papers/The_Anti-Defection_Law.pdf

Q.90)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Recently, Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi utilized the **Indian language AI tool 'Bhashini' to facilitate the real-time translation of his Hindi speech for the Tamil audience.** This AI-powered tool played a pivotal role in enabling effective communication and comprehension among the diverse linguistic audience, exemplifying the integration of technology in language translation during the Prime Minister's address.

Option d is correct: Bhashini aims to increase the content in Indian languages on the Internet especially in the domains of public interest such as governance and policy, science & technology, etc. It also encourage citizens to use the Internet in their own language. Further Bhasini acts a local language translation initiative leveraging Artificial Intelligence to bridge linguistic gaps in India. It is a **flagship initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY)** and aims to make websites more multilingual and interactive.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/indian-language-ai-tool-bhashini-used-to-translate-prime-minister-narendra-modis-speech/article67649545.ece>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1827997#:~:text=to%20increase%20the-content,-in%20Indian%20languages>

Q.91)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

A **First Information Report(FIR)** is a written document prepared by the police in India based on information received about an offense. The FIR is typically lodged by the victim of the crime, an eyewitness, or any person who has knowledge of the offense. It can be filed at the police station having jurisdiction over the area where the offense occurred.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Registering an FIR is a legal obligation for the police upon receiving information about a **cognizable offense (not non-cognizable)**. A cognizable offense is an offense for which the police can make an arrest without a warrant. The police cannot refuse to register an FIR as it is their duty to do so. The FIR initiates the investigation process. The police collect **evidence, interview witnesses, and take necessary legal actions** based on the information provided in the FIR.

Statement 2 is correct. The person providing information for the FIR has the right to get a **copy of the FIR free of costs**. The FIR contains essential details about the incident, including:

- 1) Date, time, and location of the offense.
- 2) Names and addresses of the victim(s), accused, and witnesses.
- 3) A brief summary of the incident.
- 4) Details of any property or items involved in the offense..

Knowledge Base:

Detailed aspects of an FIR:

- 1) **Recording by the Police:** The police officer receiving the information records the FIR in writing. The person providing the information has the right to demand that the FIR be read to them.
- 2) **Right to a Copy:** The person filing the FIR has the right to receive a free copy of the FIR. This copy is essential for the person's records and may be required for legal proceedings.
- 3) **Signature and Seal:** The person filing the FIR often signs it after ensuring that the contents are correctly recorded. The officer in charge of the police station also signs and seals the FIR.
- 4) **Confidentiality:** The information provided in the FIR is generally treated as confidential during the course of the investigation. **Role in Investigation:** The FIR is the starting point of a criminal investigation. It guides the police in collecting evidence, interviewing witnesses, and taking further legal actions.

5) **FIR as Evidence:** The FIR can be used as evidence during the trial. It serves as an important document in court proceedings.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/everyday-explainers/fir-cognizable-offence-ipc-explained-7780266/>

Q.92)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Ministries play a crucial role in the **functioning of government** and are instrumental in implementing **policies, managing resources, and addressing various aspects of governance**. Ministries are responsible for formulating policies related to their specific areas of focus. They play a central role in translating the government's vision and goals into actionable plans and programs.

Statement-I is incorrect. The Ministries and Departments of the Government of India are created by the **President (not Prime Minister)** on the **advice of the Prime Minister of India**. Ministries manage and allocate resources, including finances and personnel, to implement policies and programs. They play a critical role in ensuring the **efficient use of resources** to achieve desired outcomes.

Statement-II is correct. The **Transaction of Business of the Government of India Rules, 1961**, provide the procedural framework for the conduct of government business. The Transaction of Business Rules is made under **Article 77 of the Constitution of India**. **Article 77** of the Indian Constitution pertains to the conduct of government business and the distribution of executive powers between the President of India and the Union Council of Ministers.

Knowledge Base:

Some of the key Ministries and Departments of the Government of India:

- 1) **Ministry of Home Affairs:** Responsible for internal security, law and order, and citizenship issues.
- 2) **Ministry of External Affairs:** Deals with India's foreign relations. **Ministry of Finance:** Formulates economic policy, manages financial resources, and oversees financial institutions.
- 3) **Ministry of Defence:** Deals with matters related to the armed forces and national defense.
- 4) **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare:** Manages public health and healthcare policies.
- 5) **Ministry of Education:** Responsible for education policies and programs.
- 6) **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare:** Focuses on agriculture, rural development, and farmers' welfare.
- 7) **Ministry of Women and Child Development:** Works on policies and programs related to women and children.
- 8) **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting:** Deals with mass media, broadcasting, and information dissemination.
- 9) **Ministry of Science and Technology:** Formulates policies related to scientific research and technological advancements.
- 10) **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change:** Addresses environmental issues, conservation of natural resources, and climate change.

Source:

https://cabsec.gov.in/writereaddata/transactionofbusinessrulescomplete/completeaobrules/english/1_Upload_2214.pdf

Q.93)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **election of the President** of India is covered under **Article 54** of the Indian Constitution. Article 54 outlines the manner in which the President is to be elected and specifies the electoral college responsible for the election:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The President shall be elected by an electoral college, consisting of **only elected members of both Houses of Parliament**, as well as the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States and Union Territories. Nominated members do not participate in the election.

Statement 2 is correct: The value of the vote of each MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly) is determined based on the population of the state he or she represents. Hence, the vote value of the MLA changes from state to state. The value of the votes of MPs (Members of Parliament) is the same across the country.

Statement 3 is correct: Election in Accordance with System of Proportional Representation: The election of the President is conducted in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote. For a candidate to be declared elected as President, they must secure a certain quota of votes. This quota is determined based on the total value of the votes of the electoral college.

Source: Indian Polity: M Lakshmikanth, chapter 4, 17

Q.94)

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)** is enshrined in **Part IV of the Indian Constitution (Articles 36-51)** and contains principles that guide the state in promoting justice, social and economic well-being, and international peace.

Article Number	What it says
Article 36	Defines State as same as Article 12 unless the context otherwise defines.
Article 37	Application of the Principles contained in this part.
Article 38	It authorizes the state to secure a social order for the promotion of the welfare of people.
Article 39	Certain principles of policies to be followed by the state.
Article 39A	Equal justice and free legal aid.
Article 40	Organization of village panchayats.
Article 41	Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases.
Article 42	Provision for just and humane conditions of work and maternity leaves.
Article 43	Living wage etc. for workers.
Article 43-A	Participation of workers in management of industries.
Article 43-B	Promotion of cooperative societies.
Article 44	Uniform civil code for the citizens.
Article 45	Provision for early childhood care and education to children below the age of six years.
Article 46	Promotion of education and economic interests of SC, ST, and other weaker sections.
Article 47	Duty of the state to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health.
Article 48	Organization of agriculture and animal husbandry.
Article 48-A	Protection and improvement of environment and safeguarding of forests and wildlife.
Article 49	Protection of monuments and places and objects of national importance.
Article 50	Separation of judiciary from the executive.
Article 51	Promotion of international peace and security.

Statement a is correct. Article 47 of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) in the Constitution of India does indeed mention the state's endeavor to bring about the prohibition of the consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs that are injurious to health, except for medicinal purposes.

Statement b is incorrect. The Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) in the Indian Constitution **do not impose direct limitations** on the legislative or executive branches. But courts may consider DPSP while interpreting laws. If a law is ambiguous or open to different interpretations, courts may look at DPSP to understand the legislative intent and to interpret the law in a manner that is in consonance with the directive principles. The phrase 'Directive Principles of State Policy' denotes the ideals that the State should keep in mind while formulating policies and enacting laws. These are the constitutional instructions or recommendations to the State in legislative, executive and administrative matters.

Statement c is correct. The Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) in the Indian Constitution were influenced by the **Government of India Act, 1935**. The Directive Principles resemble the '**Instrument of Instructions**' enumerated in the Government of India Act of 1935. The framers of the Indian Constitution drew upon various sources, both national and international, to formulate a comprehensive and balanced set of principles that would guide the state in governance.

Statement d is correct. The Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) in the Indian Constitution are **not justiciable** but they provide a framework for governance and policy formulation. Unlike **Fundamental Rights (Part III of the Constitution)**, which are legally enforceable and individuals can approach the courts if they feel their fundamental rights are violated, **DPSP does not confer enforceable rights on individuals**, and individuals cannot approach the courts to enforce these principles against the government.

Knowledge Base:

Importance of Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP):

- 1) **Policy Guidance:** DPSP provides policy guidance to the government. While formulating laws and policies, the legislature and executive are expected to keep in mind the principles laid down in DPSP.
- 2) **Interpretation of Laws:** Courts may consider DPSP while interpreting laws. If a law is ambiguous or open to different interpretations, courts may look at DPSP to understand the legislative intent and to interpret the law in a manner that is in consonance with the directive principles.
- 3) **Harmonizing with Fundamental Rights:** While DPSP themselves are not enforceable, they are intended to be read in harmony with Fundamental Rights (Part III of the Constitution).
- 4) **Judicial Review:** While DPSP cannot be directly enforced, the judiciary can review laws and policies to ensure that they do not violate the fundamental rights guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution.
- 5) **Amendment of the Constitution:** The government can amend the Constitution to bring about changes that align with the goals of DPSP.

Source: Indian Polity: M Lakshminanth, chapter 8

Q.95)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The National Transit Pass System was recently launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to provide seamless transit of timber, bamboo, and other forest produce across the country. Currently, **25 states and union territories** have embraced the unified permit system, streamlining interstate business operations for producers, farmers, and transporters.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The National Transit Pass System is an initiative of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, not the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.

Statement 2 is correct: The National Transit Pass System aids in the monitoring and documentation of transit permits for the transportation of timber, bamboo, and other minor forest produce within and

between states. It generates **QR-coded transit permits, enabling verification at checkpoints across states and ensuring smooth transit.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: The National Transit Pass System helps in monitoring and keeping records of transit permits for inter-state and intra-state transportation of timber and bamboo from **private lands/government/private depot and other minor forest produce.**

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1991540>

<https://ntps.nic.in/writereaddata/FAQ.pdf>

Q.96)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Vidhan Sabha, also called State Legislative Assembly, is legislative body of the State. The 3 union territories of India and 22 states have a unicameral state legislature, and 6 states have a bicameral legislature. Vidhan Parishad, also called State Legislative Council, is the main upper house in the State. The establishment of Vidhan Parishad has been defined in the Indian Constitution in Article 169.

Option a is incorrect: The minimum strength of the **Legislative Council** in no case must have **less than 40 members**, whereas the **Legislative Assembly** of a state consists of **not less than 60 members**. Few states like Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Goa have a minimum legislative assembly strength fixed at 30 members, whereas, for Mizoram and Nagaland, it's fixed at 40 and 46 respectively.

Option b is incorrect: The **Legislative Council** of a state comprises **not more than one-third of total number of members in legislative assembly** of the state, whereas **Legislative Assembly of a state consists of not more than 500 members.**

Option c is incorrect: The **minimum Age** to be a member of the **Legislative Council is 30 years**, whereas in the case **Legislative Assembly it is 25 years.**

Option d is correct: Members of the **Legislative Council serve for a term of 6 years**, whereas members of the **Legislative Assembly serve for a term of 5 years.**

Source: Indian Polity, M Laxmikanth: Chapter-33

<https://knowindia.india.gov.in/profile/the-states.php>

Q.97)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Indian Constitution is unique in its content and spirit. Though borrowed from almost every constitution of the world, the constitution of India has several salient features that distinguish it from the constitutions of other countries.

Statement a is correct: The first function of a constitution is to provide a **set of basic rules** that allow for **minimal coordination amongst members of a society**. Any group will need some basic rules that are publicly promulgated and known to all members of that group to achieve a **minimal degree of coordination**. Indian Constitution with various provisions enshrined in Fundamental Rights and DPSP's serves this purpose.

Statement b is correct: The second function of a constitution is to specify who has the **power to make decisions in a society. It decides how the government will be constituted.** For instance, Parliament gets to decide laws and policies, and that Parliament itself be organised in a particular manner. Before identifying what the law in any given society is, you have to identify who has the authority to enact it.

Statement c is incorrect: The Constitution of India is **neither rigid nor flexible** but a synthesis of both. The Constitution of India has opted for the British parliamentary System of Government rather than

American Presidential System of Government. The **system of governance cannot be changed easily** as it is acknowledged as a part of basic structure by Supreme court.

Statement d is correct: The other function of a constitution is to enable the government to fulfil the **aspirations of a society** and create conditions for a **just society**. Constitutions are not only rules and regulations controlling the powers of the government. They also give powers to the government for pursuing **collective good of the society**.

Source: chap1Working.pmd (ncert.nic.in)

Q.98)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement a is correct: The National Commission for Women was set up as **statutory body** in January 1992 under the **National Commission for Women Act, 1990**. It was established to review the constitutional and legal safeguards for women. It recommends remedial legislative measures, facilitates redressal of grievances and advises the government on all policy matters affecting the women.

Statement b is correct: National Commission for Women **investigate and examine** all the matters related to the safeguards provided for the women under the Constitution and other laws.

Statement c is incorrect: It does **not have the power to choose its own members**. The power of selecting members is **vested with the Union Government** and the nature of the country's volatile political scenario tends the commission to be politicized.

Statement d is correct: National Commission for Women looks into complaints, and takes **Suo Moto notice of matters relating to - deprivation of women's rights, non-implementation of the laws** and Non-compliance of the policy decisions guaranteeing the welfare for women society.

Source: National Commission for Women | ForumIAS Blog

About the Commission | National Commission for Women (ncw.nic.in)

Q.99)

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Option a is incorrect. Indian Councils Act, 1909 increased the size of the legislative councils, both Central and provincial. It retained official majority in the Central legislative council, but allowed the provincial legislative councils to have nonofficial majority. It enlarged the deliberative functions of the legislative councils at both the levels. It provided (for the first time) for the association of Indians with the executive councils of the Viceroy and Governors.. It introduced a system of communal representation for Muslims by accepting the concept of 'separate electorate'. It also provided for the separate representation of presidency corporations, chambers of commerce, universities and zamindars

Option b is incorrect. Government of India act 1935 provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation consisting of provinces and princely states as units. The Act divided the powers between the Centre and units in terms of three lists–Federal List, Provincial List and the Concurrent List. Residuary powers were given to the Viceroy. It abolished dyarchy in the provinces and introduced 'provincial autonomy' in its place. It provided for the adoption of dyarchy at the Centre. It introduced **bicameralism in six out of eleven provinces**.

Option c is correct. Government of India act 1919 relaxed the central control over the provinces by demarcating and separating the central and provincial subjects. It further divided the provincial subjects into two parts–transferred and reserved. **It introduced, for the first time, bicameralism and direct elections** in the country. Thus, the Indian legislative council was replaced by a bicameral legislature

consisting of an Upper House (Council of State) and a Lower House (Legislative Assembly). The majority of members of both the Houses were chosen by direct election.

Option d is incorrect. Indian Councils act 1892 increased the number of additional (non-official) members in the Central and provincial legislative councils. It also increased the functions of legislative councils and gave them the power to discuss the budget and address questions to the executive. It provided for the nomination of some non-official members of the (a) Central Legislative Council by the viceroy, and (b) that of the provincial legislative councils by the Governors.

Source: page 58 chapter 1 - Historical Background - M. LAXMIKANT

Q.100)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty appeared in the news in the context of the negotiations of the United Nation Climate Change conference held in the United Arab Emirates in 2023. **The idea of this treaty, originating from small Pacific islands in 2015**, gained traction during **COP28 discussions**, particularly as numerous countries refrain from endorsing fossil fuel phase-out language due to their national interests.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT) Initiative is not led by the World Bank; rather it is spearheaded by a growing bloc of 12 nation-states - Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Tonga, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Niue, Antigua and Barbuda, Timor-Leste, Palau, Colombia, Samoa, and Nauru - who joined forces at COP28, held in United Arab Emirates (UAE). These nationals called on other governments to join them in seeking a negotiating mandate for a new treaty on fossil fuels.

Statement 2 is correct: The FFNPT Initiative indeed calls for an end to the expansion of new coal, oil, and gas production by nations. This is a core objective of the proposed treaty, aiming to curb the growth of fossil fuel dependency and accelerate the transition to renewable energy sources.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The FFNPT Initiative does not propose a dedicated climate fund with an annual subscription amount of USD 100 billion dollars to aid developing nations in their shift towards cleaner energy sources.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/idea-of-fossil-fuel-non-proliferation-treaty-gets-traction-at-cop28/articleshow/105919971.cms?from=mdr>

<https://fossilfuel treaty.org/#:~:text=nation%2Dstates%20%2D-,Vanuatu,-%2C%20Tuvalu%2C%20Tonga%2C%20Fiji>