



60 Steps To Prelims (2021) (Date : 26-04-2021)

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Question 1:

With reference to Judicial Review in India, consider the following statements:

1. The provision of judicial review has been adopted from the constitution of the United States of America.
2. The scope of judicial review power of the Supreme Court in India is wider than that of the US Supreme Court.
3. All laws come under Judicial Review if they violate the basic structure of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 2 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The doctrine of **judicial review originated and developed in the USA**. The Supreme Court has declared the power of judicial review as a basic feature of the Constitution or an element of the basic structure of the Constitution. Hence, the power of judicial review cannot be curtailed or excluded even by a constitutional amendment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Judicial review is the power of the judiciary to examine the constitutionality of legislative enactments and executive orders of both the Central and State governments.
 - On examination, if they are found to be violative of the Constitution (ultra vires), they can be declared as illegal, unconstitutional and invalid (null and void) by the judiciary. Consequently, they cannot be enforced by the Government.
- The **scope of judicial review in India is narrower than what exists in the USA**. This is because the **American Constitution provides for ‘due process of law’ against that of ‘procedure established by law’ which is contained in the Indian Constitution**.
 - The difference between the two is: “The due process of law gives wide scope to the Supreme Court to grant protection to the rights of its citizens. It can declare laws violative of these rights void not only on substantive grounds of being unlawful, but also on procedural grounds of being unreasonable.
 - Our Supreme Court, while determining the constitutionality of a law, however examines only the substantive question i.e., whether the law is within the powers of the authority concerned or not. It is not expected to go into the question of its reasonableness, suitability or policy implications”. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
- The **first amendment to the Indian Constitution added the Ninth Schedule to it**. The First Amendment that brought in Articles 31A and 31B conferring upon the state the right to make laws to acquire private property and to deem such laws as not being discriminatory and to further protect all such laws from any judicial review by creating something called the Ninth Schedule.

In a landmark ruling on 11 January 2007, the Supreme Court of India ruled that **all laws (including those in the Ninth Schedule)** would be open to Judicial Review if they violated the basic structure of the constitution. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Question 2:

Consider the following statements:

1. In Champakam Dorairajan case the SC ruled that Fundamental Rights is sacrosanct in nature and therefore cannot be amended at all.
2. In the Minerva Mills case the court talked about the balance between the Fundamental Rights and the DPSP.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The justiciability of Fundamental Rights and non- justiciability of Directive Principles on the one hand and the moral obligation of the State to implement Directive Principles (Article 37) on the other hand have led to a conflict between the two since the commencement of the Constitution.
 - In the **Champakam Dorairajan case (1951)**, the Supreme Court ruled that in case of any conflict between the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles, the former would prevail. But, it also held that the Fundamental Rights could be amended by the Parliament by enacting constitutional amendment acts. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
 - In the **Golaknath case (1967)**, the Supreme Court ruled that the **Parliament cannot take away or abridge any of the Fundamental Rights, which are 'sacrosanct' in nature.**
 - In other words, the Court held that the Fundamental Rights cannot be amended for the implementation of the Directive Principles.
 - The 42nd Amendment Act accorded the position of legal primacy and supremacy to the Directive Principles over the Fundamental Rights conferred by Articles 14, 19 and 31.
 - However, this extension was declared as unconstitutional and invalid by the Supreme Court in the Minerva Mills case (1980).
 - In the **Minerva Mills case (1980)**, the Supreme Court also held that **'the Indian Constitution is founded on the bedrock of the balance between the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles.** They together constitute the core of commitment to social revolution. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
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Question 3:

Gender Parity Index (GPI) is released by:

1. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
2. United Nations Development Programme

3. World Economic Forum
4. European Institute for Gender Equality

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

Gender Parity Index (GPI) is released by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** as a part of its Global Education Monitoring Report. **Hence, option A is the correct answer.**

Question 4:

With reference to Arctic Council, consider the following statements :

1. The Arctic Council consists of circumpolar countries of China, Russia, United States, Canada, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Iceland and the United Kingdom.
2. The Arctic Council is an intergovernmental body set up in 1966 by the Kiruna declaration.
3. India has been re-elected as an observer to the Arctic Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1, 2 and 3
3. 1 only
4. 3 only

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- The Arctic Council is formed of circumpolar countries of Russia, United States, Canada, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Iceland and Finland. **Hence, Statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- The Arctic Council is a high-level intergovernmental body set up in 1996 by the Ottawa declaration to promote cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States together with the indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants. **Hence, Statement 2 is NOT correct.**

- India has been re-elected as an observer to the Arctic Council. Observer status in the Arctic Council is open to Non-governmental organizations, Non-littoral states as well as to Intergovernmental and Inter-Parliamentary organizations. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
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Question 5:

With reference to Lok Adalats, which of the following statements is correct?

1. Lok Adalats have the jurisdiction to settle the matters at the pre-litigation stage and not those matters pending before any court
2. Lok Adalats can deal with matters which are civil and not criminal in nature
3. Every Lok Adalat consists of either serving or retired judicial officers only and not any other person
4. None of the statements given above is correct

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- **National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA)** along with other Legal Services Institutions conducts Lok Adalats. Lok Adalat is one of the alternative **dispute redressal mechanisms, where disputes or cases pending in the court of law or at a pre-litigation stage are settled or compromised amicably. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
Lok Adalats have been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The award is final and binding on all parties and no appeal against such an award lies before any court of law.
 - **Lok Adalats can deal with civil matters as well as criminal matters which are compoundable under any law.** They have no jurisdiction in respect of matters relating to divorce or matters relating to an offence not compoundable under any law. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - The Lok Adalat is presided over by a sitting or retired judicial officer as the chairman, with two other members, usually a lawyer and a social worker. **Hence, statement 3 is also not correct.**
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Question 6:

Consider the following statements:

1. District Judge possesses original and appellate jurisdiction in civil matters only.

2. The Judicial Magistrate tries criminal cases which are punishable with imprisonment for a term up to seven years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- The district judge is the highest judicial authority in the district.
 - He possesses **original and appellate jurisdiction in both civil as well as criminal matters. Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
 - The district judge exercises both **judicial and administrative powers**. He also has supervisory powers over all the subordinate courts in the district.
 - The sessions judge has the **power to impose any sentence including life imprisonment and capital punishment** (death sentence). However, a capital punishment passed by him is subject to confirmation by the High Court, whether there is an appeal or not.
 - **Below the District and Sessions Court stands the Court of Subordinate Judge on the civil side and the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate on the criminal side.** The subordinate judge exercises unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction over civil suit. The chief judicial magistrate decides criminal cases which are punishable with imprisonment for a term up to seven years.
 - At the lowest level, on the civil side, is the Court of Munsiff and on the criminal side, is the Court of Judicial Magistrate.
 - The munsiff possesses limited jurisdiction and decides civil cases of small pecuniary stake. **The judicial magistrate tries criminal cases which are punishable with imprisonment for a term up to three years. Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
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Question 7:

Consider the following statements:

1. The writ jurisdiction of Supreme Court is wider than that of the High Court.
2. Judicial Review has nowhere been mentioned in the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The Supreme Court is empowered to issue writs (under Article 32), including habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo-warranto and certiorari for the enforcement of the fundamental rights of an aggrieved citizen.
 - In the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court with regard to federal disputes is different from its original jurisdiction with regard to disputes relating to fundamental rights. In the first case, it is exclusive and in the second case, it is concurrent with the High Court's jurisdiction.
 - The Supreme Court can issue writs for the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights and not for other purposes.
 - The High Court, on the other hand, can issue writs (under Article 226) not only for the enforcement of the fundamental rights but also for the enforcement of an ordinary legal right.
 - It means that the **writ jurisdiction of the High Court is wider than that of the Supreme Court. Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
 - Judicial review is the power of the judiciary to examine the constitutionality of legislative enactments and executive orders of both the Central and State governments.
 - On examination, if they are found to be violative of the Constitution (ultra vires), they can be declared as illegal, unconstitutional and invalid (null and void) by the judiciary.
 - Though the phrase '**Judicial Review**' has nowhere been used in the **Constitution**, the provisions of several Articles explicitly confer the power of judicial review on the Supreme Court and the High Courts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
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Question 8:

India is not a member of:

1. BIMSTEC
2. APEC
3. ASEAN

4. SASEC

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 2 only
2. 4 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- India is a member of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC).
 - India is not a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). **Hence, option D is the correct answer.**
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Question 9:

With reference to the 'Gram Nyayalaya Act', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. As per the Act, Gram Nyayalayas can hear only civil cases and not criminal cases.
 2. The Act allows local social activists as mediators/conciliators.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The objective of the **Gram Nyayalaya Act, 2008** is to provide for the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grassroots level for the purposes of providing access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of social, economic or other disabilities. Their territorial jurisdiction extends to the whole of India **except the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and the tribal areas of Sixth Schedule status.**
- **As per the Act, Gram Nyayalayas can hear both civil cases and criminal cases. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- District Court in consultation with the District Magistrate, prepares a **panel consisting of the names of social workers at the village level, having integrity for appointment as Conciliators who possess such qualifications and experience as may be prescribed by the High Court. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- As per the provisions of the Act, the State Governments shall establish one or more gram nyayalayas for every Panchayat or group of contiguous panchayats at an intermediate level.
 - The Gram Nyayalayas are presided over by ‘**Nyayadhikari**’, who has the same power and enjoys the same salary as well as the benefits of a First Class Judicial Magistrate.

Such a Nyayadhikari is to be appointed by the State Government in consultation with their respective High Court.
 - The Nyayadhikaris shall be persons eligible to be appointed as First Class Magistrate and shall belong to the cadre of Nyayadhikaris created by the Governor in consultation with the High Court.
- The Act provides for **mobile courts**, which have the powers of both civil and criminal courts, to be held periodically in villages where the parties reside.
 - The Gram Nyayalayas shall not have jurisdiction in cases involving the government or any of its officials acting in their official capacity. They shall not **try any claim cognizable by revenue courts.**
 - The Gram Nyayalaya will not be bound by the rules of evidence provided in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 but shall be **guided by the principles of natural justice** and subject to any rule made by the High Court.
 - It may adjourn proceedings to allow for conciliation between parties, subject to rules made by the High Court.

Question 10:

With reference to the ‘curative petition’, consider the following statements:

1. It serves as the final and last option for the parties to get justice in court.
2. It is generally heard in the chamber of judges in the absence of lawyers.

3. It can be filed in both the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

In **Roopa Hurra v Ashok Hurra case (2002)**, the Supreme Court evolved the concept of a curative petition, which can be heard after a **review petition is dismissed**.

- It is considered as the last and final option available for redressal of grievances in Court. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The scope of Curative Petition is narrower than Review Petition. Review Petitions are mostly filed invoking **Article 137** of the Constitution whereas Curative Petitions are filed under **Article 142** of the Constitution read with Supreme Court Rules, 1966.
 - The objective behind allowing curative petition is only to minimize any abuse of the processes of law and to cure gross miscarriage and lapses in the system of justice.
 - A curative petition is generally heard in the chamber of judges in the absence of lawyers. It is **only in rare cases** that such petitions are given an open-court hearing. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - They are filed to seek relief against the final judgement/order of the Supreme Court and after the dismissal of review petition by the Supreme Court. Therefore, they can be entertained by the Supreme Court only. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - To entertain the curative petitions, the Supreme Court has laid down certain specific conditions:
 - The petitioner will have to establish that there was a genuine **violation of principles of natural justice**
 - The fear of the bias of the judge and judgement that adversely affected him.
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Question 11:

Corruption Perception Index is released by:

1. Transparency International
2. Economist Intelligence Unit

3. World Economic Forum
4. Organisation for Economic Cooperation

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- India's rank slips to 86th in corruption perception index 2020.
 - First launched in 1995 by the **Transparency International**, the Corruption Perception Index has been widely credited with putting the issue of corruption on the international policy agenda. **Hence, option (a) is correct.**
 - Transparency International is a non-profit, non- governmental organisation dedicated to fighting corruption. It was founded in 1993 and is based in Berlin, Germany.
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Question 12:

Identify the State of India where River Feni demarcates the boundary between India and Bangladesh?

1. Assam
2. Manipur
3. Tripura
4. Mizoram

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The **Feni river** forms part of the India-Bangladesh border. It is a trans-boundary river with an ongoing dispute about water rights. **Hence, option C is correct.**
 - The Feni River originates in South Tripura district and flows through **Sabroom town** and then enters Bangladesh. Muhuri River, also called Little Feni, from Noakhali District joins it near its mouth.
 - **Sabroom in South Tripura**, in India, is only 18 to 20 kilometres from the Bay of Bengal, but it is a virtually landlocked territory.
The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bangladesh on the withdrawal of 1.82 cusecs (cubic feet per second) of water from the Feni river by India for a drinking water supply scheme for Sabroom.
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Question 13:

Consider the following statements:

1. The Russian Far East stretches from the Siberian Sea to the Arctic Ocean.
2. Both India and Russia are the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
3. The Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) is being built in India with Russian cooperation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- Recently, the Indian and Russian Foreign Ministers in a meeting discussed cooperation in various sectors such as economic opportunities in the Russian Far East.
The **Russian Far East stretches from Lake Baikal**, the world's largest freshwater lake, **to the Pacific Ocean** and comprises roughly a third of Russia's territory. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - India and Russia have set the bilateral trade target at USD 30 billion by 2025.
 - Other areas of India-Russia cooperation include the **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant** (KKNPP), which is being built in Tamil Nadu, India with Russian cooperation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - The common multilateral forums of the two countries include the BRICS Summit, Russia-India-China Grouping: RIC and **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The military exercises of India and Russia include Exercise TSENTR 2019 and Indra Exercises (Joint Tri-Services (Army, Navy, Air Force) Exercises).
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Question 14:

If a Panchayat is dissolved, elections are to be held within

1. 1 months
2. 3 months

3. 6 months

4. 1 year

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- Panchayat is defined as an institution of self government for the rural areas, constituted under Article 243B of the Constitution.
 - **Articles 243B** of Part IX of Indian Constitution provides for constitution of Panchayats at village, intermediate and district levels.
 - **Article 243C** states that the Legislature of a State may, by law, make provisions with respect to the composition of Panchayats.
 - It mandates that all the seats in a Panchayat shall be filled by persons chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the Panchayat area and, for this purpose, each Panchayat area shall be divided into territorial constituencies in such manner that the ratio between the population of each constituency and the number of seats allotted to it shall, so far as practicable, be the same throughout the Panchayat area.
 - According to Article 243E(1), every Panchayat, unless sooner dissolved under any law for the time being in force, shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and no longer.
 - **Article 243E(3)(b) mandates that it is necessary to hold elections within six months in the case of dissolution of a Panchayat.**
 - **Hence, option C is correct.**
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Question 15:

Consider the following statements

1. The Advocate General of a State in India is appointed by the President of India upon the recommendation of the Governor of the concerned State.
2. As provided in the Civil Procedure Code, High Courts have original, appellate and advisory
3. jurisdiction at the State level.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- According to Article 165(1), **the Governor of each State appoints a person who is qualified to be appointed a Judge of a High Court as the Advocate-General for the State. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - **Article 165(2)** states that it shall be the duty of the **Advocate General to give advice to the Government of the State upon such legal matters**, and to perform such other duties of a legal character, as may from time to time be referred or assigned to him by the Governor, and to discharge the functions conferred on him by or under the Constitution or any other law for the time being in force.
 - **Article 165(3)** states that the Advocate General shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor, and shall receive such remuneration as the Governor may determine.
 - The High Courts in India have been accorded some specific powers under the **Civil Procedure Code with respect to certain matters.**
 - **The High Courts have original, appellate and advisory jurisdiction at the State level.** Any matter referred to the High Court by any tribunal or subordinate court in regard to the question of **law comes under advisory jurisdiction of the High Court. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
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Question 16:

With reference to the Integrated Check Posts(ICPs), consider the following statements:

1. It helps to maintain regional connectivity across the international borders of India.
2. It facilitates the movement of goods as well as passengers.
3. India does not have any IPC with Pakistan and China.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 3 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 1 only
4. 1,2 and 3

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- Integrated Check Posts (ICPs)) helps to maintain regional connectivity across the international borders of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ICPs facilitates immigration, customs, border security etc. together with support facilities in a single complex as is prevalent at Airports and Seaports. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - India shares IPC with Pakistan at Attari (Amritsar) whereas India does not have any IPC with China and Bhutan. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
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Question 17:

With reference to the Star Labeling Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It has been formulated by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
2. It provides the consumer an informed choice about the energy saving and thereby the cost saving potential of the relevant marketed product.

Which if the above statement(s) is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The Star Labeling Programme has been formulated by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - It provides the consumer an informed choice about the energy saving and thereby the cost saving potential of the relevant marketed product. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
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Question 18:

With reference to the Electoral bonds, consider the following statements:

1. It can be purchased by any Indian citizen or a body incorporated in India.
2. These bonds can be used for making donations to any political party.
Donor's name is mentioned on the bond.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 2 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 1 only
4. 1,2 and 3

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- An electoral bond is a bearer instrument like a Promissory Note. It can be purchased by any citizen of India or a body incorporated in India to donate to the political party of their choice. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - These bonds can be used for making donations to the political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and which have secured not less than one per cent of the votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People or a Legislative Assembly. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - Donor's name is not mentioned on the bond. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
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Question 19:

Which of the following countries do not border the Mediterranean sea?

1. Jordan
2. Lebanon
3. Syria
4. Egypt

Select the correct option from the codes given below:

1. 1 only
2. 2, 3 only
3. 2, 4 only
4. 2, 3, 4 only

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

Jordan is a landlocked country whereas Lebanon, Syria and Egypt are open to the Mediterranean sea. **Hence, option A is the correct answer.**

Question 20:

Consider the following statements regarding qualification for being a judge in the High Court?

1. It is mandatory to be a citizen of India.
2. He should be a respected jurist in the eyes of Parliament.
3. He should have held a judicial office in the territory of India for ten years.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

1. 2 and 3 only
2. 2 only
3. 3 only
4. 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

Qualifications of Judges:

- A person to be appointed as a judge of a high court, should have the following qualifications:
 1. He should be a citizen of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 2. (a) He should have held a judicial office in the territory of India for ten Years. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.** Or (b) He should have been an advocate of a high court (or high courts in succession) for ten years.
 - From the above, it is clear that the Constitution has not prescribed a minimum age for appointment as a judge of a high court. Moreover, unlike in the case of the Supreme Court, the Constitution makes no provision for appointment of a distinguished jurist as a judge of the high court. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
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