



60 Steps To Prelims (2021) (Date : 28-04-2021)

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Question 1:

With reference to the Election Commission, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The strength of the Election Commission is determined by the President.
2. The members hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier.
3. Chief Election Commissioner holds his office during the pleasure of the president.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- **Article 324** of the Constitution has made the following provisions with regard to the composition of the election commission.
- The Election Commission shall consist of the chief election commissioner and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the **president may from time to time fix. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- They hold office for **a term of six years or until they attain the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners is made by the president. Though, they **do not hold their office till the pleasure of the president. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Question 2:

With reference to Central Information Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than six Information Commissioners.

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 Central Information Commission(CIC) was established by the Central Government in 2005. It was constituted through an **Official Gazette Notification under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005)**. Therefore, it is not a Constitutional body. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - They are **appointed by the President** on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.
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Question 3:

Consider the following statements about National Commission of Backward Classes:

1. It has been given constitutional status by 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018.
2. It investigates and monitors all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes.
3. The chairman and members are appointed for the term of 5 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only

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

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The statutory National Commission for backward classes has been accorded constitutional status by the **102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018**. It inserted **Article 338B** in the Constitution which provides for a Commission for the **socially and educationally backward classes. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Composition:** The Commission consists of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and **three other Members**. They shall be appointed by the **President by warrant under his hand and seal.**
 - **Chairperson:** He shall be appointed from amongst **eminent socio-political workers belonging to the socially and educationally backward classes**
 - **Vice-Chairperson and Member:** They shall be appointed from amongst persons of ability, integrity and standing who have had a record of selfless service to the cause of justice for the socially and educationally backward classes.

At least two of them shall be appointed from amongst persons belonging to the socially and educationally backward classes.
 - At least one member shall be appointed from amongst women.
- **Resignation and Removal:** The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and any other Member submit their resignation to the President.
- The Commission shall have the power to **regulate its own procedure.**
- The Commission has all the powers of a **civil court.**
- **Functions of the Commission**
 - To investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - To inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the socially and educationally backward classes.
 - To participate and advise on the socio-economic development of the socially and educationally backward classes and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and any State.
- **Term of Office:** The Chairperson and member shall hold office for a term of three years from the date on which they assume office.

They shall not be eligible for appointment for **more than two terms. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Question 4:

With reference to the Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-Accelerator), consider the following statements:

1. It is a global collaboration launched by the G20 countries.
2. It aims to end the Covid-19 pandemic and restore full societal and economic activity globally.

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

- ACT-Accelerator was launched in the month of **April, 2020** at an event **co-hosted by the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO)**, the President of **France**, the President of the **European Commission**, and the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - It brings together governments, scientists, businesses, civil society, and philanthropists and global health organizations.
The participants include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CEPI, Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), Gavi, The Global Fund, Unitaid, Wellcome Trust (London), the WHO and the World Bank.
 - It **aims to end the pandemic**, restore full societal and economic activity globally and facilitate high-level control of Covid-19 disease. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The ACT-Accelerator is organized into four pillars of work:
 - Diagnostics, treatment, vaccines and health system strengthening.
 - Each pillar is vital to the overall effort and involves innovation and collaboration.
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Question 5:

With reference to Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), consider the following statements:

1. It was set up on the recommendation of the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–64).
2. The CVC is neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body.

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 : 1

Explanation

Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

- CVC is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government. It was established in 1964 by an executive resolution of the Central government.
Its establishment was **recommended by the Santhanam Committee** on Prevention of Corruption (1962–64). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - In 2003, the Parliament enacted a law (**Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003**) conferring statutory status on the CVC. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - The members of the CVC hold office for a term of four years or until they attain the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.
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Question 6:

Which of the following statements are correct about the Finance Commission?

1. The Finance Commission is a quasi-judicial body.
2. The Finance Commission consists of a chairman and four other members who are appointed by the President.
3. The Chairman and members of the Finance Commission are eligible for reappointment.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi judicial body. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The Finance Commission consists of a chairman and four other members to be appointed by the President. They hold office for such a period as specified by the President in his order. They are eligible for reappointment. **Hence, statement 2 and 3 are correct.**
 - The recommendations made by the Finance Commission are only of advisory nature and hence, not binding on the government. It is up to the Union government to implement its recommendations.
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Question 7:

With reference to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), consider the following statements:

1. NATO is an intergovernmental military alliance whose headquarters is in Switzerland.
2. India is on a par with America's NATO allies Japan, Australia and South Korea to increase defence partnership including advanced technology transfer.

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

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a **military alliance** established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April 4, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union. NATO's Headquarters is in Brussels, Belgium. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- As of 2019, there are 29 member states, with Montenegro becoming the latest member to join the alliance in 2017.
- France withdrew from the integrated military command of NATO in 1966 but remained a member of the organization. However, it resumed its position in NATO's military command in 2009.

- India is now on a par with America's NATO allies Japan, Australia and South Korea following passage of a bill by the US Senate in a key move to increase defence partnership including advanced technology transfer. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The National Defense Authorisation Act or NDAA for fiscal year 2020 contained this proposal.
 - The legislation will amend the Arms Control Export Act to bring India at par with the US' NATO allies– Israel, Australia, New Zealand and South Korea for purposes of selling military items under the ITAR (International Traffic in Arms Regulations) list.
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Question 8:

Consider the following statements with reference to PM-CARES Fund:

1. It is meant for supporting relief or assistance relating to a public health emergency only.
2. It is set up as a public charitable trust.
3. It has replaced the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- PM-CARES is meant for supporting relief or assistance of any kind relating to a public health emergency or any other kind of emergency, calamity or distress, either man-made or natural. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
 - PM-CARES is set up as a public charitable trust. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
 - PM-CARES is different from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) and PMNRF still exists. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
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Question 9:

In India, other than ensuring that public funds are used efficiently and for intended purpose, what is the importance of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)?

1. CAG exercises exchequer control on behalf of the Parliament when the President of India declares national emergency/financial emergency

2. CAG reports on the execution of projects or programmes by the ministries are discussed by the Public Accounts Committee.
3. Information from CAG reports can be used by investigating agencies to press charges against those who have violated the law while managing public finances.
4. While dealing with the audit and accounting of government companies, CAG has certain judicial powers for prosecuting those who violate the law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **The function of the Public Account Committee is to examine the annual audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)**, which are laid before the Parliament by the President. In the fulfilment of its functions, the committee is assisted by the CAG. In fact, the CAG acts as a guide, friend and philosopher of the Committee. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - **CAG does not have any control** over the finance during financial emergencies. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - **CAG does not have the power to prosecute those who violate the law**, but it can demand clarification regarding accounts. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
 - **The investigating agencies have used the findings of CAG in a number of cases including the 2G case. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
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Question 10:

With reference to the 'Counter Cyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB)', consider the following statements:

1. It is the capital to be kept by a bank to meet business cycle related risks.
2. It is one of the themes of Basel III norms.
3. In India, the amount of the CCyB may vary from 0 to 5 % of total Risk Weighted Assets (RWA) of the banks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- Counter Cyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB) is the capital to be kept by a bank to meet business cycle related risks. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - CCyB is one of the themes of Basel III norms. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - In India, the amount of the CCyB may vary from 0 to 2.5% of total Risk Weighted Assets (RWA) of the banks. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
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Question 11:

Consider the following statements regarding the UN Security Council (UNSC):

1. The UNSC holds elections every two year to elect five non-permanent members for a two-year term at the UN.
2. The permanent members of the UNSC are Japan, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

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

- India has won the unanimous support of all countries in the 55-member Asia-Pacific Group at the United Nations in support of its bid for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council (UNSC) for a two-year term in 2021-22.

- The development is particularly significant given that Pakistan and China, both countries with which India has had diplomatic challenges at the UN, supported the move.
 - The UNSC holds elections every year to elect five non- permanent members for a two- year term at the UN. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - The Council is composed of 15 Members:
Five permanent members: China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
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Question 12:

With reference to Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), consider the following statements:

1. The ReCAAP is the first regional Government- to-Government agreement to deal with piracy and armed robbery at sea in Asia.
2. The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC) was established in Malaysia in 2009.

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 : 1

Explanation

ReCAAP (Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia):

- The ReCAAP is the first regional Government-to- Government agreement to deal with piracy and armed robbery at sea in Asia. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The ReCAAP Agreement was launched in November, 2006 with 14 Asian contracting parties including North, Southeast, and South Asian countries.
- It has 20 contracting parties as of now, including Europe (Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark, and the United Kingdom), Australia, and the United States.
- **Information sharing, capacity building and mutual legal assistance** are the three pillars of co-operation under the ReCAAP agreement.
- The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP- ISC) was established in Singapore on November 29, 2006. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Union Government has designated ICG as the focal point within India for ReCAAP.
- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) co-hosted the 12th Capacity Building Workshop with ReCAAP-ISC in New Delhi from 19th-20th June, 2019.

Question 13:

Which of the following statements about the National Human Rights Commission is/are correct?

1. The commission consists of a chairman and two full-time members.
2. The chairman and members are appointed by the Prime Minister.
3. The chairman and members hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 and 3 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1, 2 and 3
4. None of the above

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

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- **National Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Act, 2019:**

- The Commission consists of a Chairperson, five full-time Members and seven deemed Members. The statute lays down qualifications for the appointment of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - **Constitution of NHRC is as follows:**
 1. The Chairperson is a retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or judge of the Supreme Court.
 2. One member is either a working or a retired judge of the Supreme Court.
 3. One member is either a working or retired Chief Justice of a High Court.
 4. Three persons having knowledge or practical experience in matters relating to Human Rights of which at least one will be a woman.
 - The Chairman and members are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a six-member committee consisting of the following:
 - The Prime Minister (Head)
 - The Speaker of the Lok Sabha
 - The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
 - The leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament
 - The Central Home Minister. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - The Chairman and Members hold office for a term of three years (earlier it was five years) or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
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Question 14:

The Lokpal is appointed by the President after consultation with which of the following?

1. Chief Justice of India
2. Speaker of Lok Sabha
3. Chairman of Rajya Sabha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The salient features of the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013)** are as follows:
 1. The jurisdiction of Lokpal includes the Prime Minister, Ministers, Members of Parliament and Groups A, B, C and D officers and officials of the Central Government.
 2. The Lokpal consists of a Chairperson with a maximum of 8 members of which 50% shall be judicial members.
 3. 50% of the members of the Lokpal shall come from amongst the SCs, the STs, the OBCs, minorities and women.
 4. A Search Committee will assist the Selection Committee in the process of selection. 50% of the members of the Search Committee shall also be from amongst the SCs, the STs, the OBCs, minorities and women.
- The **names proposed by the Search Committee** are finalized by the Selection Committee comprising:
 1. Prime Minister
 2. Speaker Lok Sabha
 3. Leader of Opposition
 4. Chief Justice of India or a judge of Supreme Court nominated by CJI
 5. Eminent Jurist to be nominated by President of India

Hence, option (b) is correct.

Question 15:

Consider the following statement about G-7:

1. The G-7 was established in the background of the 1973 oil crisis.
2. The G-7 is purely an economic organization.
3. The European Union participates in the annual meetings as an unofficial member.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal bloc of industrialized democracies—Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.**
 - The G-7 has its roots in an informal meeting of the finance ministers of France, West Germany, the U.S, Great Britain, and Japan (the Group of Five) in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The French President invited the leaders of West Germany, U.S., Great Britain, Japan and Italy, to Rambouillet (France) in 1975 for further discussions on global oil crisis.
The European Union has participated fully in the G-7 since 1981 as an unofficial member. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - It is represented by the presidents of the European Council, which represents the EU member states' leaders, and the European Commission (the E.U.'s executive branch).
 - The G-7 countries meet annually to discuss issues such as global economic governance, international security, and energy policy. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - Summits are held annually and hosted on a rotation basis by the group's members. The host country not only holds the G7 presidency but also sets the agenda for the year.
 - Invitations to Global leaders are sent by the host nation to participate in the summit as special invitees. Countries like China, India, Mexico, and Brazil have attended summits on various occasions.
The leaders of important international organizations like European Union, IMF, World Bank and the United Nations are also invited.
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Question 16:

With reference to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) ,consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It investigates and prosecute offences related to terrorism.
3. NIA has powers to investigate offences in India only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was constituted under the **National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008**. It is a statutory body. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - It is a central agency to investigate and prosecute offences related to terrorism. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The NIA (Amendment) ACT, 2019 provides that the officers of the NIA shall have the similar powers, duties, privies and liabilities being exercised by the police officers in connection with the investigation of offences, not only in India but also outside India.
 - **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
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Question 17:

Consider the following statements regarding removal of a member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC):

1. The President can remove the chairman or any other member of UPSC from the office.
2. It is mandatory that the President has to refer the matter to the Supreme Court for an enquiry.

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 : 1

Explanation

- The President can remove the chairman or any other member of UPSC from the office under the following circumstances: (without referring the matter to the Supreme Court)
 - If he is adjudged an insolvent (that is, has gone bankrupt);
 - If he engages, during his term of office, in any paid employment outside the duties of his office; or
 - If he is, in the opinion of the President, unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In addition to these, the President can also remove the chairman or any other member of UPSC for misbehaviour. However, in this case, the President has to refer the matter to the Supreme Court for an enquiry.

- Constitution states that the chairman or any other member of the UPSC is deemed to be guilty of misbehaviour if he:
 - is concerned or interested in any contract or agreement made by the Government of India or the government of a state, or
 - participates in any way in the profit of such contract or agreement or in any benefit therefrom otherwise than as a member and in common with other members of an incorporated company. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
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Question 18:

Consider the following statements:

Attorney General of India can

1. take part in the proceedings of the Lok Sabha
2. be a member of a committee of the Lok Sabha
3. speak in the Lok Sabha
4. vote in the Lok Sabha

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The Attorney General is the chief legal advisor of the Government of India. He is appointed by the President of India under Article 76(1) of the Indian Constitution .
 - He has the right of audience in all courts of India on behalf of the Government. **He has the right to participate and to speak in any parliamentary proceedings. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - He **can also be a member** of a parliamentary committee of the Lok Sabha and has the right to speak in the committee of which he is the member. **Hence, statements 2 and 3 are correct.**
 - The Attorney General **cannot vote in the Parliament** as well as any parliamentary committee of which he is a member. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
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Question 19:

Consider the following statements:

1. Consolidated Fund of India was constituted under the Article 266 (2) of the Constitution.
2. All tax and non-tax revenues are credited into the Consolidated Fund.
3. Parliamentary authorisation is not required for payments from the Public Account.
4. Contingency Fund is used to meet all the unforeseen expenditures.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- Consolidated Fund of India was constituted under the Article 266 (1) of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - All revenues received by the government under tax and non-tax revenues as well as the loans raised by the government are credited into the Consolidated Fund. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Parliamentary authorisation is not required for payments from the Public Account. It is required in the case of Consolidated Fund. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - Contingency Fund, with the corpus of ₹500 crore, is used to meet all the unforeseen expenditures. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
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Question 20:

Consider the following statements:

1. Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was set up during the Prime Ministership of Lal Bahadur Shastri.
2. The Members for CAT are drawn from both judicial and administrative streams.

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 CAT has been established in 1985 under Article 323A of the Constitution for adjudication of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or other authorities under the control of the Government.
It was set up during the Prime Ministership of Rajiv Gandhi. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - The CAT has been established as a **specialist body consisting of Administrative Members and Judicial Members** who by virtue of their specialized knowledge are better equipped to dispense speedy and effective justice.
 - The Tribunal is guided by the principles of natural justice in deciding cases and is not bound by the procedure, prescribed by the Civil Procedure Code and is empowered to frame its own rules of procedure and practice.
 - Under the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985, the Tribunal has been conferred with the power to exercise the same jurisdiction and authority in respect of contempt of itself as a High Court. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Initially the decision of the Tribunal could be challenged only before the Supreme Court by filing Special Leave Petition. However, in **Chandra Kumar Case (1997)**, the Supreme Court held that the appeal against the orders of a Tribunal could not be made directly in the Supreme Court and an aggrieved person should first approach the concerned High Court.
 - An aggrieved government employee can also appear personally before the Tribunal.
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