



60 Steps To Prelims (2021) (Date : 27-04-2021)

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Question 1:

The Government enacted the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act in 1996. Which one of the following is not identified as its objective?

1. To provide self-governance
2. To recognize traditional rights
3. To create autonomous regions in tribal areas
4. To free tribal people from exploitation

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- On the basis of the report of the **Bhuria Committee, 1995**, the Parliament enacted the **Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA)** to extend Part IX (i.e. the Panchayats) of the Constitution with certain modifications and exceptions to the Schedule V areas.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is the nodal Ministry for implementation of the provisions of PESA in the States.
 - PESA empowered the grass-root institution of Gram Sabhas, comprising every person above 18 years (included in electoral roll) to carry out the core functions.
 - State Legislature too had to conform to the principle of three-tier system of governance as enshrined in Part IX of the Indian Constitution.
 - State Legislature too had to conform with customary law, social and religious practices and traditional management practices of community resources and had to ensure that the mandate of the Gram Sabha prevails.

- Executive functions endowed to Panchayati Raj institutions constitute approval of plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development and issuance of a certificate for utilisation of funds by the Panchayat.
 - **Matters such as ownership of forest produce, sale of intoxicants, organisation of village markets and regulation of mines falls under Gram Sabhas and Panchayats.**
 - The power to annul decisions of the Gram Sabha rests with the Gram Sabha itself.
 - **The Sixth Schedule deals with creation of autonomous regions of tribal areas** and empowers the Governor to create, organize or diminish the areas whereas PESA deals with improving the mandate of grass-root level institution in areas mentioned under Fifth Schedule. **Hence, option C is correct.**
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Question 2:

With reference to the National Commission for SCs and National Commission for STs which of the following statements are correct?

1. Both the Commissions came into existence by 89th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2003.
2. Both submit their annual report to the President.
3. Both the Commission, while investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint, have all the powers of a civil court.
4. The members of the Commissions are appointed by the President.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- The **89th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2003 bifurcated the combined National Commission for SCs and STs** into two separate bodies, namely, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (under Article 338) and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (under Article 338-A). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Both the commission presents an annual report to the President. They can also submit a report as and when deem it necessary. The President places all such reports before the Parliament, along with a memorandum explaining the action taken on the recommendations made by the Commissions. The memorandum should also contain the reasons for the non-acceptance of any of such recommendations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Commission, while investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint, has **all the powers of a civil court** trying a suit and in particular in respect of the following matters:

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath;

(b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;

(c) receiving evidence on affidavits;

(d) requisitioning any public record from any court or office;

(e) issuing summons for the examination of witnesses and documents; and

(f) any other matter which the President may determine. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

The members of the commission are appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal. Their conditions of service and tenure of office are also determined by the President. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

Question 3:

With reference to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), consider the following statements:

1. It is a regional development bank.
2. It is headquartered in Manila.
3. China holds the largest proportion of shares in ADB.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

Recently, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has cut India's growth forecast to 7.2% for 2019-20 because of a slower-than-expected pickup in investment demand.

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ADB is headquartered in Manila, Philippines. It aims to promote social and economic development in Asia. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ADB now has 67 members, of which 48 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
 - Japan holds the largest proportion of shares in ADB followed by the USA. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
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Question 4:

With reference to the National Legal Services Authority, consider the following statements:

1. Its objective is to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society on the basis of equal opportunity.
2. It issues guidelines for the State Legal Services Authorities to implement the legal programmes and schemes throughout the country.

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 : 3

Explanation

- The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
It seeks to provide **free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society** on the basis of equal opportunity and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief of the NALSA.

- **In every State, the State Legal Services Authority has been constituted to give effect to the policies and directions of the NALSA;** and to give free legal services to the people and conduct Lok Adalats in the State. **In every District, the District Legal Services Authority has been constituted to implement Legal Services Programmes in the District. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The **State Legal Services Authority** is headed by the Chief Justice of the respective High Court who is the Patron-in-Chief of the State Legal Services Authority.
 - The **District Legal Services Authority** is chaired by the District Judge of the respective district.
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Question 5:

Consider the following statements:

1. Powers of the President regarding the administration of scheduled areas and tribal areas are legislative in nature.
2. As the nominal head of India, President can discharge the executive functions related to the appointment of inter-state councils.

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 Executive Powers and Functions of the President are:

- All executive actions of the Government of India are formally taken in his name. He can make rules specifying the manner in which the orders and other instruments made and executed in his name shall be authenticated.
- He **appoints the Prime Minister and other ministers**. They hold office during his pleasure.
- He **appoints the Attorney General of India** and determines his remuneration. The Attorney General holds office during the pleasure of the President.
- He **appoints the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the Chief Election Commissioner and other election commissioners**, the chairman and members of the Union Public Service Commission, the Governors of states, the chairman and members of the Finance Commission, and so on.
- He can appoint an inter-state council to promote Centre– State and inter-state cooperation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- He directly administers union territories through administrators appointed by him.
- President can declare any area as scheduled area and has powers with respect to the administration of scheduled areas and tribal areas. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

Question 6:

Which of the following statements are correct?

1. 69th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1991 provided a special status to the Union Territory of Delhi.
2. The strength of the Council of Ministers of Delhi is fixed at fifteen percent of the total strength of the assembly.

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 : 1

Explanation

- The 69th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1991 provided a special status to the Union Territory of Delhi, and redesignated it the National Capital Territory of Delhi and designated the administrator of Delhi as the lieutenant (lt.) governor. It created a legislative assembly and a Council of Ministers for Delhi. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The strength of the Council of Ministers of Delhi is fixed at ten percent of the total strength of the assembly, that is, seven – one chief minister and six other ministers. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
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Question 7:

Consider the following sentences about 'Great Reset Initiative':

1. It is an initiative of the World Bank.
2. It is based on the assessment that the world economy is in deep trouble.

Which of the above sentences is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- Recently, the Prime Minister addressed the **World Economic Forum's (WEF) Davos Dialogue** via video conferencing.
- The WEF annual meeting in Davos (Switzerland) engages the world's top leaders to shape global, regional and industry agendas.
- The Davos Dialogues agenda marks the launch of the **WEF's Great Reset Initiative** in the post-Covid world. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is based on the assessment that the world economy is in deep trouble.
- The situation has been made a lot worse by many factors, including the pandemic's devastating effects on global society, the un- folding technological revolution, and the consequences of climate change.

Hence, Statement 2 is correct.

Question 8:

The subject of 'urban local government' is dealt with by the following Union ministries:

1. Ministry of Urban Development
2. Ministry of Defence in the case of cantonment boards
3. Ministry of Home Affairs in the case of Union Territories

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- The system of urban Local government was constitutionalised through the **74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992**.
- At the Central level, the subject of 'urban local government' is dealt with by the following three ministries:

(i) Ministry of Urban Development, created as a separate ministry in 1985.

(ii) Ministry of Defence in the case of cantonment boards.

(iii) Ministry of Home Affairs in the case of Union Territories.

Hence, statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

Question 9:

Consider the following statements:

1. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. The Codex Alimentarius Commission is responsible for the implementation of the food standards of FAO and WHO.
3. The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) is the initiative of FAO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** is a specialized **agency of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - World Food Day is celebrated every year around the world on 16th October. The day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the founding of the FAO in 1945.
It is one of the UN food aid organisations based in Rome (Italy). Its sister bodies are the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
 - The **Codex Alimentarius Commission or CAC** is the body responsible for all matters regarding the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - **Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)** was started by the FAO to safeguard and support the world's agricultural heritage systems. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
GIAHS are outstanding landscapes of aesthetic beauty that combine agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage.
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Question 10:

With reference to Sodium hypochlorite, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is commonly used as a disinfectant.
- 2. It can be used to disinfect surfaces from coronavirus.
- 3. It is not harmful to humans.

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

- Sodium hypochlorite is commonly used as a disinfectant, a bleaching agent, and also to sanitise swimming pools. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The World Health Organization (WHO) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recommend homemade bleach solutions of about 2-10% concentration to clean hard surfaces to disinfect them from coronavirus. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - If it gets inside the body, it can cause serious harm to lungs, eyes and can cause itching or burning and is not recommended to be used on human beings. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
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Question 11:

With reference to ozone, consider the following statements:

1. It is found in both the stratosphere and the troposphere.
2. It is a secondary pollutant.
3. Tropospheric ozone is the result of chemical reactions in the absence of sunlight.
4. Ground level ozone is the least threatening pollutant.

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

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- Ozone is found in the stratosphere where it protects the Earth from the harmful UV rays. It is also found in the troposphere (ground level) where it acts as a pollutant. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Ozone is not a primary pollutant but a secondary one because it is not directly emitted into the air. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Tropospheric ozone is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the presence of sunlight. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Ground-level ozone and airborne particles are the two pollutants that pose the greatest threat to human health in India. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

Question 12:

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 13:

With respect to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to implement an integrated approach to Disaster Management in India.
2. It is a statutory body.
3. It is headed by the Minister of Home Affairs.

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 only

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) aims to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - It is a statutory body, set up under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The NDMA is headed by the Prime Minister. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
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Question 14:

With reference to Article 335, consider the following statements:

1. It recognises that special measures need to be adopted for considering the claims of SCs and STs in order to bring them to a level-playing field.
2. It also deals with the Special provision for Anglo-Indian community in certain services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- **Article 335** recognises that special measures need to be adopted for considering the claims of SCs and STs in order to bring them to a level-playing field. Centuries of discrimination and prejudice suffered by the SCs and STs in a feudal, caste-oriented societal structure poses real barriers of access to opportunity. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

- **Article 336** with concerns the Special provision for Anglo-Indian community in certain services. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
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Question 15:

The “Gender Bias and Inclusion in Advertising in India Report” is released by which of the following?

1. United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
2. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
3. United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)
4. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- Recently, the **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)** and the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media (GDI) released a report titled “**Gender Bias and Inclusion In Advertising In India**”. **Hence, option A is correct.**
 - The research has shown that while ads in India are superior to global benchmarks insofar as girls and women have parity of representation in terms of screen and speaking time, their portrayal is problematic as they further gender stereotypes.
 - GDI is a non-profit research organization that researches gender representation in media and advocates for equal representation of women.
 - The report shows:
 - Male characters are more likely to be shown making decisions about their future than female characters (7.3% compared with 4.8%), the latter are twice as likely to be shown making household decisions than male characters (4.9% compared with 2.0%).
 - Two-thirds of female characters (66.9%) in Indian ads have light or medium-light skin tones—a higher percentage than male characters (52.1%).
 - Female characters are nine times more likely to be shown as “stunning/very attractive” than male characters (5.9% compared with 0.6%).
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Question 16:

Local self-government can be best explained as an exercise in

1. Federalism

2. Democratic decentralisation
3. Administrative delegation
4. Direct democracy

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **Democracy means decentralisation of power** and,giving more and more power to the people. **Local self governments are looked upon as instruments of decentralisation and participatory democracy.**
 - To examine the working of the Community Development Programme (1952) and the National Extension Service (1953) and to suggest measures for their better working, the Government of India appointed a committee in January 1957 under the chairmanship of Balwant Rai Mehta.
 - The committee submitted its report in November 1957,and recommended the establishment of the scheme,of **‘democratic decentralisation’, which ultimately,came to be known as Panchayati Raj or unit of Local Self Government. Hence , option B is correct.**
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Question 17:

The fundamental object of the Panchayati Raj system is to ensure which among the following?

1. People's participation in development
2. Political accountability
3. Democratic decentralization
4. Financial mobilization

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The most fundamental objective of the **Panchayati Raj system is to ensure people's participation in development and democratic decentralization.**
 - Financial mobilization is not the fundamental objective of Panchayati Raj, although it seeks to transfer finances and resources to the grass root government.
 - Establishment of Panchayati Raj Institutions does not automatically lead to political accountability. **Hence, option C is correct.**
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Question 18:

Which of the following statements is/are correct about Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996?

1. In Scheduled Areas, all seats of Chairpersons of Panchayats at all levels shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.
2. The recommendations of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats shall be mandatory for grant of prospecting licence or mining lease for minor minerals in the Scheduled Areas.

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 : 3

Explanation

Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996:

1. A state legislation on the Panchayats in the Scheduled Areas shall be in consonance with the customary laws, social and religious practices and traditional management practices of community resources.
2. Every panchayat at the village level shall be required to obtain from the Gram Sabha a certification of utilisation of funds for their plans, programmes and projects.
3. The reservation of seats in the Scheduled Areas in every Panchayat shall be in proportion to the population of the communities for whom reservation is sought to be given under Part IX of the Constitution. However, the reservation for the Scheduled Tribes shall not be less than one-half of the total number of seats. Further, all seats of Chairpersons of panchayats at all levels shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.
Hence, statement 1 is correct.

4. Planning and management of minor water bodies in the Scheduled Areas shall be entrusted to Panchayats at the appropriate level.
 5. The recommendations of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level shall be mandatory for grant of prospecting licence or mining lease for minor minerals in the Scheduled Areas. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
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Question 19:

With reference to Financial Action Task Force (FATF), consider the following statements:

1. It was an initiative of G-20 nations.
2. It develops measures to combat terror financing and financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
3. It releases a grey list which includes countries whose international financing is blocked.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an **inter-governmental body** established in 1989 during the **G7 Summit** in Paris. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - Initially, it was established to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering. In October 2001, the FATF expanded its mandate to incorporate efforts to combat terrorist financing, in addition to money laundering.
In April 2012, it added efforts to counter the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - FATF releases two list:
 - **Grey List:** Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.
 - **Black List:** Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. Putting a country on the blacklist means shutting all doors to international finance for that country. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
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Question 20:

Which of the following did not support the Quit India Movement in 1942 ?

1. Communist Party of India
2. Congress Socialist Party
3. Muslim League

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- Mainly three groups did not support the Quit India movement and continued to collaborate with the British Empire: the Communists, the Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha.
 - The Congress Socialist Party supported the movement. **Hence, option C is correct.**
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