



Step 03 (Date : 21-04-2021)

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Question 1:

Regarding the Pro-Tem Speaker in the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. Pro-Tem Speaker presides over the first sitting of the Lok Sabha, administers the oath of office to the newly elected MPs.
2. Chief Justice of India administers the oath to the Speaker Pro-Tem.

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

- President/governor appoints the pro-tem speaker to preside over the sittings of the newly elected house. Usually, the **senior most member of the house is made the pro-tem speaker.**
He presides over the first sitting of the Lok Sabha, administers the oath of office to the newly elected MPs. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The President himself administers the oath to the pro-Tem speaker. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Question 2:

With reference to money bill, consider the following statements:

1. Though imposition, remission and abolition of any tax is considered to be a part of money bill, regulation of any tax is a part of an ordinary bill.
2. Decision on whether a bill is a money bill or not, is taken by the speaker of the Lok sabha.
3. When a money bill is presented to the President for his assent, he cannot return it for reconsideration of the house.

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 : 2

Explanation

- **Money Bills: 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:
 - The imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - The regulation of the borrowing of money by the Union government.
 - If any question arises whether a bill is a money bill or not, the decision of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is final. His decision in this regard cannot be questioned in any court of law or in either the House of Parliament or even by the President. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A money bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha and that too on the recommendation of the President.
- 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 the recommendations. It must return the bill to the Lok Sabha within 14 days, with or without recommendations. The Lok Sabha can either accept or reject all or any of the recommendations of the Rajya Sabha.

- If the Rajya Sabha does not return the bill to the Lok Sabha within 14 days, the bill is deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the form originally passed by the Lok Sabha. Finally, when a money bill is presented to the President, he may either give his assent to the bill or withhold his assent to the bill but cannot return the bill for reconsideration of the Houses. Normally, the **President gives his assent to a money bill as it is introduced in the Parliament with his prior permission. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
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Question 3:

The Strait of Malacca in the Indian ocean shares boundary with?

1. Thailand
2. Indonesia
3. Cambodia
4. Vietnam
5. Malaysia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1, 2 and 5 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 1, 3 and 4 only
4. 2 and 5 only

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- Strait of Malacca is a waterway connecting the Andaman Sea (Indian Ocean) and the South China Sea (Pacific Ocean).
- It runs between the Indonesian island of Sumatra to the west and peninsular Malaysia and extreme southern Thailand to the east.



Hence, option A is correct.

Question 4:

Which of the following are not necessarily the consequences of the proclamation of the President's rule in a State?

1. Dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly
2. Removal of the Council of Ministers in the State
3. Dissolution of the local bodies

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **President Rule** is imposed in a State under **Article 356 of the Constitution**, if a situation arises in which the government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provision of the Constitution.

- Every proclamation to impose President Rule shall be laid down before each house of Parliament and must get approval in two months from the date of issue.
If approved by both houses of Parliament then President Rule shall continue for 6 months and it can be renewed for a maximum of 3 years by approval of Parliament after every 6 months.
- **Consequences of President Rule:**
 - The President can assume to himself all or any of the functions of the State Government or he may vest all or any of those functions with the Governor or any other executive authority.
 - **The President may dissolve the State Legislative Assembly or put it under suspension. Dissolution of Assembly is not necessary.** He may authorize the Parliament to make laws on behalf of the State Legislature.
 - **The Council of Ministers necessarily resigns from the office.**
 - **The local bodies are not affected by the proclamation of the President's rule.**
 - The Parliament can delegate the power to make laws for the State to **the President** or any other body specified by him when the State legislature is suspended or dissolved.
 - **Hence, option B is correct.**

Question 5:

Consider the following pairs:

- | | | |
|--|---|------------|
| 1. Etalin Hydroelectric Project | – | Periyar |
| 2. Maneri Bhali Hydroelectric Project | – | Bhagirathi |
| 3. Vishnuprayag Hydroelectric project | – | Alaknanda |
| 4. Nathpa Jhakri Hydroelectric Project | – | Ravi |

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- Etalin Hydroelectric project is on the river Dibang and the Nathpa Jhakri hydroelectric project is on the river Satluj. **Hence, Option C is Correct.**
- In January 2020, according to the Central Water Commission (CWC), 4 of the 11 hydro power projects on the upper reaches of the river Ganga's tributaries are violating Ganga ecological flow (e-flow) norms.
- The non-compliant ones are:
 - Vishnuprayag Hydroelectric project - Alaknanda
 - Srinagar Hydroelectric project - Alaknanda
 - Maneri Bhali Phase 2 - Bhagirathi
 - Pashulok - Ganga Mainstream
- **Ecological flow (e-flow)**
 - The Central Government under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** has notified the minimum environmental flows for the River Ganga that has to be maintained at various locations on the river.
 - This is to ensure that the river has at least the minimum required environmental flow of water even after the river flow gets diverted by projects and structures for purposes like irrigation, hydropower, domestic and industrial use etc.

This is an important step taken towards maintaining the uninterrupted or Aviral Dhara of the river.
 - Environmental flows are the **acceptable flow regimes** that are required to maintain a river in the desired environmental state or predetermined state.
 - **The Central Water Commission is the designated authority** and will be responsible for supervision, monitoring, regulation of flows and reporting of necessary information to the appropriate authority as and when required and also take emergent decisions about the water storage norms in case of any emergency.

Question 6:

With reference to High Court, consider the following statements :

1. Delhi and Puducherry are the only union territories that have a high court of their own.
2. The chief justice is appointed by the President after consultation with the Chief Justice of India only.

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

- At present, there are **25 high courts in the country, seven having control over more than one State/UT**. As per the **Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act of 1956**, one High Court can serve for more than one State.
 - **Union territory of Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir** (for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh) have high courts. The other union territories fall under the jurisdiction of different state high courts **Puducherry comes under the jurisdiction of Madras High Court. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - **Appointment of Judges:** The judges of the high court are appointed by the President. The chief justice is appointed by the President after consultation with the chief justice of India and the governor of the state concerned. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
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Question 7:

Consider the following pairs:

| Municipalities | For |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Nagar Panchayat | Smaller Urban Area |
| 2. Municipal Council | Transitional Area from rural to urban |
| 3. Municipal Corporation | Larger urban area |

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The salient features of 74th Amendment Act of 1992:
Three Types of Municipalities: The act provides for the constitution of the following three types of municipalities in every state.
 1. A nagar panchayat (by whatever name called) for a transitional area, that is, an area in transition from a rural area to an urban area.
 2. A municipal council for a smaller urban area.
 3. A municipal corporation for a larger urban area.
 - **Hence, Option C is correct.**
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Question 8:

With reference to the Vakataka dynasty, consider the following statements:

1. It ruled Deccan India in the 3rd century CE.
2. Nagardhan served as a capital of the Vakataka kingdom.
3. The Vakataka rulers followed Vaishnavism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- The Vakataka Dynasty originated in the central Deccan in the mid-3rd century CE. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Nagardhan in Maharashtra is understood to have served as a capital of the Vakataka kingdom. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The Vakataka rulers followed the Shaiva sect of Hinduism. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
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Question 9:

Consider the following statements:

1. In India, the Himalayas are spread over five States only.
2. Western Ghats are spread over five States only.
3. Pulicat Lake is spread over two States only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The **Indian Himalayan Region is spread over 11 states and 2 UTs**, namely, Jammu and Kashmir (UT), The Union Territory of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Assam and West Bengal. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - **Western Ghats range over six states**, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - **Pulicat Lake is the second largest brackish water body** after Chilika Lake (in Odisha) and is **shared by Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - **Hence, option B is correct.**
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Question 10:

Consider the following statements:

1. Anticyclones with high pressure are often associated with fair weather because in anticyclone the air sinks and spiral outs which does not lead to condensation.
2. Usually, regions around 30 degrees altitude are found to be affected by very large and stable anticyclones.
3. As we move towards higher latitudes, the strength of the coriolis force decreases which affects the direction of anticyclones in both the hemisphere.

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

- Low-pressure centres (cyclones) are often associated with cloudy or rainy weather, whereas high-pressure centres (anticyclones) are often associated with fair weather. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - When air is forced upward, it is cooled according to the adiabatic principle, allowing condensation and precipitation to begin. So, cloudy and rainy weather often accompanies the inward and upward air motion of cyclones.
 - In contrast, in anticyclones, the air sinks and spirals outward. When air descends, it is warmed by the adiabatic process, so condensation can't occur. That is why anticyclones are often associated with fair weather.
 - Air descends on the poleward side of the Hadley cell circulation, so there surface pressures are high. This produces two subtropical high-pressure belts, each centred at about 30° latitude (Not Altitude). Two, three, or four very large and stable anticyclones form within these belts. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - Coriolis effect is a sideward-turning force that always acts at right angles to the direction of motion. **The strength of this Coriolis “force” increases with the speed of motion but decreases with latitude.** It affects the wind direction in both the hemispheres. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
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Question 11:

Consider the following statements:

1. Article 358 extends to the entire country whereas Article 359 may extend to the entire country or a part of it.
2. Resolution approving the Proclamation of Emergency are passed only by the Lok Sabha.

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 differences between Articles 358 and 359 can be summarised as follows:

1. **Article 358 is confined to Fundamental Rights under Article 19 only whereas Article 359 extends to all those Fundamental Rights** whose enforcement is suspended by the Presidential Order.
2. Article 358 automatically suspends the fundamental rights under Article 19 as soon as the emergency is declared. On the other hand, Article 359 does not automatically suspend any Fundamental Right. It only empowers the president to suspend the enforcement of the specified Fundamental Rights.
3. **Article 358 operates only in case of External Emergency** (that is, when the emergency is declared on the grounds of war or external aggression) and not in the case of Internal Emergency. Article 359, on the other hand, operates in case of both External Emergency as well as Internal Emergency.
4. Article 358 suspends Fundamental Rights under Article 19 for the entire duration of Emergency while Article 359 suspends the enforcement of Fundamental Rights for a period specified by the president which may either be the entire duration of Emergency or a shorter period.
5. Article 358 extends to the entire country whereas Article 359 may extend to the entire country or a part of it. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
6. Article 358 suspends Article 19 completely while Article 359 does not empower the suspension of the enforcement of Articles 20 and 21.
7. Article 358 enables the State to make any law or take any executive action inconsistent with Fundamental Rights under Article 19 while Article 359 enables the State to make any law or take any executive action inconsistent with those Fundamental Rights whose enforcement is suspended by the Presidential Order.
 1. Every resolution approving the proclamation of emergency or its continuance must be **passed by both the House of Parliament by a special majority, that is, (a) a majority** of the total membership of that house, and (b) a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that house present and voting. This special majority provision was introduced by the 44th Amendment Act of 1978. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Question 12:

Nagoba Jatara, recently in the news, is celebrated in:

1. Odisha
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Telangana
4. West Bengal

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

Nagoba Jatara is a tribal festival held in Keslapur village, Telangana. It is a huge religious and cultural event of the Boigutta branch of Mesram clan of the aboriginal Raj Gond and Pardhan tribes. **Hence, option C is the correct answer.**

Question 13:

Consider the following statements regarding Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG):

1. The CAG is appointed by the Cabinet Committee on Appointments.
2. The CAG holds office for a period of six years or upto the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
3. The CAG is eligible for further office, either under the Government of India or of any State.
4. The salary and other service conditions are determined by the President.

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, 3 and 4

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The Constitution has made the following provisions to safeguard and ensure the independence of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG):
- He is provided with security of tenure. He can be removed by the President only in accordance with the procedure mentioned in the Constitution. Thus, he does not hold his office till the pleasure of the President, though he is appointed by him. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- He is not eligible for further office, either under the Government of India or of any State, after he ceases to hold his office. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- His salary and other service conditions are determined by the Parliament. His salary is equal to that of a judge of the Supreme Court. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
- Neither his salary nor his rights in respect of leave of absence, pension or age of retirement can be altered to his disadvantage after his appointment.

- The conditions of service of persons serving in the Indian Audit and Accounts Department and the administrative powers of the CAG are prescribed by the President after consultation with the CAG.
 - The administrative expenses of the office of the CAG, including all salaries, allowances and pensions of persons serving in that office are charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India. Thus, they are not subject to the vote of Parliament.
 - He holds office for a period of six years or upto the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
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Question 14:

Consider the following statements regarding Water Vapour :

1. Water vapour is a variable gas.
2. It decreases from the Equator to Earth's Poles.
3. It preserves the Earth Radiated Heat.

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 : 4

Explanation

- Water vapour is a variable gas in the atmosphere, which decreases with altitude. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - In the warm and wet tropics, it may account for four per cent of the air by volume, while in the dry and cold areas of desert and polar regions, it may be less than one per cent of the air.
 - Water vapour also decreases from the equator towards the poles. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - It absorbs parts of the insolation from the sun and preserves the earth's radiated heat. It thus, acts like a blanket allowing the earth neither to become too cold nor too hot. Water vapour also contributes to the stability and instability in the air. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
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Question 15:

Which of the following characteristic(s) is/are NOT related to Parliamentary form of government?

1. Collective Responsibility
2. Leadership of the Prime Minister
3. Single Executive

Codes:

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

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

Features of parliamentary system are :

- **Dual Executive:** The President is the nominal executive (de jure executive or titular executive) while the Prime Minister is the real executive (de facto executive). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - **Collective Responsibility:** This is the bedrock principle of parliamentary government. The ministers are collectively responsible to the Parliament in general and to the Lok Sabha in particular (Article 75). They act as a team, and swim and sink together. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - **Political Homogeneity:** Members of the council of ministers belong to the same political party, and hence they share the same political ideology. In case of coalition government, the Ministers are bound by consensus.
 - **Double Membership:** The Ministers are members of both the legislature and the executive. This means that a person cannot be a minister without being a member of the Parliament.
 - **Leadership of Prime Minister:** The Prime Minister plays the leadership role in this system of government. He is the leader of the council of ministers, leader of the Parliament and the leader of the party in power. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
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Question 16:

Consider the following statements:

1. Precipitation around the globe is more over land than the precipitation over oceans.

2. The amount of water held as soil moisture is more than the quantity of water contained by freshwater lakes.
3. The amount of water contained by an air parcel depends on the air temperature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- Water vapour in the atmosphere can condense or deposit to form clouds and precipitation which falls to earth as rain, snow, or hail.
 - There is nearly four times as much precipitation over oceans than precipitation over land. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - Out of the total water present on the earth and in its atmosphere, it is found to be more in freshwater lakes than in the soil water. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - An important principle concerning humidity states that the maximum quantity of water vapour an air parcel can contain is dependent on the air temperature itself. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - Warm air can contain more water vapour than cold air. Air at room temperature (20°C, 68°F) can contain about three times as much water vapour as freezing air (0°C, 32°F)
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Question 17:

The Parliament of India acquires the power to legislate on any item in the State List in the national interest if a resolution to that effect is passed by the

1. Lok Sabha by a simple majority of its total membership
2. Lok Sabha by a majority of not less than two thirds of its total membership
3. Rajya Sabha by a simple majority of its total membership
4. Rajya Sabha by a majority of not less than two-thirds of its members present and voting

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- Divided into three lists, namely, Union List, State List and Concurrent List. States have complete jurisdiction over subjects of State List except for few circumstances.
 - According to Article 249 of Indian Constitution **if the Rajya Sabha has declared, by a resolution, supported by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting**, that it is necessary in the national interest that Parliament should make laws with respect to any matter enumerated in the State List specified in the resolution, it shall be lawful for Parliament to make laws for the whole or any part of the territory of India with respect to that matter while the resolution remains in force.
 - **Hence, option D is correct.**
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Question 18:

Which of the following statements regarding laterite soils of India are correct?

1. They are generally red in colour.
2. They are rich in nitrogen and potash.
3. They are well-developed in Rajasthan and UP.
4. Tapioca and cashew nuts grow well on these soils.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- Laterite has been derived from the Latin word 'later' which means brick. The laterite soils are the result of **intense leaching due to tropical rains** as they develop in areas with high temperature and high rainfall.
 - Tropical rains erode lime and silica away, with **iron oxide and aluminium compound left behind.**
 - **Due to the excess presence of iron oxide and potash, the soil is generally red in colour. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The humus content of the soil is removed by bacteria that thrives in high temperature, making the soil **poor in organic matter, nitrogen, phosphate and calcium while iron oxide and potash are present in excess. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Largely developed in peninsular plateau, laterite soil is spread in states of **Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and the hilly areas of Odisha and Assam. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Tapioca** is a starch extracted from the cassava plant, which prefers well drained soil such as red laterite loam, while **cashew nut** thrives in slightly acidic pH **carrying soil such as red sandy loam, lateritic soils and coastal sands. Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

Question 19:

Consider the following statements about the Sand Mining in India

1. Ordinary sand is considered a major mineral.
2. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 regulates the mining sector in India.
3. The state governments have the power to regulate the exploration and extraction of all minor minerals.

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

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

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- Examples of **minor minerals include building stones, gravel, ordinary clay, ordinary sand. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957** regulates the mining sector in India and specifies the requirement for obtaining and granting mining leases for mining operations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- All-State governments have the power to frame policy and regulate the exploration, extraction and processing of all minor minerals such as building stones, clay and sand. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 20:

The Nine Degree Channel separates which of the following?

1. Minicoy and Lakshadweep
2. Agatti and Kavaratti
3. Kalpeni and Minicoy
4. Bitra and Androth

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

The Nine Degree Channel separates Minicoy from Kalpeni. **Hence, Option C is correct.**

