

Test No.

**03**

— IAS 2022 —

# Prelims/Mains **TEST SERIES**

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## Test Answer sheet

## **GENERAL STUDIES TEST - 03**

### **ANSWERS AND EXPLANATION**

**Maximum Marks: 200**

#### **Q 1.D**

- The Constitution deals with citizenship from Articles 5 to 11 under Part II. However, it contains neither any permanent nor any elaborate provisions in this regard. It only identifies the persons who became citizens of India at its commencement (i.e., on January 26, 1950). It does not deal with the problem of acquisition or loss of citizenship subsequent to its commencement. It empowers the Parliament to enact a law to provide for such matters and any other matter relating to citizenship. Since citizenship, naturalization, alien (Subject 17) is a subject under the Union List, the Parliament (state legislatures have no power) has enacted the Citizenship Act, 1955, which has been amended in 1986, 1992, 2003, and 2005. Hence statement 1 is not correct.
- According to the Constitution, the following four categories of persons became the citizens of India at its commencement i.e., on 26 January 1950:
  - A person who had his domicile in India and also fulfilled any one of the three conditions, viz., if he was born in India; or if either of his parents was born in India; or if he has been ordinarily resident in India for five years immediately before the commencement of the Constitution, became a citizen of India (Article 5).
  - A person who migrated to India from Pakistan became an Indian citizen if he or either of his parents or any of his grandparents was born in undivided India and also fulfilled any one of the two conditions viz., in case he migrated to India before July 19, 1948, he had been ordinarily resident in India since the date of his migration; or in case he migrated to India on or after July 19, 1948, he had been registered as a citizen of India. But, a person could be so registered only if he had been resident in India for six months preceding the date of his application for registration (Article 6).
  - A person who migrated to Pakistan from India after March 1, 1947, but later returned to India for resettlement could become an Indian citizen. For this, he had to be resident in India for six months preceding the date of his application for registration (Article 7). Hence statement 2 is not correct.

#### **Q 2.B**

- A judge of high court can be removed by order of the President. President can issue a removal order only after an address by the Parliament has been presented to him for such removal. The address must be supported by a special majority of each House of Parliament. Hence statement 2 is not correct.
- There are only two grounds of removal for a judge of the Supreme Court – Proved misbehavior and incapacity. The judge of high court can be removed in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- The procedure for the removal of judges is elaborated in the Judges Inquiry Act, 1968. Hence statement 3 is correct.
- The Act sets out the following steps for removal from office:
  - To initiate proceedings:
    - ✓ at least 100 members of Lok Sabha may give a signed notice to the Speaker, or
    - ✓ at least 50 members of the Rajya Sabha may give a signed notice to the Chairman.
  - The Speaker or Chairman may consult individuals and examine relevant material related to the notice. Based on this, he or she may decide to either admit the motion or refuse to admit it. An impeachment motion may originate in either House of Parliament.
- If the motion is admitted, the Speaker or Chairman (who receives it) will constitute a three-member committee to investigate the complaint. It will comprise : (i) a Supreme Court judge; (ii) Chief Justice of a High Court; and (iii) a distinguished jurist.
- After concluding its investigation, the Committee will submit its report to the Speaker or Chairman, who will then lay the report before the relevant House of Parliament. If the report records a finding of misbehavior or incapacity, the motion for removal will be taken up for consideration and debated
- The motion for removal is required to be adopted by each House of Parliament by:
  - a majority of the total membership of that House; and
  - a majority of at least two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting.
- Once the motion is adopted in both Houses, it is sent to the President, who will issue an order for the removal of the judge.

#### **Q 3.A**

- **Recent Context:** India's largest statue of the Reclining Buddha is being installed at the Buddha International Welfare Mission temple in Bodh Gaya.
- **About Reclining Buddha:** A reclining Buddha statue represents the Buddha during his last illness, about to enter Parinirvana - the stage of great salvation after death that can only be attained by enlightened souls. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.
- Statues of Reclining Buddha show him lying on his right side, his head resting on a cushion or on his right elbow. It is meant to show that all beings have the potential to be awakened and be released from the cycle of death and rebirth.
- **The Reclining Buddha was first depicted in Gandhara art - which began in between 50 BC and 75 AD, and peaked during the Kushana period from the 1st – 5th centuries AD.**
- **Reclining Buddha in India:** Cave No. 26 of Ajanta contains a 24-foot-long and nine-foot-tall sculpture of the Reclining Buddha, believed to have been carved in the 5th century AD.
  - Kushinagar (present day Uttar Pradesh – where Buddha attained parinirvana) has a 6-metre-long red sandstone monolith statue of the Reclining Buddha inside the Parinirvana Stupa.
- **The largest Reclining Buddha in the world is the 600-foot Winsein Tawya Buddha built in 1992 in Mawlamyine, Myanmar.**

#### **Q 4.D**

- Democracies fall into two basic categories, direct and representative. In a direct democracy, all citizens, without the intermediary of elected or appointed officials, can participate in making public decisions.
- In a representative democracy, people vote for representatives who then enact policy initiatives. The key difference between the two systems is who is voting on laws, elected officials or the citizens. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Direct democracy describes those rules, institutions and processes that enable the public to vote directly on a proposed constitutional amendment, law, treaty or policy decision. **Various instruments of direct democracy include:**
  - **Referendums; Hence, statement 2 is not correct.** ○  
Citizens' initiatives
  - Plebiscite
  - Agenda initiatives

#### **Q 5.D**

- **Recent Context:** Central Government told the Supreme Court (SC) that the appointment of additional judges on ad-hoc basis in High Courts (HC) under Article 224A of the Constitution can be done only after the filling up of regular vacancies of judges.
  - SC had earlier sought the views of the Centre on appointing ad-hoc High Court judges to tackle the problem of mounting case arrears.
  - At this, the top court clarified that the idea behind having temporary judges in the high courts emanated from the necessity of urgently dealing with the massive pendency of cases and that it could not be understood as a substitute for regular appointments. •
  - Court also said that it intends to lay guidelines for appointment of ad hoc judges by considering criteria like pendency figure and the vacancy situation.
- **About Ad-hoc Judges**
  - Articles 127 and 224 and 224A provides for appointment of Ad-hoc judges to SC and HC.
  - Under Article 127, to address lack of quorum of judges, the Chief Justice of India, with the previous consent of the President and after consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned can appoint a judge as an ad hoc Judge. Hence statements 1 and 2 are correct.
  - Under Article 224 and 224A, additional or acting judges can be appointed for a period not exceeding 2 years or 62 years of age whichever is earlier to address a temporary rise in the business of the HC.
  - **It is the duty of the judge so appointed to attend the sittings of the Supreme Court, in priority to other duties of his office. Hence statement 3 is correct.** While so attending, he enjoys all the jurisdiction, powers and privileges (and discharges the duties) of a judge of the Supreme Court.

#### **Q 6.D**

- The primary function of Parliament is to make laws for the governance of the country.
- With regard to **Concurrent List** the Parliament has overriding powers, that is, the law of Parliament prevails over the law of the state legislature in case of a conflict between the two.
- The Constitution also empowers the Parliament to make laws on the subjects enumerated in the **State List** under the following five abnormal circumstances:
  - When Rajya Sabha passes a resolution to that effect. 2



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- The Constitution also empowers the Parliament to make laws on the subjects enumerated in the **State List** under the following five abnormal circumstances:
  - When Rajya Sabha passes a resolution to that effect.
  - When a proclamation of National Emergency is in operation.
  - When two or more states make a joint request to the Parliament.
  - When necessary to give effect to international agreements, treaties, and conventions.
  - When President's Rule is in operation in the state.
- The Parliament makes laws in a skeleton form and authorizes the Executive to make detailed rules and regulations within the framework of the parent law.** This is known as **delegated legislation** or executive legislation or subordinate legislation. Such rules and regulations are placed before the Parliament for its examination.
- Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### **Q 7.C**

- The presiding officer of the Rajya Sabha is known as the Chairman.**
- The vice-president of India is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- During any period when the Vice-President acts as President or discharges the functions of the President, he does not perform the duties of the office of the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha can be removed from his office only if he is removed from the office of the Vice-President.
- As a presiding officer, the powers and functions of the Chairman in the Rajya Sabha are similar to those of the Speaker in the Lok Sabha. However, **the Speaker presides over a joint sitting of two Houses of Parliament and the Chairman of Rajya Sabha can not preside over a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament under any circumstances.**
- Unlike the Speaker (who is a member of the House), **the Chairman is not a member of the House. The Chairman can not vote in the first instance. However, he can cast a vote in the case of an equality of votes. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The Vice-President cannot preside over a sitting of the Rajya Sabha as its Chairman when a resolution for his removal is under consideration. However, he can be present and speak in the House and can take part in its proceedings, without voting, even in the case of an equality of votes (while the Speaker can vote in the first instance when a resolution for his removal is under consideration of the Lok Sabha).
- The salaries and allowances of the Chairman are fixed by the Parliament.** They are charged on the **Consolidated Fund of India** and thus are not subject to the annual vote of Parliament.
- During any period when the Vice-President acts as President or discharges the functions of the President, he is not entitled to any salary or allowance payable to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. But he is paid the salary and allowance of the President during such a time.

#### **Q 8.B**

- The procedure for the amendment of the Constitution as laid down in Article 368 is as follows:**
  - An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in **either House of Parliament** and not in the state legislatures. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - The bill can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member and does not require prior permission of the president. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - The bill must be passed in each House by a special majority, that is, a majority (that is, more than 50 per cent) of the total membership of the House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of the House present and voting.
  - Each House must pass the bill separately.** In case of a disagreement between the two Houses, **there is no provision for holding a joint sitting** of the two Houses for the purpose of deliberation and passage of the bill.
  - If the bill seeks to amend the federal provisions of the Constitution, it must also be ratified by the legislatures of half of the states by a simple majority, that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting.
  - After **duly passed by both the Houses of Parliament** and ratified by the state legislatures, where necessary, the bill is presented to the president for assent.
  - The president must give his assent to the bill.** He can neither withhold his assent to the bill nor return the bill for reconsideration of the Parliament. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - After the president's assent, the bill becomes an Act (i.e., a constitutional amendment act) and the Constitution stands amended in accordance with the terms of the Act.

#### **Q 9.A**

- According to Article 124(2) every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose and shall hold office until he attains the age of sixty-five years: Provided that in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of India shall always be consulted. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- The opinion of the Chief Justice of India for the appointment of a judge of the Supreme Court should be formed in consultation with a collegium of the four seniormost Judges of the Supreme Court.
- The collegium sends its final recommendation to the President of India for approval. The President can either accept it or reject it. In the case it is rejected, the recommendation comes back to the collegium. If the collegium reiterates its recommendation to the President, then he/she is bound by that recommendation.
- Eligibility to become a Supreme Court judge:
  - To become a judge of the Supreme court, an individual should be an Indian citizen.
  - In terms of age, a person should not exceed 65 years of age.
  - The person should serve as a judge of one high court or more (continuously), for at least five years or the person should be an advocate in the High court for at least 10 years or a distinguished jurist. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

#### **Q 10.C**

- The offices of the leader of the House and the leader of the Opposition are not mentioned in the Constitution of India, they are mentioned in the Rules of the House and Parliamentary Statute respectively. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **Leader of the House:**
  - Under the Rules of Lok Sabha, the ‘Leader of the House’ means the prime minister, if he is a member of the Lok Sabha or a minister who is a member of the Lok Sabha and is nominated by the prime minister to function as the Leader of the House.
  - There is also a ‘Leader of the House’ in the Rajya Sabha. He is a minister and a member of the Rajya Sabha and is nominated by the prime minister to function as such.
- **Leader of the Opposition:**
  - **In each House of Parliament**, there is the ‘Leader of the Opposition’.
  - The leader of the largest Opposition party having not less than one-tenth seats of the total strength of the House is recognized as the leader of the Opposition in that House.
  - His main functions are to provide constructive criticism of the policies of the government and to provide an alternative government.
  - They are also entitled to the salary, allowances, and other facilities equivalent to that of a **cabinet minister**. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### **Q 11.B**

- **Punchhi Commission:** The Second commission on Centre-State Relations was set-up by the Government of India in April 2007 under the Chairmanship of Madan Mohan Punchhi, former Chief Justice of India. It was required to look into the issues of Centre-State relations. The important recommendations are mentioned below:
  - To facilitate effective implementation of the laws on **List III subjects**, it is necessary that some broad agreement is reached between the Union and states before introducing legislation in Parliament on matters in the Concurrent List.
  - The Union should be extremely restrained in asserting Parliamentary supremacy in matters assigned to the states. Greater flexibility to states in relation to subjects in the State List and “transferred items” in the Concurrent List is the key for better Centre-state relations.
  - The period of six months prescribed in Article 201 for State Legislature to act when the bill is returned by the President can be made applicable for the President also to decide on assenting or withholding assent to a state bill reserved for consideration of the President.
  - **While selecting Governors**, the Central Government should adopt the following strict guidelines as recommended in the Sarkaria Commission report and follow its mandate in letter and spirit :
    - ✓ He should be eminent in some walk of life
    - ✓ He should be a person from outside the state
    - ✓ He should be a detached figure and not too intimately connected with the local politics of the state

- ✓ He should be a person who has not taken too great a part in politics generally and particularly in the recent past
- Governors should be given a fixed tenure of five years and their removal should not be at the sweet will of the Government at the Centre.
- New **all-India services in sectors like health, education, engineering, and judiciary** should be created.
- A balance of power between states inter se is desirable and this is possible by equality of representation in the Rajya Sabha. This requires amendment of the relevant provisions to give **equality of seats to states in the Rajya Sabha**, irrespective of their population size.
- The scope of devolution of powers to local bodies to act as institutions of self-government should be constitutionally defined through appropriate amendments. Also recommended that the **states having legislative councils should have representation from local governments**. Hence option (b) is the correct answer.

**Q 12.A**

- **Qualifications:** The Constitution lays down the following qualifications for a person to be chosen as a member of the state legislature.
  - He must be a citizen of India.
  - He must make and subscribe to an oath or affirmation before the person authorized by the Election Commission for this purpose.
- **In his oath or affirmation, he swears**
  - To bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India
  - To uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India
- He must be not less than **30 years of age in the case of the legislative council and not less than 25 years of age in the case of the legislative assembly**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- He must possess other qualifications prescribed by Parliament.
- Accordingly, the Parliament has laid down the **following additional qualifications in the Representation of People Act (1951):**
  - A person to be elected to the legislative council **must be an elector for an assembly constituency in the concerned state** and to be qualified for the governor's nomination, he must be a resident in the concerned state. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
  - A person to be elected to the legislative assembly must be an elector for an assembly constituency in the concerned state.
  - He must be a member of a scheduled caste or scheduled tribe if he wants to contest a seat reserved for them. However, a member of scheduled castes or scheduled tribes can also contest a seat not reserved for them.

**Q 13.B**

- A person to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court should have the following qualifications:
  - He should be a citizen of India.
  - ✓ He should have been a judge of a High Court (or high courts in succession) for five years. Hence option 2 is correct.
  - ✓ He should have been an advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years. Hence option 3 is correct.
  - ✓ He should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president.
- The Constitution has not prescribed a minimum age for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court. Hence option 1 is not correct.

**Q 14.D**

- The Speaker is elected by the Lok Sabha from amongst its members (as soon as may be, after its first sitting).
- Whenever the office of the Speaker falls vacant, the Lok Sabha elects another member to fill the vacancy.
- The **date of the election of the Speaker is fixed by the President**.
- Usually, the Speaker remains in office during the life of the Lok Sabha. However, **he has to vacate his office earlier in any of the following three cases:**
  - if he ceases to be a member of the Lok Sabha;
  - **if he resigns by writing to the Deputy Speaker; and**
  - if he is removed by a resolution passed by the effective majority of all the **members of the Lok Sabha**. Such a resolution can be moved only after giving 14 days' advance notice.

- When a resolution for the removal of the Speaker is under consideration of the House, he cannot preside at the sitting of the House, though he may be present. However, **he can speak and take part in the proceedings of the House at such a time and vote in the first instance**, though not in the case of an equality of votes.
- Whenever the Lok Sabha is dissolved, the Speaker does not vacate his office and continues till the newly-elected Lok Sabha meets.**
- Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

**Q 15.B**

- Parliamentary Forums have been constituted for the members to **have interactions with ministers, experts, and key officials** so that the members have knowledge of the critical issues and they can **identify problems, prepare strategies, and speed up the implementation process** for matters concerned with their respective forums. At present, there are eight Parliamentary forums.
- Composition of Parliamentary Forums:**
  - The Speaker of Lok Sabha is the ex-officio President of all the Forums **except the Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - The Chairman of Rajya Sabha** is the ex-officio President and the Speaker is the ex-officio Co-President of Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health.
- The Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, the concerned Ministers, and the Chairmen of Departmentally-Related Standing Committees are the ex-officio Vice-Presidents of the respective Forums.
- Each Forum consists of not more than 31 members (excluding the President, Co-President, and Vice-Presidents) out of whom not more than 21 are from the Lok Sabha and not more than 10 are from the Rajya Sabha.
- Members (other than the President, Co-President, and Vice-Presidents) of these forums are nominated by the Speaker/Chairman from amongst the leaders of various political parties/groups or their nominees, who have special knowledge/keen interest in the subject.
- The duration of the office of members of the forum is co-terminus with their membership in the respective Houses. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- A member may also resign from the forum by writing to the Speaker/Chairman. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The President of the forum appoints a member-convenor for each forum to conduct regular, approved programs/meetings of the forum in consultation with the President.
- The meetings of the forums are held from time to time, as may be necessary, during Parliament sessions.

**Q 16.C**

- The act provides for a Gram Sabha as the foundation of the Panchayati raj system. It is a body consisting of **persons registered in the electoral rolls of a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Thus, it is a village assembly consisting of all the registered voters in the area of a panchayat. It may exercise such powers and perform such functions at the village level as the legislature of a state determines. The recommendations of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level shall be mandatory for grant of prospecting license or mining lease for minor minerals in the Scheduled Areas. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- Every gram sabha shall be responsible for the identification of beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation and other programs. Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q 17.A**

- The Constitution (Article 143) authorizes the president to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court in the two categories of matters:
  - On any question of law or fact of public importance which has arisen or which is likely to arise. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - On any dispute arising out of any pre-constitution treaty, agreement, covenant, engagement, and/or other similar instruments.
- In the first case, the Supreme Court may tender or may refuse to tender its opinion to the president. But, in the second case, the Supreme Court 'must tender its opinion to the president.'
- In both cases, the opinion expressed by the Supreme Court is only advisory and not a judicial pronouncement. Hence, it is not binding on the president; he may follow or may not follow the**

**opinion.** However, it facilitates the government to have an authoritative legal opinion on a matter to be decided by it. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**Q 18.B**

- **Recent Context:** The PM CARES Fund approved the allocation of funds for the installation of 551 dedicated Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) medical oxygen generation plants inside public health facilities in the country.
- Keeping in mind the need for having a dedicated national fund with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation, like posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and to provide relief to the affected, a public charitable trust under the name of 'Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund' (PM CARES Fund) has been set up.
- **PM CARES Fund has been registered as a Public Charitable Trust.** Recently, the government has not shared the information on an RTI request on PM CARES Fund stating it as not a public authority but a 'public charitable trust'. The trust deed of PM CARES Fund has been registered under the Registration Act, 1908. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Trustees of the PM CARES Fund:**
  - **The Prime Minister is Chairperson (ex-officio) of the PM CARES Fund** and Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - PM (Chairman) can also nominate three trustees to the Board who shall be eminent persons in the field of research, health, science, social work, law, public administration and philanthropy.
- **The primary objectives of the PM CARES Fund Trust are:**
  - To undertake and support 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, including the creation or upgradation of healthcare or pharmaceutical facilities, other necessary infrastructure, funding relevant research or any other type of support.
  - To render financial assistance, provide grants of payments of money or take such other steps as may be deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees to assist the affected population.
- **Important Features of the fund:**
  - PM CARES Fund accepts voluntary contributions by individuals/organizations as well as contributions as part of CSR from Companies/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). **However, does not get any budgetary support. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - Any contribution made to the PM CARES Fund by any Company or a PSU shall qualify as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure as provided under the Companies Act, 2013.
  - All contributions towards the PM CARES Fund are 100% exempt from Income Tax under Section 80(G) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for those who opt for the old tax slabs.
  - The PM CARES fund is exempted from paying Income Tax as per Section 10(23)(c) of Income Tax Act, 1961.
  - PM CARES Fund has received exemption from operation of all provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.
    - ✓ Foreign Donation is accepted from individuals and organizations based in Foreign countries through Foreign Credit / Debit Cards and also through Wire Transfer/SWIFT following the link on Home page of PM CARES Fund portal.
  - **PM CARES Fund is audited by an independent auditor.** Trustees of the Fund during the 2nd meeting held on 23.04.2020 decided to appoint M/s SARC & Associates, Chartered Accountants, New Delhi as the auditors of PM CARES Fund for 3 years (Not CAG). This is the same firm, headed by Sunil Kumar Gupta, which audits the PM National Relief Fund.

**Q 19.C**

- The Constitution of India provides for the following three kinds of funds for the Central government:
  - **Consolidated Fund of India (Article 266)**
  - **Public Account of India (Article 266)**
  - **Contingency Fund of India (Article 267)**
- **Consolidated Fund of India:**
  - It is a fund to which **all receipts are credited and all payments are debited.**
  - All revenues received by the Government of India;
  - All loans raised by the Government by the issue of treasury bills, loans or ways and means of advances; and

- All money received by the government in repayment of loans forms the Consolidated Fund of India. **All the legally authorized payments on behalf of the Government of India are made out of this fund.** No money out of this fund can be appropriated (issued or drawn) except in accordance with parliamentary law. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **Public Account of India:**
  - All other public money (other than those which are credited to the Consolidated Fund of India) received by or on behalf of the Government of India shall be credited to the Public Account of India. This includes provident fund deposits, judicial deposits, savings bank deposits, departmental deposits, remittances, and so on.
  - **This account is operated by executive action**, that is, the payments from this account can be made without parliamentary appropriation. Such payments are mostly in the nature of banking transactions. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **Contingency Fund of India:**
  - The Constitution authorized the Parliament to establish a 'Contingency Fund of India', into which amounts determined by law are paid from time to time. Accordingly, the Parliament enacted the contingency fund of India Act in 1950.
  - This fund is placed at the disposal of the president, and he can make advances out of it to meet unforeseen expenditure pending its authorization by the Parliament.
  - **The fund is held by the finance secretary on behalf of the president. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - Like the public account of India, it is also operated by executive action

#### **Q 20.C**

- **Recent Context:** Farmer body Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana (SSS) has warned the Maharashtra government against supporting the Centre's proposal to offer staggered fair and remunerative price (FRP) payments to farmers.
  - The Centre has constituted a high-level committee to look into a recommendation made by the Niti Aayog to implement a model of staggered payments to sugarcane growers and has asked state governments to submit their suggestions on this issue.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** With the amendment of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 in 2009, the concept of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane was replaced with the 'Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane. **Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) is the price to be paid to sugarcane farmers by the Sugar Mills and is announced each year by the Centre.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister, approves the Fair and Remunerative price of sugarcane** payable by sugar mills on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) after consulting the State Governments and associations of sugar industry.
- Recommended FRP has been arrived at by taking into account various factors such as cost of production, overall demand-supply situation, domestic and international prices, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade prices of primary by-products, and likely impact of FRP on general price level and resource use efficiency.

#### **Q 21.C**

- As the constitution of India provides for a Parliamentary system of government in the states, the Council of Minister headed by the Chief Minister is the real executive authority. Various Powers and functions of Chief Minister in relation to the council of Ministers are:
  - The Governor appoints only those persons as Ministers who are recommended by the Chief Minister.
  - **He allocates and reshuffles the portfolios among Ministers. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - He can ask Minister to resign or advise the governor to dismiss him in case of difference of opinion.
  - He presides over the meetings of the council of ministers
  - He can bring about the collapse of the council of ministers by resigning from office. **Since he is the head of the council of ministers his death or resignation automatically dissolves the council of ministers. Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### **Q 22.A**

- The Constitution of India being Federal in structure divides all the power (legislative, executive and financial) between the Centre and States. Though centre and States are supreme in their respective fields the maximum harmony and coordination are essential for the effective operation of the federal system. Hence, the constitution contains elaborate provisions to regulate various relations ((legislative, executive

and financial) between them. But in extraordinary times Constitution empowers Parliament to make laws on any matter enumerated in the State list.

- **Statement 1 is correct:** When Rajya Sabha declares that it is necessary for the national interest that Parliament should make laws concerning the matter in the state list, parliament becomes competent to make laws. Such a resolution should be supported by two-thirds of members present and voting. The resolution remains in force for one year and can be renewed any number of times but not exceeding one year at a time.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The law ceases to have an effect on the expiration of six months after the resolution has ceased to be in force.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** This provision does not restrict the power of a state legislature to make laws on the same matter. But, in case of inconsistency between state law and parliament law, it is parliament law that is to prevail.

#### Q 23.C

- **Recent Context:** Recently, Russia expelled seven European diplomats after their countries ordered Russia diplomats to leave which is preceded by removal of Russian diplomats by Czech, Slovakia and Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania following suit in solidarity.
- The Baltic Sea Region (BSR) comprises of **eight EU Member States** – Denmark, Sweden, Finland, **Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania**, Poland and Germany – and **Russia** all directly bordering the Baltic Sea.



- Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

#### Q 24.D

- At present (2016), a party is recognized as a national party if any of the following conditions are fulfilled:
  - If it secures six percent of valid votes polled in any four or more states at a general election to the Lok Sabha or to the legislative assembly; and, in addition, it wins four seats in the Lok Sabha from any state or states. **Hence option (a) is correct.**
  - If it wins two percent of seats in the Lok Sabha at a general election; and these candidates are elected from three states. **Hence option (b) is correct.**
  - If it is recognized as a state party in four states. **Hence option (c) is correct.**
  - Securing eight percent of the total valid votes polled in the state at a general election to the Lok Sabha from the state or to the legislative assembly of the state is one of the conditions for recognition as a State Party. **Hence option (d) is not correct.**

**Q 25.C**

- The genesis of the central Budget in India goes back to 1860 when it was first introduced by then finance minister James Wilson, two years after the transfer of Indian administration from the East India Company to the British Crown.
- The Constitution refers to the budget as the ‘**annual financial statement**’ that has been dealt with in **Article 112** of the Constitution. In other words, the term ‘**budget**’ has nowhere been used in the **Constitution**. It is the popular name for the ‘**annual financial statement**’. Hence option (c) is the correct answer.
- The budget is a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India in a financial year, which begins on 1 April and ends on 31 March of the following year.
- **Article 110** - This article of the Constitution of India categorically states that ‘if any question arises whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not, the decision of the Speaker of the House of the People thereon shall be final.
- **Article 111**- This article is about the presidential assent after the bills have been by both the houses of the Parliament.
- **Article 123** - This article is regarding the promulgation of ordinances by the President when the houses of the Parliament are not in session.

**Q 26.D**

- Under the First Past the Post (FPTP) system, a candidate who gets one vote more than other candidates is declared as the winner. In proportional representation, the number of seats won by a party or group of candidates is proportionate to the number of votes received.
- Proportional representation(PR) is a complicated system which may work in a small country but would be difficult to work in a sub-continental country like India. Hence option (a) is correct.
- The reason for the popularity and success of the FPTP system is its simplicity. The entire election system is extremely simple to understand even for common voters who may have no specialized knowledge about politics and elections. Hence option (b) is correct.
- There is also a clear choice presented to the voters at the time of elections. Voters have to simply endorse a candidate or a party while voting. Depending on the nature of actual politics, voters may either give greater importance to the party or to the candidate or balance the two.
- The FPTP system offers voters a choice not simply between parties but specific candidates. In other electoral systems, especially PR systems, voters are often asked to choose a party and the representatives are elected on the basis of party lists. As a result, there is no one representative who represents and is responsible for one locality. In a constituency-based system like the FPTP, the voters know who their own representative is and can hold him or her accountable. Hence option (c) is correct.
- More importantly, the makers of our Constitution also felt that a PR-based election may not be suitable for giving a stable government in a parliamentary system. This system requires that the executive has a majority in the legislature. The PR system may not produce a clear majority because seats in the legislature would be divided on the basis of the share of votes. Hence option (d) is not correct.

**Q 27.D**

- The Constitution has not fixed the tenure of a judge of the Supreme Court. Hence statement 1 is not correct.
- However, it makes the following three provisions in this regard:
  - He holds office until he attains the age of 65 years. Any question regarding his age is to be determined by such authority and in such manner as provided by Parliament.
  - He can resign his office by writing to the President. Hence statement 2 is not correct.
  - He can be removed from his office by the President on the recommendation of the Parliament.

**Q 28.C**

- Privileges of a state legislature are the special rights, immunities, and exemptions enjoyed by the houses of the state legislature, their committees, and their members. These privileges are necessary to maintain the dignity and decorum of the house. Without these privileges, houses cannot secure the independence and effectiveness of the actions of their members.
- The constitution has extended these privileges to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a house of the state legislature and any of its committees. These include **state ministers, advocate general, members of both the houses of the state legislature, presiding officers of both houses**.
- **These privileges are not extended to the Governor who is an integral part of the State Legislature.**
- Hence option (c) is the correct answer.

**Q 29.D**

- The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is **elected** by the Rajya Sabha itself from amongst its members. Whenever the office of the Deputy Chairman falls vacant, the Rajya Sabha elects another member to fill the vacancy. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **He vacates his office in any of the following three cases:**
  - if he ceases to be a member of the Rajya Sabha;
  - if he resigns by writing to the Chairman; and
  - if he is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the members of the Rajya Sabha. Such a resolution can be moved only after giving 14 days' advance notice.
- He performs the duties of the Chairman's office when it is vacant or when the Vice-President acts as President or discharges the functions of the President. He also acts as the Chairman when the Chairman is absent from the sitting of the House. In both cases, he has all the powers of the Chairman.
- The Deputy Chairman is **not subordinate to the Chairman**. He is directly responsible to the Rajya Sabha. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- Like the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, while presiding over the House, cannot vote in the first instance; he can only exercise a casting vote in the case of a tie.
- When a resolution for the removal of the Deputy Chairman is under consideration of the House, he cannot preside over a sitting of the House, though he may be present.
- When the Chairman presides over the House, **the Deputy Chairman is like any other ordinary member of the House. He can speak in the House, participate in its proceedings and vote on any question before the House.**
- Like the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman is also entitled to a regular salary and allowance. They are fixed by Parliament and are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

**Q 30.A**

- **Recent Context:** Ministry of Commerce & Industry has recently inaugurated e-SANTA, an electronic marketplace providing a platform to connect aqua farmers and the buyers.
- The term **e-SANTA** was coined for the web portal, meaning **Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade in Aquaculture**. It is an electronic marketplace providing a platform to connect aqua farmers and the buyers. It will enable the farmers to get a better price and the exporters to directly purchase quality products from the farmers enhancing traceability, a key factor in international trade. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (**NaCSA**) is an extension arm of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Govt. of India, **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The platform will change the traditional way of carrying out business from a word of mouth basis to become more formalised & legally binding. It will RAISE the lives & income of farmers by: i.e. Reducing Risk, Awareness of Products & Markets, Increase in Income, Shielding Against Wrong Practice and Ease of Processes.

**Q 31.A**

- Delimitation is the act of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats to represent changes in population. In this process, the number of seats allocated to a state may also change. The objective is to provide equal representation for equal population segments, and a fair division of geographical areas so that no political party has an advantage.
- Articles 82 and 170 of the constitution of India provide for readjustment and the division of each State into territorial constituencies (Parliamentary and assembly constituencies) on the basis of the immediately conducted census by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may, by law, determine. Delimitation commission is not a permanent body and has been set up four times in the past — 1952, 1962, 1972, and 2002 — under the Delimitation Commission Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972, and 2002. **Hence option (a) is not correct.**
- Delimitation commission sought to lay down certain guidelines as to the manner in which such delimitation would be undertaken.
- The proposed delimitation would apply to every general election to the house of the people or to a State legislative Assembly held after the final orders of the commission are published and to every bye-election arising from such General election. **Hence option (b) is correct.**
- The orders issued by the delimitation commission become final and cannot be challenged in any court. **Hence option (c) is correct.**
- The present delimitation of parliament and assembly constituencies is based on 2001 census. **Hence option (d) is correct.**

#### **Q 32.B**

- Article 81 and 170 of the constitution of India lay down the maximum number of seats in parliament and in legislative assemblies of states and also certain principles to be followed in allocating seats in the house of people among the states and in the state legislative assemblies but have left the actual allocation of such seats to be provided by the law. Therefore, **the Representation of the People Act,1950** was enacted to provide for the allocation of seats in the house of the people and in the legislative assemblies and legislative councils of states. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Representation of the people act,1950 did not contain all the provisions relating to elections but merely provided for the allocation of seats in and the delimitation of constituencies for the purpose of elections to the house of people and legislatures of States, the qualifications of a voter at such election and the preparations of electoral rolls.
- The provisions for the actual conduct of elections to the houses of parliament and to the house or houses of the legislature of each state, the qualifications and disqualifications for the membership of these houses, the corrupt practices, and other election offenses, and the decision of election disputes were all left to be made in a subsequent measure. In order to provide for these provisions, the Representation of the People Act,1951 was enacted. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### **Q 33.C**

- The constitution of India provides for a Parliamentary form of government in the states as in the centre. The Governor has to exercise his powers and functions with aid and advice of the council of minister headed by the Chief Minister, except in matters in which he is required to act in his discretion.
- **The Governor has constitutional discretion in the following cases:**
  - Reservation of the bill for consideration of president.
  - **Recommendation for the imposition of President's rule. Hence option 2 is correct.**
  - While exercising his functions as the administrator of joining an adjoining union territory.
  - Determining the amount payable by the government of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram to an autonomous Tribal District Council as royalty accruing from licenses for mineral exploration.
  - **Seeking information from the Chief Minister with regards to the administrative and Legislative matters of the state. Hence option 4 is correct.**
- **The Governor has situational discretion in the following cases:**
  - **Appointment of Chief Minister when no party has a clear cut majority in state legislative assembly or when Chief Minister in office dies suddenly and there is no obvious successor. Hence option 3 is not correct.**
  - Dismissal of Council of Ministers when it cannot prove the confidence of the state legislative assembly.
  - **Dissolution of the state legislative assembly if the council of ministers has lost its majority. Hence option 1 is not correct.**

#### **Q 34.D**

- **Recent Context: India and Russia have recently agreed to establish a '2+2 ministerial dialogue'.**
- The '2+2 ministerial dialogue' is an expression used to indicate that **two appointed ministers from each country, the ministers of defence and external affairs**, in this case, will meet up to discuss the two countries' strategic and security interests. The goal is to establish a diplomatic, yet fruitful, conversation between the two countries' respective heads of defence and external affairs. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Japan is the second country after US with which India has such a dialogue format. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

#### **Q 35.C**

- **General Purposes Committee:**
  - This committee considers and advises on matters concerning affairs of the House, which do not fall within the jurisdiction of any other parliamentary committee.
  - In each House, **this committee consists of**
    - ✓ **The presiding officer (Speaker/Chairman) as its ex-officio chairman,**
    - ✓ Deputy Speaker (Deputy Chairman in the case of Rajya Sabha),
    - ✓ Members of the panel of chairpersons (panel of vice-chairpersons in the case of Rajya Sabha),
    - ✓ The chairpersons of all the departmental standing committees of the House,
    - ✓ Leaders of recognized parties and groups in the House and such other members as nominated by the presiding officer.

- **Rules Committee:**
  - This committee considers the matters of procedure and conduct of business in the House and recommends necessary amendments or additions to the rules of the House.
  - The Lok Sabha committee consists of 15 members including the **Speaker as its ex-officio chairman**.
  - In the Rajya Sabha, it consists of 16 members including the **Chairman as its ex-officio chairman**.
- **Business Advisory Committee:**
  - This committee regulates the program and timetable of the House.
  - It allocates time for the transaction of legislative and other business brought before the House by the government.
  - The Lok Sabha committee consists of 15 members including the **Speaker as its chairman**.
  - In the Rajya Sabha, it has 11 members including the **Chairman as its ex-officio chairman**.
- **Ethics Committee:**
  - This committee was constituted in Rajya Sabha in 1997 and in Lok Sabha in 2000.
  - **The Chairman of the Committee shall be appointed by the Speaker (Chairman in case of the Rajya Sabha) from amongst the members of the Committee.**
  - It enforces the code of conduct of members of Parliament.
  - It examines the cases of misconduct and recommends appropriate action. Thus, it is engaged in maintaining discipline and decorum in Parliament.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### **Q 36.C**

- **Legislative Council election:**
  - **One-third** of the MLCs are elected by the **state's MLAs**.
  - Another 1/3rd by a special electorate comprising sitting members of local governments such as municipalities and district boards,
  - 1/12th by an electorate of teachers and another 1/12th by registered graduates.
  - The remaining members are appointed by the Governor for distinguished services in various fields namely, literature, science, art, cooperative movement, and social service.
  - **Elections to the Rajya Sabha** are indirect; members representing States are elected **by elected members of legislative assemblies** of the States in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, and those representing Union Territories are chosen in such manner as Parliament may by law prescribe. The Rajya Sabha is not subject to dissolution; one-third of its members retire every second year.
- **Article 54: Election of President:** The President shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of –
  - the elected members of both Houses of Parliament; and
  - the **elected members of the Legislative Assemblies** of the States. Explanation: In this article and in article 55, “State” includes the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union territory of Pondicherry.
- **Article 66: Election of Vice-President:** The Vice-President shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the **members of both Houses of Parliament** in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot. **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### **Q 37.D**

- **Estimates Committee:**
  - The origin of this committee can be traced to the **standing finance committee set up in 1921**.
  - The first Estimates Committee in the post-independence era was constituted in 1950 on the recommendation of **John Mathai, the then finance minister**. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
    - ✓ The committee on Public Undertakings was created on the recommendation of the Krishna Menon Committee.
  - Originally, it had 25 members but in 1956 its membership was raised to 30.
  - **All the thirty members are from Lok Sabha only**. The Rajya Sabha has no representation in this committee. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - The members are elected by the Lok Sabha every year from amongst its own members, according to the principles of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote. Thus, all parties get due representation in it.
  - The term of office is one year.
  - **A minister cannot be elected as a member of the committee**. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

- **The chairman of the committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst its members** and he is invariably from the ruling party.
- The function of the committee is to examine the estimates included in the budget and suggest ‘economies’ in public expenditure. Hence, it has been described as a ‘**continuous economy committee**’.

**Q 38.C**

- **The 74th amendment Act, 1992 provides for a five-year term of office for every municipality. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- However, it can be dissolved before the completion of its term. Further, the fresh elections to constitute a municipality shall be completed
  - before the expiry of its duration of five years; or
  - in case of dissolution, before the expiry of a period of six months from the date of its dissolution. Moreover, a municipality constituted upon the dissolution of a municipality before the expiration of its duration shall continue only for the remainder of the period for which the dissolved Municipality would have continued had it not been dissolved. In other words, a municipality reconstituted after premature dissolution does not enjoy the full period of five years but remains in office only for the remainder of the period. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

**Q 39.C**

- **Bhutan and China** have recently agreed to have a much-delayed boundary talks between them to discuss a roadmap for expediting the boundary resolution. The two areas of dispute between the two nations are **Pasamlung and Jakarlung valleys** to the North of Bhutan and Doklam to the West of Bhutan, along the trijunction with India. The upcoming talks, the 25th round of the boundary talks mechanism, will be the first since the Doklam standoff in 2017, and the first since China made new claims on Bhutan’s eastern boundary bordering Arunachal Pradesh in June 2020. **Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- Following a military coup in **Myanmar** from 1 February 2021, the violence has escalated in various townships of **Yangon and Mandalay**, which has led to deaths of multiple protestors and arrest of several others. **Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- An earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter Scale originated in **Sonitpur, Tezpur of Assam (India)** recently with tremors being felt even in North Bengal and other parts of the Northeast. **Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

**Q 40.C**

- The Central Council of Local Government was set up in 1954. **It was constituted under Article 263 of the Constitution of India by an order of the President of India. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Originally, it was known as the Central Council of Local Self-Government. However, the term ‘self-government’ was found to be superfluous and hence was replaced by the term ‘government’ in the 1980s. **Till 1958, it dealt with both urban as well as rural local governments, but after 1958 it has been dealing with matters of urban local government only. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Council is an advisory body. It consists of the Minister for Urban Development in the Government of India and the ministers for local self-government in states. **The Union minister acts as the Chairman of the Council. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The Council performs the following functions with regard to local government:
  - Considering and recommending the policy matters
  - Making proposals for legislation
  - Examining the possibility of cooperation between the Centre and the states
  - Drawing up a common program of action(v) Recommending Central financial assistance
  - Reviewing the work done by the local bodies with the Central financial assistance.

**Q 41.A**

- Rajya Sabha, being a permanent House, is not subject to dissolution. Only the Lok Sabha is subject to dissolution.
- Unlike a prorogation, a dissolution ends the very life of the existing House, and a new House is constituted after general elections are held.
- When the Lok Sabha is dissolved, all business including bills, motions, resolutions, notices, petitions, and so on pending before it or its committees lapse. They (to be pursued further) must be reintroduced in the newly-constituted Lok Sabha.

- However, some pending bills and all pending assurances that are to be examined by the **Committee on Government Assurances** do not lapse on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.
- **The position with respect to lapsing of bills is as follows:**
  - A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses (whether originating in the Lok Sabha or transmitted to it by the Rajya Sabha). **Hence statement 4 is not correct.**
  - A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - A bill not passed by the two Houses due to disagreement and if the president has notified the holding of a joint sitting before the dissolution of Lok Sabha, **does not lapse**.
  - A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha **does not lapse**. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - A bill passed by both Houses but pending assent of the president **does not lapse**.
  - A bill passed by both Houses but returned by the president for reconsideration of Houses **does not lapse**. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

#### **Q 42.C**

- **The Federal Court of India was a judicial body, established in India in 1937 under the provisions of the Government of India Act 1935.** Composed of only two puisne judges and a Chief Justice, the Federal Court was smaller than any of the Provincial High Courts and its jurisdiction was very limited. There was a right of appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London from the Federal Court of India. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The Supreme Court of India came into being on 28 January 1950.** It replaced both the Federal Court of India and the British Privy Council and had wider jurisdiction than its predecessor. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Article 130 of the constitution provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.** **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

#### **Q 43.A**

- Article 153-167 in the Indian Constitution deal with the provisions related to the state executive which includes Governor, Chief Minister, Council of Ministers, and Advocate-General of State. Governor is a constitutional head of the state. He possesses executive, legislative, Judicial and financial powers.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Governor can make advances out of the contingency fund of the state to meet any unforeseen expenditure.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** Money bills can be introduced in state legislature only with the prior recommendation of the Governor. There is no such provision provided in the constitution. **Also, imposition of fines or other pecuniary penalties does not deem to be a money bill.**
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** If any questions arise whether a bill is a money bill or not, the Speaker (and not Governor) is the final authority for deciding it. His decision in this regard cannot be challenged in any court of law.

#### **Q 44.D**

- **Recent Context: The U.S. Treasury Department had recently retained India in a watchlist for currency manipulators submitted to the U.S. Congress,** citing higher dollar purchases (close to 5% of the gross domestic product) by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Another trigger for the inclusion in the currency watchlist is a trade surplus of \$20 billion or more. India's trade surplus with the U.S. grew by about \$5 billion to \$23 billion in 2020-21 from around \$18 billion in the previous fiscal year as imports fell more sharply than exports in the COVID-affected year.
  - According to the latest report of US treasury department, the monitoring list under '**Currency Manipulator Watchlist**' comprises of China, Japan, Korea, Germany, Ireland, Italy, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Mexico. All except Ireland and Mexico were covered in the December 2020 report as well.
- **Currency manipulator' is a label given by the US government to countries it feels are engaging in "unfair currency practices" by deliberately devaluing their currency against the dollar.**
- The U.S. Treasury uses three benchmarks to judge currency manipulators:
  - A bilateral trade surplus with the U.S. of more than \$20 billion.
  - A current account surplus of at least 3% of GDP.
  - Net purchases of foreign currency of 2% of GDP over a 12-month period. India breached the first and the third benchmarks.

- The designation of a country as a currency manipulator does not immediately attract any penalties, but tends to dent the confidence about a country in the global financial markets.

### WHAT IT MEANS...

**For India** | There will be pressure on RBI to cut down intervention, allow the rupee to appreciate  
**In terms of restrictions** | The tag does not involve any kind of trade restrictions



**For economy** | A stronger rupee would partially offset the impact of rising oil prices on imports  
**For RBI** | The central bank can increase diversification of its reserves to include non-dollar assets

- Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

### Q 45.B

- Each house of the state legislature has its own presiding officer. The Speaker is elected by the assembly itself and usually, he remains in the office during the life of the assembly. He performs various functions of the house and has different powers and duties.
- Statement 1 is not correct:** Speaker **Adjourns (or adjournment sine die) the assembly or suspends it during the absence of a quorum.** The Governor from time to time summons and Prorogue each house of the state legislature. After the speaker adjourns the house or declares adjournment sine die after few days, the Governor issues notification for the prorogation of the house.
- Statement 2 is correct:** The Speaker has to maintain order and decorum so that the House can function smoothly. **If in the opinion of the speaker the conduct of any Member is grossly disorderly, he may direct such Member to withdraw immediately from the House. He has the final power in this regard.**
- Statement 3 is not correct:** The Speaker is empowered to place a Member under suspension. **The authority for revocation of this order is vested in the House. It is for the House if it so desires can pass the motion to revoke the suspension.**

### Q 46.C

- Municipal corporations are created for the administration of big cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bangalore, and others. **They are established in the states by the acts of the concerned state legislatures, and in the union territories by the acts of the Parliament of India.** Hence statement 1 is correct.
- There may be one common act for all the municipal corporations in a state or a separate act for each municipal corporation. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- A municipal corporation has **three authorities, namely, the council, the standing committees, and the commissioner.** The Council is the deliberative and legislative wing of the corporation. It consists of the Councillors directly elected by the people, as well as a few nominated persons having knowledge or experience of municipal administration. In brief, the composition of the Council including the reservation of seats for SCs, STs, and women. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

### Q 47.A

- Distribution of tax revenues between the center and the states.**
- Taxes Levied by the Centre but Collected and Appropriated by the States (Article 268):** This category includes the stamp duties on bills of exchange, cheques, promissory notes, policies of insurance, transfer of shares, and others. The proceeds of these duties levied within any state do not form a part of the Consolidated Fund of India, but are assigned to that state.
- Taxes Levied and Collected by the Centre but Distributed between the Centre and the States (Article 270):** This category includes all taxes and duties referred to in the Union List except the following:
  - Duties and taxes referred to in Articles 268, 269 and 269-A;
  - Surcharge on taxes and duties referred to in Article 271; and
  - Any cess levied for specific purposes.

The manner of distribution of the net proceeds of these taxes and duties is prescribed by the President on the recommendation of the Finance Commission.

- Taxes Levied and Collected by the Centre but Assigned to the States (Article 269):** The following taxes fall under this category:

- Taxes on the sale or purchase of goods (other than newspapers) in the course of inter-state trade or commerce.
- **Taxes on the consignment of goods in the course of inter-state trade or commerce.** The net proceeds of these taxes do not form a part of the Consolidated Fund of India. They are assigned to the concerned states in accordance with the principles laid down by the Parliament.
- **Taxes Levied and Collected and Retained by the States:** These are the taxes belonging to the states exclusively. They are enumerated in the state list and are 18 in number. These are: (i) land revenue; (ii) taxes on agricultural income; (iii) duties in respect of succession to agricultural land; (iv) estate duty in respect of agricultural land; (v) taxes on lands and buildings; (vi) **taxes on mineral rights;** (vii) Duties of excise on alcoholic liquors for human consumption; opium, Indian hemp and other narcotic drugs and narcotics, but not including medicinal and toilet preparations containing alcohol or narcotics; (viii) taxes on the consumption or sale or electricity; (ix) taxes on the sale of petroleum crude, high speed diesel, motor spirit (commonly known as petrol), natural gas, aviation turbine fuel and alcoholic liquor for human consumption, but not including sale in the course of inter-state trade or commerce or sale in the course of international trade or commerce of such goods; (x) taxes on goods and passengers carried by road or inland waterways; (xi) taxes on vehicles; (xii) taxes on animals and boats; (xiii) tolls; (xiv) taxes on professions, trades, callings and employments; (xv) capitation taxes; (xvi) taxes on entertainments and amusements to the extent levied and collected by a Panchayat or a Municipality or a Regional Council or a District Council; (xvii) stamp duty on documents (except those specified in the Union List); and (xviii) fees on the matters enumerated in the State List (except court fees). **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

#### **Q 48.B**

- The term Panchayati raj India signifies the system of rural local self-government. It has been established in all the states of India by the acts of the state legislatures to build democracy at the grass-root level. It was constitutionalized through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992. Committees regarding the evolution of Panchayati raj include like Balwant rai Mehta committee, the Ashok Mehta committee, the GVK Rao committee, the LM Singhvi committee, the Thungon committee, Gadgil Committee. **As per the timeline Ashok Mehta committee got constituted earliest. Hence option (b) is correct.**
- It was constituted in December 1977 by the Janta Government. Ashok Mehta committee on Panchayati raj institutions submitted **its report in August 1978** and submitted 132 recommendations to revive and strengthen the declining Panchayati raj system in the country. Its main recommendations are:
  - The three-tier system of Panchayati raj should be replaced by the two-tier system, that is Zila Parishad at the district level, and below it, the Mandal panchayat consisting of a group of villages with a total population of 15,000 to 20,000.
  - A district should be the first point for decentralization under popular supervision below the state level.
  - Zila Parishad should be the executive body and made responsible for planning at the district level.
- The Committee to review the existing Administrative Arrangements for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Programmes **under the chairmanship of G.V.K. Rao was appointed by the Planning Commission in 1985.** The Committee came to the conclusion that the developmental process was gradually bureaucratized and divorced from the Panchayati Raj. This phenomenon of bureaucratization of development administration as against the democratization weakened the Panchayati Raj institutions resulting in what is aptly called 'grass without roots'.
- **In 1986**, the Rajiv Gandhi government appointed a committee to prepare a concept paper on 'Revitalisation of Panchayati Raj Institutions for Democracy and Development **under the chairmanship of L. M. Singhvi.** It made the following recommendations.
  - The Panchayati Raj institutions should be constitutionally recognized, protected, and preserved. For this purpose, a new chapter should be added to the Constitution of India. This will make their identity and integrity reasonably and substantially inviolate. It also suggested constitutional provisions to ensure regular, free, and fair elections to the Panchayati Raj bodies.
  - Nyaya Panchayats should be established for a cluster of villages.
  - The villages should be reorganized to make Gram Panchayats more viable. It also emphasized the importance of the Gram Sabha and called it the embodiment of direct democracy.
- **In 1988**, a sub-committee of the Consultative Committee of Parliament was constituted under the chairmanship of **P.K. Thungon** to examine the political and administrative structure in the district for the purpose of district planning. This committee suggested the strengthening of the Panchayati Raj system.

**Q 49.D**

- **Recent Context:** In a move to counter China's dominance of supply chain in the Indo-Pacific region, **trade ministers of India, Japan and Australia recently** formally launched the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) in a virtual trilateral ministerial meeting. **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**
- In 2020, with COVID-19 and trade tensions between China and the United States threatening supply chains or actually causing bottlenecks, Japan mooted the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) as a trilateral approach to trade, with India and Australia as the other two partners.
- In the context of international trade, supply chain resilience is an approach that helps a country to ensure that it has diversified its supply risk across a clutch of supplying nations instead of being dependent on just one or a few.

**Q 50.C**

- When the five-year limit is up, or the legislature has been dissolved and new elections have been called, the election commission puts into effect the machinery for holding an election. The constitution states that there can be no longer than six months between the last session of the dissolved Lok Sabha and the recalling of the new House, so elections have to be concluded before then. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The commission normally announces the schedule of elections in a major press conference a few weeks before the formal process is set in motion. The Model code of conduct for the guidance of candidates and political parties comes immediately into effect after such an announcement. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The Representation of people act,1951 contains provisions relating to corrupt practices and electoral offenses of the candidates.

**Q 51.C**

- The constitution defines the territorial jurisdiction of the parliament and states. The Parliament can make laws for the whole or any part of the territory of India. The territory of India includes states, union territories, and any other area for the time being included in the territory of India.
- However, the constitution places certain restrictions on the plenary territorial jurisdiction of the Parliament which are:
  - **The President can make regulations for the peace, progress, and good government of five union territories- Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, and Ladakh.** A regulation so made has the same force as an act of parliament. It may also repeal or amend any act of parliament in relation to these union territories. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - **The Governor (and not President) is empowered to direct that an act of the parliament does not apply to the scheduled areas in a state or apply with modifications.** Hence statement 2 is not correct.
  - **The Governor of Assam may likewise direct that an act of Parliament does not apply to a tribal area** (Autonomous District) in the state or apply with specified modifications and exceptions. The President enjoys the same power with respect to tribal Areas in Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q 52.A**

- **Recent Context:** The World Press Freedom Index, 2021 has again **ranked India at 142nd out of 180 countries.**
- **World Press Freedom Index is published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF)** – a French NGO, measures the level of **media freedom** in 180 countries. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- India was ranked in the “bad” category, along with Brazil, Mexico and Russia. Norway topped the list followed by Finland and Denmark, while Eritrea is at the bottom. China is ranked 177, and is only above North Korea at 179 and Turkmenistan at 178.
- The report says **India is one of the world’s most dangerous countries for journalists trying to do their job properly.**
- **India is ranked 142, same as last year, after it had consistently slid down from 133 in 2016.** In the **South Asian neighbourhood**, Nepal is at 106, Sri Lanka at 127, Myanmar (before the coup) at 140, Pakistan at 145 and Bangladesh at 152. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

**Q 53.C**

- A major portion of Part IX of the Constitution deals with structural empowerment of the PRIs but the real strength in terms of both autonomy and efficiency of these institutions is dependent on their financial position (including their capacity to generate their own resources).In general, Panchayats in our country receive funds in the following ways:

- Grants from the Union Government based on the recommendations of the Central Finance Commission as per Article 280 of the Constitution. Hence option (a) is correct.
- Devolution from the State Government based on the recommendations of the State Finance Commission as per Article 243-I. Hence option (b) is correct.
- Loans/grants from the State Government.
- Programme-specific allocation under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Additional Central Assistance. (v) Internal Resource Generation (tax and non-tax). Hence option (d) is correct.
- Gram Sabha owns Minor minerals and revenue generation from them also owned by them but it is not correct about Major minerals. Hence option (c) is not correct.

**Q 54.C**

- The main purpose of an election is to give people a chance to choose the representatives, the government, and the policies they prefer. Therefore it is necessary to have a free and open discussion about who is a better representative, which party will make a better government, or what is a good policy. This is what happens during election campaigns. The main features of the election system in India are :

  - **Universal adult franchise:** Adult franchise means that the right to vote should be given to all adult citizens without discrimination of caste, class, color, religion, or sex. It is based on equality which is a basic principle of democracy. Hence option (a) is correct.
  - **Representation of weaker section:** Reservation of seats for the SCs and the STs. Hence option (b) is correct.
  - **Open political competition:** Anyone can form a party or contest elections. Hence option (c) is not correct.
  - **One vote one value:** The principle of "one vote, one value" is a cornerstone of any democracy. Each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value. Hence option (d) is correct.

**Q 55.D**

- An Electronic voting machine (EVM) is a simple electronic device used to record votes in place of ballot papers and boxes which were used earlier in the conventional voting system. The advantages of the EVM over the traditional ballot paper/ballot box system are as follows:
  - It eliminates the possibility of invalid and doubtful votes which, in many cases, are the root causes of controversies and election petitions. Hence option 1 is correct.
  - It makes the process of counting votes much faster than the conventional system. Hence option 2 is correct.
  - It reduces to a great extent the quantity of paper used thus saving a large number of trees making the process eco-friendly.
  - It reduces the cost of printing (almost nil) as only one sheet of ballot paper is required for each polling station. Hence option 3 is correct.

**Q 56.B**

- Adjournment motion can be introduced in the parliament to draw the attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance. It is regarded as an extraordinary device. The discussion on adjournment motion should be at least two hours and thirty minutes.
- **Statement 1 is not correct:** Adjournment motion is an extraordinary device. It involves an element of censure against the government and hence it can only be introduced in Lok Sabha and not Rajya Sabha because the council of ministers headed by the Prime minister is directly responsible to Lok Sabha.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** As it interrupts the normal business of the house, it requires the support of at least 50 members to be admitted.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** The right to move an adjournment motion is subject to various restrictions:
  - It should not raise a matter which is definite, factual, urgent, and of public importance.
  - It should not cover more than one matter.
  - It should not be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence.
  - **It should not raise a question of privilege.**
  - It should not revive discussion on a matter that has been discussed in the same session.
  - It should not deal with any matter that is under adjudication of court.
  - It should not raise any question that can be raised on a distinct motion.

**Q 57.D**

- **Every state shall constitute at the district level, a district planning committee to consolidate the plans prepared by panchayats and municipalities in the districts, and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole.** Hence option (a) is correct.

- The Act lays down that **four-fifths of the members** of a district planning committee should be elected by the elected members of the district panchayat and municipalities in the district from amongst themselves. **Hence option (b) is correct.**
- The representation of these members in the committee should be in proportion to the ratio between the rural and urban populations in the district. **Hence option (c) is correct.**
- The state legislature may make provisions with respect to the following :
  - The composition of such committees
  - The manner of election of members of such committees in relation to district planning :
  - The functions of such committees in relation to district planning
  - **The manner of the election of the chairpersons of such committees. Hence option (d) is not correct.**

**Q 58.D**

- The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution lays down that a person shall be disqualified from being a member of Parliament if he is so disqualified on the ground of defection.
- **A member incurs disqualification under the defection law:**
  - if he voluntary gives up the membership of the political party on whose ticket he is elected to the House;
  - if he votes or abstains from voting in the House contrary to any direction given by his political party/whip without obtaining prior permission of such party and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days;
  - if any independently elected member joins any political party; and
  - if any nominated member joins any political party **after the expiry of six months.**
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

**Q 59.C**

- **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;
  - The regulation of the borrowing of money by the Union government;
  - The custody of the Consolidated Fund of India or the contingency fund of India, the payment of moneys into or the withdrawal of money from any such fund;
  - The appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India;
  - Declaration of any expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India or increasing the amount of any such expenditure;
  - The receipt of money on account of the Consolidated Fund of India or the public account of India or the custody or issue of such money, or the audit of the accounts of the Union or of a state; or
  - Any matter incidental to any of the matters specified above.
- However, a bill is **not to be deemed to be a money bill** by reason only that it provides for:
  - the imposition of fines or other pecuniary penalties, or
  - the demand or payment of fees for licenses or fees for services rendered; or
  - the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax by any local authority or body for local purposes.
- **Money bills are simply a species of financial bills.** Hence all money bills are financial bills but all financial bills are not a money bills.
- 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 the either House of Parliament or even the president.
- It **requires the certification of the Speaker** when transmitted to the Rajya Sabha.
- A money bill **can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha** and that too on **the recommendation of the president.**
  - Every such bill is considered to be a government bill and **can be introduced only by a minister.**
- After a money bill is passed by the Lok Sabha, it is transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its consideration. **The Rajya Sabha has restricted powers with regard to a money bill.**
  - It cannot reject or amend a money bill.
  - It can only make recommendations.
  - It must return the bill to the Lok Sabha within 14 days, wither with or without recommendations.
- **The Lok Sabha can either accept or reject all or any of the recommendations of the Rajya Sabha.**

- If the Lok Sabha accepts any recommendation, the bill is then deemed to have been passed by both the Houses in the modified form.
- If the Lok Sabha does not accept any recommendation, the bill is then deemed to have passed by both the Houses in the form originally passed by the Lok Sabha without any change.
- 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 the Houses in the form originally passed by the Lok Sabha. Thus, the Lok Sabha has more powers than Rajya Sabha with regard to a money bill. On the other hand, both the Houses have equal powers with regard to an ordinary bill.
- 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 option (c) is the correct answer.**

**Q 60.C**

- Lok Adalat is one of the alternative dispute redressal mechanisms.
- Institution of Lok Adalat has been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- A Lok Adalat shall have jurisdiction to determine and to arrive at a compromise or settlement between the parties to a dispute in respect of:
  - any case pending before any court; or
  - any matter which is falling within the jurisdiction of any court and not brought before such court.
- Thus, the Lok Adalat can deal with not only the cases pending before a court but also with the disputes at the pre-litigation stage. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The award (decision) made by the Lok Adalats is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal against such an award lies before any court of law.
- If the parties are not satisfied with the award of the Lok Adalat though there is no provision for an appeal against such an award, but they are free to initiate litigation by approaching the court of appropriate jurisdiction by filing a case by following the required procedure, in the exercise of their right to litigate.

**Q 61.D**

- **Qualifications:** To be eligible for election as Vice-President, a person should fulfill the following qualifications:
  - He should be a citizen of India.
  - He should have completed 35 years of age.
  - He should be qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha. **Hence, option (a) is correct.**
  - He should not hold any office of profit under the Union government or any state government or any local authority or any other public authority.
- **The functions of Vice-President are two-fold:**
  - He acts as the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha. In this capacity, his powers and functions are similar to those of the Speaker of Lok Sabha. In this respect, he resembles the American vice-president who also acts as the Chairman of the Senate—the Upper House of the American legislature. He acts as President when a vacancy occurs in the office of the President due to his resignation, impeachment, death or otherwise.
  - He can act as President only for a maximum period of six months within which a new President has to be elected. Further, when the sitting President is unable to discharge his functions due to absence, illness or any other cause, the Vice-President discharges his functions until the President resumes his office. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- The Constitution has not fixed any emoluments for the Vice-President in that capacity. He **draws his regular salary in his capacity as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha**. In 2018, the Parliament increased the salary of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha from ₹1.25 lakh to ₹4 lakh per month. **Hence, option (c) is correct.**
- Vice-president comes **before prime minister** of India in table of precedence. **Hence, option (d) is not correct.**

**Q 62.B**

- **Calling Attention Motion:**
  - It is introduced in the Parliament by a member **to call the attention of a minister to a matter of urgent public importance** and to seek an authoritative statement from him on that matter, for

example, disturbances in any part of the country, border troubles, railway accidents, shutting down of public undertakings. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**

- It is an **Indian innovation in the parliamentary procedure** and has been in existence since 1954. However, **unlike the zero hour, it is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- A member can not give more than two calling attention notices for any one sitting.

#### **Q 63.A**

- The Parliament is too unwieldy a body to deliberate effectively the issues that come up before it. The functions of the Parliament are varied, complex and voluminous. Moreover, it has neither adequate time nor necessary expertise to make a detailed scrutiny of all legislative measures and other matters. Therefore, it is assisted by a number of committees in the discharge of its duties.
- **The Constitution of India makes a mention of these committees at different places, but without making any specific provisions regarding their composition, tenure, functions, etc.**
  - All these matters are dealt with by the rules of two Houses. **Accordingly, a parliamentary committee means a committee that:**
    - ✓ Is appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker / Chairman. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
    - ✓ Works under the direction of the Speaker / Chairman.
    - ✓ Presents its report to the House or to the Speaker / Chairman. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
    - ✓ Has a secretariat provided by the Lok Sabha / Rajya Sabha. **Hence the statement 3 is not correct.**
- The consultative committees, which also consist of members of Parliament, are not parliamentary committees as they do not fulfill the above four conditions.
- **Parliamentary committees are of two kinds:**
  - **Standing Committee:**
    - ✓ They are permanent (constituted every year or periodically) and work on a continuous basis.
    - ✓ For example, the public accounts committee.
  - **Ad Hoc Committees:**
    - ✓ They are temporary and cease to exist on completion of the task assigned to them.
    - ✓ For example, committee on the conduct of certain members during the President's address.

#### **Q 64.C**

- Gram Nyayalayas or village courts are established under the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 for speedy and easy access to the justice system in the rural areas of India.
- The Gram Nyayalayas are presided over by a Nyayadhikari, who will have the same power, enjoy the same salary and benefits as a Judicial Magistrate of First Class. **Such Nyayadhikari is to be appointed by the State Government in consultation with the respective High Court. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The Court can function as a mobile court at any place within the jurisdiction of such Gram Nyayalaya, after giving wide publicity to that regard.
- The **Gram Nyayalayas try criminal cases** (where the alleged offense attracts a punishment of not more than 2 years or when the value of the property involved in a criminal case is not more than 20000 rupees), **civil suits** (cases over cattle trespassing act, minimum wages act, protection of women from domestic violence act and property disputes, etc.), claims or disputes. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **Gram Nyayalayas can follow special procedures in civil matters, in a manner it deems just and reasonable in the interest of justice. Gram Nyayalayas allow for conciliation of the dispute and settlement of the same in the first instance.**

#### **Q 65.B**

- **Recent Context:** The U.K.'s Home Department has approved the extradition of Nirav Modi to India in connection with the ₹13,758-crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud.
- **Extradition Act, 1962, (amended in 1993)** provides India's legislative basis for extradition.
  - **The act defines an Extradition Treaty as a Treaty, Agreement, or Arrangement made by India with a foreign state, relating to extradition of fugitive criminals and include those treaties made before 15th August 1947, which extends to and is binding on India. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- India's treaty partners have obligations to consider India's requests. In the absence of a treaty, it is a matter for the foreign country, in accordance with its domestic laws and procedures, to determine whether

the country can agree to India's extradition request on the basis of assurance of reciprocity. Similarly, any country can make an extradition request to India.

- **Extradition is possible from the non-treaty States** as Section 3(4) of the Indian Extradition Act, 1962 provides for the process of extradition with non-Treaty foreign States.
- **Requests for extradition on behalf of the Republic of India can only be made by the Consular, Passport & Visa (CPV) Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India**, which formally submits the request for Extradition to the requested State through diplomatic channels. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Extradition is not available at the request of members of the public.**
- As per the Supreme Court, extradition is delivery on part of one State to another of those whom it is desired to deal with crimes for which they have been accused or convicted and are justifiable in courts of other States. **Extradition requests can be initiated in cases of under-investigation, under-trail and convicted criminals. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **An alleged offender may not be extradited to the requesting state in the following cases:**
  - **No treaty** – In absence of a treaty, States are not obligated to extradite aliens/nationals.
  - **No treaty crime** – Extradition is generally limited to crimes identified in the treaty which may vary in relation to one State from another, as provided by the treaty.
  - **Military and Political Offences** – Extradition may be denied for purely military and political offences. Terrorist offences and violent crimes are excluded from the definition of political offences for the purposes of extradition treaties.
  - **Want of Dual Criminality** – Dual criminality exists when conduct constituting the offence amounts to a criminal offence in both India and the foreign country.
  - **Procedural considerations** – Extradition may be denied when due procedure as required by the Extradition Act of 1962 is not followed.

#### **Q 66.D**

- There are eight types of urban local governments in India—municipal corporation, municipality, notified area committee, town area committee, cantonment board, township, port trust, and special purpose agency. Township is a type of urban government established by the large public enterprises to provide civic amenities to its staff and workers who live in the housing colonies built near the plant.
- This type of **urban government is established by the large public enterprises to provide civic amenities to its staff and workers who live in the housing colonies built near the plant**. Hence **statement 1 is correct.**
- **The enterprise (not the state government) appoints a town administrator to look after the administration of the township. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- He is assisted by some engineers and other technical and non-technical staff. Thus, the township form of urban government has no elected members. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- It is an extension of the bureaucratic structure of the enterprises.

#### **Q 67.A**

- The Constitution under Article 123 empowers President to issue ordinances during recess of the parliament to deal with unforeseen or urgent methods. these ordinances have the same effect and force as an act of Parliament.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The President can issue an ordinance like any other ordinary act to repeal or modify any act of parliament or another ordinance. However, every ordinance issued by the President must be laid before both houses of Parliament. If the ordinance is approved by both houses it becomes an act.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The president can promulgate ordinance retrospective, that is, it may come into force from a backdate. It can alter or amend a tax law also but it cannot be issued to amend the constitution.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** During a National Emergency, the parliament becomes empowered to make laws on any subject mentioned in the state list. While the proclamation of national emergency is in operation, the President can issue ordinances on state subjects also, if parliament is not in session.

#### **Q 68.B**

- The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) **was set up first in 1921** under the provisions of the **Government of India Act of 1919** and has since been in existence.
- At present, it consists of 22 members (**15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha**).

- The members are elected by the Parliament every year from amongst its members according to the **principle of proportional representation** by **means of the single transferable vote**. Thus, all parties get due representation in it.
- The term of office of the members is one year.
- A minister cannot be elected as a member of the committee.**
- The chairman of the committee is appointed from amongst its members by the Speaker.
- The function of the 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.
  - The CAG submits three audit reports to the President:
    - ✓ Audit report on appropriation accounts,
    - ✓ Audit report on finance accounts, and
    - ✓ Audit report on public undertakings.
  - In the fulfillment of the above functions, the committee is assisted by the CAG. In fact, the CAG acts as a guide, friend and philosopher of the **committee**.
- Departmental Standing Committees:**
  - They are the **largest** Parliamentary Committee.
  - There are 24 departmental standing committees, and cover under their jurisdiction all the ministries/departments of the Central Government.
  - Each standing committee consists of 31 members (21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha)
- Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

**Q 69.C**

- Recent Context:** India's first **bamboo-dwelling bat with sticky discs (Eudiscopus denticulus)** has been recently recorded near **Nongkhyllam Wildlife Sanctuary**.
  - The Sanctuary falls in the Eastern Himalayan Global bio-diversity hot spot.**
  - Nongkhyllam Reserved Forest was constituted in stages during the regime of the erstwhile British Government during 1909-1939 due to abundance of wildlife and good quality of habitat.
  - The Nongkhyllam Wildlife Sanctuary is **tropical mixed evergreen forests, in the northern portion of Nongkhyllam, the vegetation is mostly moist deciduous type of forest**. The general woody vegetation presents a homogenous appearance mixed with bamboo forests and grassy slopes and the vegetation changes with altitude.
  - Some species have been recorded for the first time in Meghalaya, these include Rufous necked Hornbill, Long-Billed vulture, white necked vulture, etc.
  - The area comprises fully of hills and valleys, along which flow numerous streams that join the rivers such as Umtrew and its tributaries Umtasor and Umsaw which surround the area. **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**
- Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary** established in the year 1975 lies in **Madhya Pradesh and is shared by four districts, namely Sagar, Damoh, Narsinghpur and Raisen**. The sanctuary's flora and fauna are sustained by the two rivers basins, Narmada and Ganga. The sanctuary is thriving in wildlife and is home to exotic canine species including the Indian Wolf, Striped Hyena and Bengal Fox. Nauradehi was found to be the most suitable area for the cheetahs as its forests are not very dense to restrict the fast movement of the fastest land animal. And the prey base for cheetahs is also in abundance at the sanctuary. **Hence option (a) is not correct.**
- Tal Chhapar Sanctuary** is a sanctuary located in the Churu district of Northwestern Rajasthan in the Shekhawati region of India. It is known for blackbucks and is also home to a variety of birds. **Hence option (b) is not correct.**
- The Mudumalai National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary also a declared tiger reserve, lies on the northwestern side of the Nilgiri Hills (Blue Mountains), in Nilgiri District**. The sanctuary is divided into five ranges – Masinagudi, Thepakadu, Mudumalai, Kargudi and Nellakota. The protected area is home to several endangered and vulnerable species including the Indian elephant, Bengal tiger, gaur and Indian leopard. It also has birds including critically endangered Indian white-rumped vulture and long-billed vulture. **Hence option (d) is not correct.**

**Q 70.C**

- "Exit polls" is an opinion survey regarding how electors have voted at an election or how all the electors have voted at an election or how all the electors have performed with regard to the identification of a political party or candidate in an election. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- Section 126A of the Representation of the People's Act, 1951 clearly states that "No person shall conduct any exit poll and publish or publicize by means of the print or electronic media or disseminate in any

other manner, whatsoever, the result of an exit poll during such period as may be notified by the Election Commission in this regard." **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

- Further, any person who contravenes this provision shall be punishable with imprisonment of up to two years or with a fine or with both.

#### **Q 71.D**

- **Question Hour:**
  - The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is slotted for this. During this time, the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers.
  - The questions are of three kinds, namely, starred, unstarred and short notice.
    - ✓ **A starred question** (distinguished by an asterisk) requires an oral answer and hence supplementary questions can follow.
    - ✓ **An unstarred question**, on the other hand, **requires a written answer** and hence, supplementary questions cannot follow. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
    - ✓ **A short notice** question is one that is asked by giving a notice of fewer than ten days. It is answered orally.
  - In addition to the ministers, the questions can also be asked to the private members. Thus, a question may be addressed to a private member if the subject matter of the question relates to some Bill, resolution, or other matter connected with the business of the House for which that member is responsible. The procedure in regard to such questions is the same as that followed in the case of questions addressed to a minister.
  - The list of starred, unstarred, short notice questions and questions to private members are **printed in green, white, light pink, and yellow color**, respectively, to distinguish them from one another.
- **Zero Hour:**
  - The zero hour is not **mentioned in the Indian Constitution and Rules of Procedure**. Thus it is an informal device available to the members of the Parliament to raise matters without any prior notice. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - The zero hour starts immediately after the question hour and lasts until the agenda for the day (ie, regular business of the House) is taken up.
  - It is an Indian innovation in the field of parliamentary procedures and has been in existence since 1962.

#### **Q 72.A**

- As per Article 209 of the constitution, the qualification criteria for a district judge is as follows:
  - Appointments of persons to be, and the posting and promotion of, district judges in any State shall be made by the Governor of the State in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State.
  - A person should not already be in the service of the Union or of the State. **Hence option 1 is correct.**
  - He shall only be eligible to be appointed as district judge if he has been for not less than seven years an advocate or a pleader. **Hence option 2 is correct.**
  - **He has been recommended by the High Court for the appointment. Hence option 3 is correct.**

#### **Q 73.D**

- **Quorum:**
  - Quorum is the minimum number of members required to be present in the House before it can transact any business.
  - **It is one-tenth of the total number of members in each house including the presiding officer.** It means that there must be at least 55 members present in the Lok Sabha and 25 members present in the Rajya Sabha if any business is to be conducted. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - If there is no quorum during a meeting of the House, it is the duty of the presiding officer either to adjourn the House or to suspend the meeting until there is a quorum.
- **Language in Parliament:**
  - The Constitution has declared Hindi and English to be the languages for transacting business in Parliament. However, **the presiding officer can permit a member to address the House in his mother tongue. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - In both the Houses, arrangements are made for simultaneous translation.
  - Though English was to be discontinued as a floor language after the expiration of fifteen years from the commencement of the Constitution (that is, in 1965), the **Official Languages Act (1963)** allowed English to be continued along with Hindi

**Q 74.D**

- According to the directions of the supreme court, the Election commission made provision in the ballot papers/EVMs for None of the above (NOTA) option so that the voters who come to the polling booth and decide not to vote for any of the candidates in the fray, are able to exercise their right not to vote for such candidates while maintaining the secrecy of their ballot. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The provision for NOTA has been made since General Election to State Legislative Assemblies Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, NCT of Delhi and Rajasthan in 2013 and continued in the General Election to State Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, and Sikkim in 2014 along with the General Elections to the Sixteenth Lok Sabha (2014).
- The voters polled against the NOTA option are not taken into account for calculating the total valid voters polled by the contesting candidates for the purpose of the return of security deposits to candidates. Even if the number of electors opting for NOTA options is more than the number of votes polled by any of the candidates, the candidate who secures the largest number of votes has to be declared elected. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- In 2004, PUCL (People's Union for civil liberties) filed a petition seeking a direction to provide the necessary provision in ballot papers and EVMs for the protection of the right to not vote for any candidate, secretly. The Supreme Court in 2013 held that the ECI may provide for the None of above (NOTA) option on EVMs and ballot papers. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Q 75.A**

- **Censure Motion:**
  - It should state the reasons for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.
  - It can be moved against an individual minister or a group of ministers or the entire council of ministers.
  - It is **moved for censuring the council of ministers** for specific policies and actions.
  - If it is passed in the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers need not resign from the office.
- **The Motion of Thanks:**
  - The first session after each general election and the first session of every fiscal year is addressed by the president. In this address, the president outlines the policies and programs of the government in the preceding year and ensuing year. This address of the president is discussed in both the Houses of Parliament on a motion called the 'Motion of Thanks'. At the end of the discussion, the motion is put to vote. **This motion must be passed in the House. Otherwise, it amounts to the defeat of the government.**
- **Point of Order:**
  - A member can raise a point of order **when the proceedings of the House do not follow the normal rules of procedure.**
  - A point of order should relate to the interpretation or enforcement of the Rules of the House or such articles of the Constitution that regulate the business of the House and should raise a question that is within the cognizance of the Speaker. It is usually raised by an opposition member in order to control the government.
  - It is an extraordinary device as it suspends the proceedings before the House.
  - No debate is allowed on a point of order.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

**Q 76.A**

- Under Article 72 of the constitution, the president can grant pardons to Persons who have been tried and convicted of any offence in all cases where:
- Punishment or sentence is for an offence against union law, or,
- It is by a court-martial, or, a sentence is a sentence of death.
- The pardoning power of President includes:- Pardon, Commutation, Remission, Respite, Reprieve
- Following principles are laid down by the Supreme court after examining the pardoning power of the President under different cases :
  - The petitioner for mercy has no right to an oral hearing.
  - **The Power is to be exercised by the President on the advice of the Union Cabinet (and not at his discretion). Hence option (a) is not correct.**
  - The President can examine the evidence afresh and take a view different from the view taken by the court.
  - **The President is not bound to give reasons for his order.**
  - The president can afford relief not only from a sentence that he regards as unduly harsh but also from the evident mistake.

- The exercise of power by the President is subject to Judicial Review where the decision is arbitrary, irrational, malafide or discriminatory.
- Where the earlier petition for mercy has been rejected by the president, a stay cannot be obtained by filing another petition.

**Q 77.C**

- **Council of ministers:** Article 74—Council of Ministers to aid and advise President:
  - There shall be a **Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President** who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice. However, the President may require the Council of Ministers to reconsider such advice and the President shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - The advice tendered by Ministers to the President shall not be inquired into in any court. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Article 75—Other Provisions as to Ministers**
  - The **Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President** and the **other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.**
  - The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers **shall not exceed 15%** of the total strength of the Lok Sabha. This provision was added **by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003.**
  - A member of either house of Parliament belonging to any political party who is disqualified on the ground of defection shall also be disqualified to be appointed as a minister. This provision was also added by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003.
  - The ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.
  - The council of ministers shall be **collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.** **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - The **President shall administer the oaths** of office and secrecy to a minister.
  - A minister who is **not a member of the Parliament (either house)** for **any period of six consecutive months** shall cease to be a minister.
  - The salaries and allowances of ministers shall be determined by the Parliament.

**Q 78.B**

- **Governor:** Before entering upon his office, the governor has to make and subscribe to an oath or affirmation. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The oath of office to the governor is administered by the chief justice of the concerned state high court and in his absence, the senior-most judge of that court available. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- **Article-159:** Oath or affirmation by the Governor.—Every Governor and every person discharging the functions of the Governor shall, before entering upon his office, make and subscribe in the presence of the Chief Justice of the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to the State, or, in his absence, the senior-most Judge of that Court available, an oath or affirmation.
- In his oath, the governor swears:
  - to faithfully execute the office;
  - to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law; and to devote himself to the service and well-being of the people of the state.
- **Third Schedule** contains the forms of oath and affirmation for:
  - Union Ministers of India
  - Parliament Election Candidates
  - Members of Parliament (MPs)
  - Supreme Court Judges
  - Comptroller and Auditor General
  - State Ministers
  - State Legislature Elections' Candidates
  - State Legislature Members
  - High Court Judges
- **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

**Q 79.A**

- **Recent Context:** In the recent times, several multi-million-dollar Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) sales have taken place. For instance, Christie's sale of an NFT by a digital artist called Beeple set the record for digital art, as it was bought by two Indian-origin crypto enthusiasts for a whopping \$69 million.

- **NFTs are tokens that are used to represent ownership of unique items such as art, collectibles, even real estate.** They can only have one official owner at a time and they're secured by the Ethereum blockchain – no one can modify the record of ownership or copy/paste a new NFT into existence. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **About Non-Fungible Token (NFT):**
  - NFT is one of a kind asset can be bought and sold similar to any other piece of property.
  - They however have no tangible form and exist in form of certificates only.
  - NFT cannot be broken down into small values and unlike most currencies cannot be exchanged for an equal value.
  - The NFTs have unique value and they cannot be duplicated.
  - NFTs can always be traced back to their original user/supplier.
  - NFTs exist on a blockchain, which is a distributed public ledger that records transactions. So, when an NFT is sent to someone, a ledger entry is made containing an address to the file, which establishes the ownership of that NFT.
- **Each has a digital signature that makes it impossible for NFTs to be exchanged for or equal to one another (hence, non-fungible).** Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

#### **Q 80.D**

- **The Global EV Outlook is an annual publication released by International Energy Agency that identifies and discusses recent developments in electric mobility across the globe.** Hence option (d) is the correct answer.
- **Key Findings:**
  - There were 10 million electric cars on the world's roads by the end of 2020.
  - **In India more than 30% of the new vehicle sales will be electric by 2030.**
- **About IEA**
  - Created in 1974 to ensure the security of oil supplies, the International Energy Agency has evolved over the years. While **energy security remains a core mission**, the IEA today is at the center of the global energy debate, focusing on a wide variety of issues, ranging from electricity security to investments, climate change and air pollution, energy access and efficiency, and much more.
- IAE includes **30 member countries, 8 association countries (including India).**
- There are two pre-conditions for IEA membership that India currently does not fulfill.
  - Membership of the OECD.
  - Maintaining oil stocks equivalent to at least 90 days of net imports( India has stock for 74 days).
- **Reports released by IEA:**
  - **Global Energy & CO2 Status Report**
  - **World Energy Outlook**
  - **World Energy Statistics**
  - **World Energy Balances**

#### **Q 81.B**

- Governor is the nominal executive head of the state and he forms an important part of the state executive where he acts as the chief executive head. A bill passed by the state Legislature (and state legislative council in case of bicameralism) becomes act only after receiving the assent of the Governor or president. The veto power enjoyed by the Governor can be classified into Absolute veto, Suspensive Veto, Pocket veto.
- **Statement 1 is not correct:** When a money bill is passed by the state legislature (unicameral or bicameral) it is presented to the Governor. He has three alternatives in this regard:
  - He may give his assent to the bill
  - He may withhold his assent to the bill
  - **He may reserve the bill for the consideration of the President under Article 201.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Governor may return the bill for the reconsideration of the house. If the state legislature (unicameral or bicameral) passes the bill again with or without amendments and presented it to the Governor for his assent then he must give his assent to the bill. **Thus, he enjoys only a 'suspensive veto'.**

#### **Q 82.C**

- **Recent Context:** The Supreme Court recently held that two Indian companies can choose a foreign jurisdiction to arbitrate their disputes. And that such an agreement will not adversely impact either party's ability to seek interim relief before Indian courts. The apex court's ruling partially re-enforced and partially overturned the Gujarat High Court's November order in favour of GE Power Conversion India.

- The ruling also clarifies that interim relief and recourse to Indian courts will be available even if domestic parties have opted for a foreign jurisdiction as the seat of arbitration.
- **The Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, also known as the "New York Arbitration Convention" or the "New York Convention", is one of the key instruments in international arbitration.**
  - Arbitration is a procedure in which a dispute is submitted, by agreement of the parties, to one or more arbitrators (an independent person/body) who make a binding decision on the dispute.
  - It applies to the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards and the referral by a court to arbitration.
- **The Convention was adopted by the United Nations (UN) following a diplomatic conference held in May and June 1958 at the UN Headquarters in New York, and entered into force on 7th June, 1959.**
- The Convention has 166 state parties. **India is a party to the Convention.**
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

**Q 83.A**

- In India, jurisdiction to issue 'prerogative writs' is given to the Supreme Court, and to the High Courts of Judicature of all Indian states.
- The Supreme Court issue writs under Article 32 of the Constitution for enforcement of fundamental rights while High Courts issue writs under Articles 226.
- Each High Court has power to issue to any person within its jurisdiction directions, orders, or writs which are in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto, and certiorari **for enforcement of Fundamental Rights and for any other purpose.**
- The Supreme Court can issue a writ only if the petitioner can prove that his Fundamental Right has been infringed. Thus the power of the High Court to issue a writ is much wider than that of the Supreme Court. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- **When fundamental rights of a citizen are violated, the aggrieved party has the option of moving to either the High court or Supreme Court. Hence writ jurisdiction of the high court is not exclusive but concurrent with writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. Hence statement 1 is correct.**

**Q 84.D**

- **Joint sitting** is an extraordinary machinery provided by the Constitution to resolve a deadlock between the two Houses over the passage of a bill. A deadlock is deemed to have taken place under any one of the following **three situations** after a bill has been passed by one House and transmitted to the other House:
  - If the bill is rejected by the other House;
  - If the Houses have finally disagreed as to the amendments to be made in the bill; or
  - If more than six months have elapsed from the date of the receipt of the bill by the other House without the bill being passed by it.
- In the above three situations, **the President can summon** both the Houses to meet in a joint sitting for the purpose of deliberating and voting on the bill.
- The provision of joint sitting is **applicable to ordinary bills or financial bills only and not to money bills and Constitutional amendment bills.**
  - In the case of a money bill, the Lok Sabha has overriding powers, while a **Constitutional amendment bill must be passed by each House separately.**
- **If the bill (under dispute) has already lapsed due to the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, no joint sitting can be summoned. But, the joint sitting can be held if the Lok Sabha is dissolved after the President has notified his intention to summon such a sitting (as the bill does not lapse in this case).**
  - After the President notifies his intention to summon a joint sitting of the two Houses, none of the Houses can proceed further with the bill.
- **The Speaker of Lok Sabha presides over a joint sitting of the two Houses and the Deputy Speaker, in his absence.**
  - If the Deputy Speaker is also absent from a joint sitting, **the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha presides.** If he is also absent, such other person as may be determined by the members present at the joint sitting presides over the meeting. **Hence option(d) is the correct answer.**
  - The Chairman of Rajya Sabha does not preside over a joint sitting as he is not a member of either House of Parliament.
- **The quorum to constitute a joint sitting is one-tenth of the total number of members of the two Houses.**
- **The joint sitting is governed by the Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha and not of Rajya Sabha.**

- If the bill in dispute is passed by a majority of the total number of members of both the Houses present and voting in the joint sitting, the bill is deemed to have been passed by both the Houses.
- The Constitution has specified that at a joint sitting, new amendments to the bill cannot be proposed except in two cases:
  - those amendments that have caused final disagreement between the Houses; and
  - those amendments that might have become necessary due to the delay in the passage of the bill.
- Since 1950, the provision regarding the joint sitting of the two Houses has been invoked only **thrice**.

**Q 85.A**

- **Recent Context:** In August 2019, the RBI had appointed an Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of **Sudhir Shrivastava** to review the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limits for State Governments/ UTs.
  - The Committee has recommended the RBI continue with the enhanced limit up to September 30, 2021. **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
- **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)**
- The RBI acts as a banker to the government i.e., it lends money to the Central and State Government.
- Earlier, the government relied on ad-hoc Treasury bills to borrow money from RBI. However, it was replaced by Ways and Means advances in 1997.
- It acts as a **loan facility to the central and state governments to meet their cash requirements**. This facility is availed by the Government due to the temporary mismatches in their receipts and expenditure.
- The loan taken by the government through ways and means advances needs to be paid back in 90 days.
- The interest rate of WMA currently is the **repo rate**.
- The limits for WMA are mutually decided by the RBI and the Government of India.

**Q 86.C**

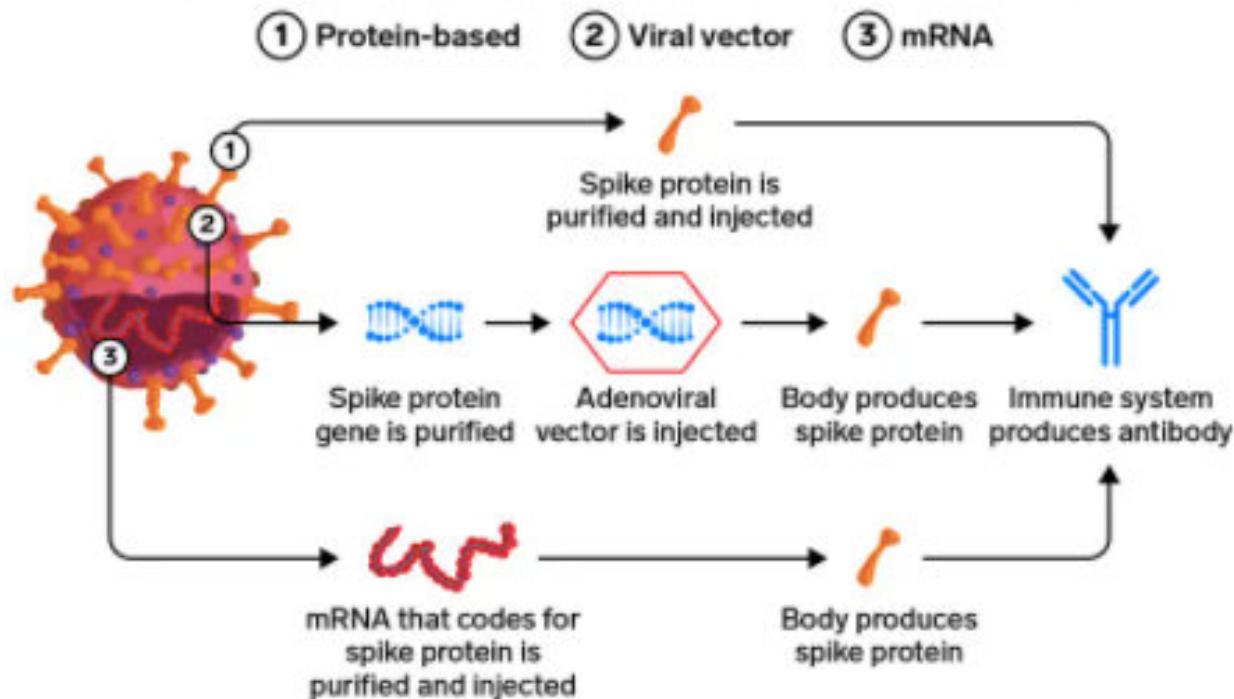
- Under 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act(1992) or part IX of the constitution. There are two types of provisions compulsory and voluntary.
- **Compulsory provisions are :**
  - **Organisation of Gram sabha in a village or group of villages. Hence option 1 is correct.**
  - Establishment of panchayats at the village, intermediate, and district levels.
  - Direct elections to all seats in panchayats t the village, intermediate, and district levels.
  - **Indirect elections to the post of chairperson of panchayats at the intermediate and district levels. Hence option 2 is correct.**
  - 21 years to be the minimum age for contesting elections to panchayats.
  - Reservation of seats (both members and chairpersons) for SCs and STs in panchayats at all three levels.
  - Establishment of a state election commission for conducting elections for the panchayats.
  - **Constitution of a state Finance Commission after every five years to review the financial position of the panchayats. Hence option 3 is correct.**
- **Voluntary provisions are:**
  - Giving representation to members of the parliament (both the houses) and the state legislature (both the houses) in the panchayat at different levels falling within their constituencies.
  - Providing reservation of seats (both members and chairperson) for backward classes in panchayats at any level.
  - Granting powers and authority to the panchayats to enable them to function as institutions of self-government (in brief, making them autonomous bodies)
  - Devolution of powers and responsibilities upon panchayats to prepare plans for economic development and social justice; and to perform some or all of the 29 functions listed in the 11th schedule of the constitution.
  - Granting financial powers to the panchayats, that is, authorizing them to levy, collect, and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls, and fees.

**Q 87.C**

- **Recent Context:** Russia's COVID-19 vaccine, Sputnik V has been approved for emergency use in India. It is an adenoviral vector-based vaccine. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **Adenoviral vector-based vaccines** are those where "vectors" are vehicles, which can induce a genetic material from another virus into a cell.

- The vaccine is based on a heterologous recombinant adenovirus approach. It uses a weakened virus to stimulate an immune response. Hence statement 1 is correct.
  - They are considered excellent vectors for delivering target antigens to mammalian host.
  - Adenoviral vector-based vaccine relies on highly specific delivery of antigens to target cells and results into high expression of antigen after vaccination.
  - Currently, adenovirus vectors are being tested as sub-unit vaccine systems for numerous infectious agents ranging from malaria to HIV-1.
  - Adenoviruses:**
    - Adenoviruses are double-stranded DNA viruses with a genome size that is amenable for easy manipulation. They were first discovered in the human adenoid tissue in 1953.
    - Adenoviruses (ADVs) are double-stranded DNA viruses ranging from 70-90 nanometre in size that is amenable for easy manipulation. They induce many illnesses in humans like cold, respiratory infection etc.
    - Adenoviruses are preferred for vaccines because their DNA is double stranded which makes them genetically more stable and the chances of them changing after injection are lower. Eg. Rabies vaccine is an adenovirus vaccine.
  - However, there are drawbacks of adenovirus vector vaccines like pre-existing immunity in humans, inflammatory responses etc. Just as human bodies develop immune responses to most real viral infections, they also develop immunity to adenoviral vectors.
- 

## Three types of coronavirus vaccines in development



Source: National Institutes of Health presentation at Senate hearing on September 9, 2020

INSIDER

# How Viral Vector COVID-19 Vaccines Work

## Understanding the virus that causes COVID-19.

Coronaviruses, like the one that causes COVID-19, are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface, called **spike proteins**. These **spike proteins** are ideal targets for vaccines.

## What is a viral vector vaccine?

A viral vector vaccine uses a harmless version of a different virus, called a "vector," to deliver information to the body that helps it protect you.

## How does the vaccine work?

The vaccine teaches your body how to make copies of the **spike proteins**. If you are exposed to the real virus later, your body will recognize it and know how to fight it off.



**Q 88.D**

- The **doctrine of ‘sovereignty of Parliament’** is associated with the British Parliament.
- Sovereignty means the supreme power within the State. That supreme power in Great Britain lies with the Parliament. There are no ‘legal’ restrictions on its authority and jurisdiction. Such as:
  - The Parliament can make, amend, substitute or repeal any law.
  - The Parliament can make constitutional laws by the same procedure as ordinary laws.
  - The Parliamentary laws cannot be declared invalid by the Judiciary as being unconstitutional.
- **The Indian Parliament**, on the other hand, **cannot be regarded as a sovereign body** in a similar sense as there are ‘legal’ restrictions on its authority and jurisdiction.
- **The factors that limit the sovereignty of the Indian Parliament are:**
  - **Written Nature of the Constitution:**
    - ✓ The Constitution is the fundamental law of the land in our country.
    - ✓ The Constitution has defined the authority and jurisdiction of all the three organs of the Union government and the nature of the interrelationship between them. Hence, the Parliament has to operate within the limits prescribed by the Constitution.
  - **Federal System of Government:**
    - ✓ India has a federal system of government with a constitutional division of powers between the Union and the states. Both have to operate within the spheres allotted to them. Hence, the law-making authority of the Parliament gets confined to the subjects enumerated in the seventh schedule of the Indian Constitution i.e. Union List and Concurrent List, and does not extend to the subjects enumerated in the State List (except in five abnormal circumstances and that too for a short period).
  - **System of Judicial Review:**
    - ✓ The adoption of an independent Judiciary with the power of judicial review also restricts the supremacy of our Parliament.

- ✓ Both the Supreme Court and high courts can declare the laws enacted by the Parliament as void and ultra vires (unconstitutional) if they contravene any provision of the Constitution.
- **Fundamental Rights:**
  - ✓ The authority of the Parliament is also restricted by the incorporation of a code of justiciable fundamental rights.
  - ✓ Article 13 prohibits the State from making a law that either takes away totally or abrogates in part a fundamental right. Hence, a Parliamentary law that contravenes fundamental rights shall be void.
- Therefore, even though the nomenclature and organizational pattern of our Parliament are similar to that of the British Parliament, there is a substantial difference between the two.
- **The Indian Parliament is not a sovereign body in the sense in which the British Parliament is a sovereign body. The authority and jurisdiction of the Indian Parliament are defined, limited and restrained.**
- **Hence option(d) is the correct answer.**

#### **Q 89.C**

- The Rajya Sabha (first constituted in 1952) is a continuing chamber, that is, it is a **permanent body** and not subject to dissolution. However, one-third of its members retire every second year. Their seats are filled up by fresh elections and presidential nominations at the beginning of every third year.
  - **The retiring members are eligible for re-election and renomination any number of times. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The Constitution has not fixed the term of office of members of the Rajya Sabha and left it to the Parliament. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Accordingly, the Parliament in the **Representation of the People Act (1951)** provided that the term of office of a member of the Rajya Sabha shall be six years.
  - The act also empowered the president of India to curtail the term of members chosen in the first Rajya Sabha.
  - In the first batch, it was decided by lottery as to who should retire.
  - The act also authorised the President to make provisions to govern the order of retirement of the members of the Rajya Sabha

#### **Q 90.C**

- **Cabinet Committees**
- The Cabinet Committees are **extra-constitutional** in emergence. In other words, they are not mentioned in the Constitution. However, the **Rules of Business provide for their establishment.**
- The executive in India works under the **Government of India Transaction of Business Rules, 1961**. These **Rules emerge out of Article 77(3) of the Constitution**, which states: “The President shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India, and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business.”
- The Prime Minister constitutes Standing Committees of the Cabinet and sets out the specific functions assigned to them. He can add or reduce the number of committees.
- **The following are some of the more important cabinet committees:**
  - The **Political Affairs Committee** deals with all policy matters pertaining to domestic and foreign affairs.
  - The **Economic Affairs Committee** directs and coordinates the governmental activities in the economic sphere.
  - **Appointments Committee** decides all higher-level appointments in the Central Secretariat, Public Enterprises, Banks and Financial Institutions.
  - **Parliamentary Affairs Committee** looks after the progress of government business in the Parliament.
- **The first three committees are chaired by the Prime Minister and the last one by the Home Minister.** Of all the Cabinet Committees, the most powerful is the Political Affairs Committee, often described as a “Super-Cabinet”. **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### **Q 91.D**

- **Recent Context:** India has recently invoked the peace clause of the World Trade Organization for exceeding the ceiling on support it can offer farmers for rice for the marketing year 2018-2019, marking the first time any country has taken recourse to this safeguard.

- India informed the WTO that the value of its rice production was \$43.67 billion in 2018-19 and that it gave subsidies worth \$5 billion. The limit is called *de minimis*, pegged at 10% of the value of food production in the case of India and other developing countries.
- **Peace clause:** The **Agreement in Agriculture (AoA)** contains a “due restraint” or “peace clause” which regulates the application of other World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements to subsidies in respect of agricultural products.
  - **The peace clause protects a developing country's food procurement program against action from WTO members in case subsidy ceilings are breached.**
  - WTO provides that Green Box domestic support measures cannot be the subject of countervailing duty action or other subsidy action under the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures. However, other domestic support measures which are in conformity with the provisions of the Agreement on Agriculture may be the subject of countervailing duty actions.
  - Hence, under the present ‘Peace Clause’, developing countries can provide WTO-prohibited subsidies to farmers without inviting any dispute under the Agreement on Agriculture.
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

**Q 92.A**

- In view of the importance of Delhi, its population, and other considerations, Parliament thought it necessary to establish a new High Court of Delhi. This was achieved by enacting the Delhi High Court Act, 1966. **As of now, Delhi is the only union territory with its own high court. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Under Article 241 of the constitution, **Parliament may by law extend the jurisdiction of a High Court to, or exclude the jurisdiction of a High Court from, any Union territory. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Constitution has not specified the strength of a high court in India and **leaves it to the discretion of the president**. He determines the strength of a high court from time to time depending upon its workload. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q 93.C**

- **Recent context:** The Government of India has certified 14,491 ha (hectares) of area under Car Nicobar and Nancowry group of islands in UT of A&N Islands as Traditional Organic Areas to transform them into certified organic production hubs. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- This area becomes the **first large contiguous territory to be conferred with organic certification under the ‘Large Area Certification’ (LAC) scheme of the PGS-India (Participatory Guarantee System) certification programme**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under its flagship scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) has launched this unique quick certification programme to harness these potential areas.
- PGS is a process of certifying organic products, which ensures that their production takes place in accordance with laid-down quality standards. The certification is in the form of a documented logo or a statement.
  - PGS, according to this definition, is “a process in which people in similar situations (in this cases mall holder producers) assess, inspect and verify the production practices of each other and take decisions on organic certification”.
- **Sikkim has become India’s first fully organic state by implementing organic practices on around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**Q 94.D**

- As a federal court, the Supreme Court decides the disputes between different units of the Indian Federation. More elaborately, any dispute:
  - Between the Centre and one or more states; or
  - Between the Centre and any state or states on one side and one or more other states on the other side; or
  - Between two or more states.
- **In the above federal disputes, the Supreme Court has exclusive original jurisdiction**
- **Original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court does not extend to the following:**
  - A dispute arising out of any pre-Constitution treaty, agreement, covenant, engagement, and or other similar instruments.
  - A dispute arising out of any treaty, agreement, etc., which specifically provides that the said jurisdiction does not extend such a dispute.

- **Inter-state water disputes.**
- **Matters referred to the Finance Commission.**
- Adjustment of certain expenses and pensions between the Centre and the states.
- **Ordinary dispute of Commercial nature between the Centre and the states.**
- **Recovery of damages by a state against the Centre.**
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

**Q 95.C**

- India has a bicameral system of legislature. Just as Parliament has two Houses, at the state level states can also have a Legislative Council in addition to the Legislative Assembly through Article 169 of the Constitution which can be created and abolished by an act of parliament.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Like Rajya Sabha state legislative council is a continuing chamber. It is not subject to dissolution that is it is a permanent house. 1/3rd members retired on the expiration of every second year and a member continue as such for six years.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** Unlike members of state legislative who are directly elected, members of the legislative councils are both indirectly elected and nominated. One-sixth (and not one-third) are nominated by the Governor from amongst persons who have special knowledge or practical experience of literature, science, art, cooperative movement, and social service.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The position of the legislative council is unequal with that of the legislative assembly in many cases. Only members of the legislative assembly participate in the election of the president of India and members of Rajya Sabha.

**Q 96.B**

- As per the provisions of the Constitution, the Speaker of the last Lok Sabha vacates his office immediately before the first meeting of the newly-elected Lok Sabha. Therefore, the **President appoints** a member of the Lok Sabha as the Speaker Pro Tem. Usually, the seniormost member is selected for this. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- The President himself administers oath to the Speaker Pro Tem. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The Speaker Pro Tem has all the powers of the Speaker.
- He presides over the first sitting of the newly-elected Lok Sabha.
- His main duty is to administer the oath to the new members.
- He also enables the House to elect the new Speaker.
- The date of the election of the Speaker is fixed by the **President**. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- He also administers the floor test.
- When the new Speaker is elected by the House, the office of the Speaker Pro Tem ceases to exist. Hence, this office is a temporary office, existing for a few days

**Q 97.C**

- A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as or for being a member of panchayat if he is so disqualified
  - under any law for the time being enforce for the purpose of elections to the legislature of the state concerned, **Hence statement 1 is correct.** or
  - under any law made by the state legislature. However, no person shall be disqualified on the ground that he is less than 25 years of age if he has attained the age of 21 years. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- Further, all questions of disqualifications shall be referred to such authority as the state legislature determines. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

**Q 98.B**

- **Alternate Dispute Resolution is a mechanism of dispute resolution that is non-adversarial, i.e. working together cooperatively to reach the best resolution for everyone.** Section 89(1) of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC) provides an option for the settlement of dispute outside the court. Such dispute resolution without a trial can be brought about with the help of negotiation, good office (friendly third party different from mediator), mediation, conciliation, arbitration, etc. where the parties to the disputes are encouraged to resolve their dispute amicably without taking reports to the regular courts.
- It not only benefits the litigants but also helps in reducing the number of cases before the subordinate courts.
- **Arbitration is a process in which a neutral third party or parties render a decision based on the merits of the case. It is less formal than a trial, and the rules of evidence are often relaxed. Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched.**

- **Mediation** is a process in which a non-partisan third party “the mediator” facilitates the development of a consensual solution by the disputing parties. Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.
- **Conciliation** is a process by which the resolution of disputes is achieved by compromise or voluntary agreement in which a neutral person helps the parties to reach a negotiated settlement. It is a less formal form of arbitration. Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.

**Q 99.C**

- This act has added a new Part-IX to the Constitution of India. This part is entitled ‘The Panchayats’ and consists of provisions from Articles 243 to 243 O. In addition, **the act has also added a new Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution**. Hence option (a) is correct.
- This schedule contains 29 functional items of the panchayats. It deals with Article 243-G. **The act has given a practical shape to Article 40 of the Constitution which says that “The State shall take steps to organize village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government.”** Hence option (b) is correct.
- This article forms a part of the Directive Principles of State Policy. The act is a significant landmark in the evolution of grassroots democratic institutions in the country. **It transfers representative democracy into participatory democracy.** Hence option (c) is not correct.
- It is a revolutionary concept to build democracy at the grassroots level in the country. **By constitutionalized the panchayats they are not at the will of state government anymore.** Hence option (d) is correct.

**Q 100.B**

- **Recent Context:** China has recently signed a landmark 25-year Strategic Cooperation Agreement with Iran, renewing their commitment to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established in 2016. The Agreement has led to concerns in India as it can endanger India's Chabahar Port deal. It can also have regional security issues for India as addition of Iran to China-Pakistan can have a deleterious effect on India's regional security and India's interests in Afghanistan while simultaneously weakening India's position in West Asia.
- **Chabahar Port** is a seaport located on the Gulf of Oman at the Sistan-Baluchistan province of energy rich Iran on the Makran coast. It serves as Iran's only oceanic port, and consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti.
- It is jointly being developed by India, Iran and Afghanistan for multi-modal transport of goods and passengers.

