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SFG 2024 | LEVEL 1 | Test #7 - Solutions | Forum AS

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The minimum age prescribed for any person to be a member of Panchayat is 25 years.
- 2. A Panchayat reconstituted after premature dissolution continues only for the remainder period. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect. 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.** A candidate must be registered voter in the electoral roll of that Gram Panchayat and should have attained age of 21 years.

Statement 2 is correct. There is a five-year term of office to the panchayat at every level. However, it can be dissolved before the completion of its term. A Panchayat reconstituted after premature dissolution shall continue for only the remainder of the period.

Source: UPSC CSE Pre 2016

- **Q.2)** Consider the following statements with reference to the special provisions regarding Manipur, mentioned in the Constitution of India:
- 1. The President can create a committee of the Manipur Legislative Assembly consisting of the members elected in the Assembly from the Hill Areas of Manipur.
- 2. It is the responsibility of Governor to submit an annual report regarding the administration of the hill areas of Manipur to the President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Articles 371 to 371-J in Part XXI of the constitution contain special provisions for twelve states viz., Maharashtra, Gujarat, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Karnataka.

Statement 1 is correct: Article 371-C makes the special provisions for Manipur to meet the aspirations of the people of backward regions of the states. Under article 371-C the President is authorized to provide for the creation of a committee of the Manipur Legislative Assembly consisting of the members elected from the Hill Areas of the state. The President can direct that the Governor shall have special responsibility to secure the proper functioning of that committee.

Statement 2 is correct: Under article 371-C the Governor has responsibility to submit an annual report to the President regarding the administration of the Hill Areas of Manipur. The Central Government can give directions to the State Government as to the administration of the Hill Areas.

Source: Indian polity by M Laxmikanth 6th edition pdf. Chapter name- SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SOME STATES. Page no- 813.

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Q.3) With reference to 'Evolution of Urban bodies in India', consider the following statements:

- 1. The Calcutta Municipal Corporation was the first municipal corporation to be set up in India.
- 2. Lord Ripon's Resolution of Local Self-Government introduced a two-tier system of local governance at municipality level.
- 3. Under the Government of India Act of 1919, local self-government became a reserved subject under the direct charge of Governor.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 is very important for the urban local bodies. This Constitutional Amendment Act recognized urban local bodies (ULBs) as the third tier of urban government by assigning them specific civic functions. The origins of urban local bodies in India can be traced back to the early days of British rule, when the company administration was responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads, irrigation, and schools among other things.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The **first municipal corporation in India was established in Madras** in 1687 as a result of a **Charter Act passed by James II**, the British monarch at the time. Municipal governance in India was first introduced in 1687 when the Madras Municipal Corporation was formed, followed by the creation of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation and the Bombay Municipal Corporation in 1726.

Statement 2 is correct: In 1882, Lord Ripon's Resolution of Local Self-Government created the outline and structure of municipal governance in India. It introduced a **two-tier system of governance at municipal level** to increase governance efficiency through decentralisation of functions. According to Lord Ripon's Resolution of Local Bodies in 1882, district boards and local boards were formed. Such boards in rural areas were known as 'taluk' or 'tehsil'.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Under the dyarchical scheme introduced in the provinces by Government of India Act of 1919, local self-government became a transferred subject under the charge of responsible Indian minster.

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/59174/1/Unit3.pdf Laxmikanth Chapter 39 Municipalities

Q.4) Which of the following committees specifically recommended providing constitutional recognition to local self-government bodies in India?

- a) Balwant Rai Mehta Committee.
- b) G.V.K. Rao Committee.
- c) L.M. Singhvi Committee.
- d) Ashok Mehta Committee

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

After India's independence, the Government of India established several committees to revitalise and strengthen the functioning of local self-governments.

Option a is incorrect: In 1957, the National Development Council established the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee to evaluate the community development program. It recommended the establishment of a three-tier system for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), comprising Grama Panchayats (GPs) at the village

level, Panchayat Samiti (PSs) at the block level, and Zilla Parishad (ZPs) at the district level. **Balwant Rai Mehta Committee did not specifically recommend constitutional status for Panchayati Raj institutions. Option b is incorrect: The G.V.K. Rao Committee appointed in 1985** recommended making the **district the basic unit of planning**. It also emphasised that planning, execution, and supervision of rural community development should be delegated to the Panchayati Raj organisations at the lower level. **G.V.K. Rao Committee did not specifically recommend constitutional status for Panchayati Raj institutions**.

Option c is correct: L.M. Singhvi Committee was set up in 1986. Some of its major recommendations are:

- 1) Local self-government should be constitutionally recognized.
- 2) Elections at the panchayat level should be held regularly and without delay.
- 3) Panchayati Raj judicial tribunal should be set up in every state to deal with matters related to the working of Panchayati Raj.
- 4) There should be adequate financial resources to ensure the effective functioning of panchayats.
- 5) Participation of individuals attached to political parties should be discouraged.

Option d is incorrect. In December 1977, the Janata Government appointed a committee on panchayati raj institutions under the chairmanship of Ashok Mehta. It submitted its report in August 1978 and made 132 recommendations to revive and strengthen the declining panchayati raj system in the country. It did not make any recommendation regarding providing constitutional recognition to local self-government bodies in India.

Source: Class XI NCERT- Indian Constitution at Work (Chapter 8- Local Government) https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/958641468772791330/pdf/280140v130IN0Rural0decent ralization.pdf

Q.5) Local self-government can be best explained as an exercise in:

- a) Federalism
- b) Democratic decentralization
- c) Administrative delegation
- d) Direct democracy

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

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

Democratic decentralization helps to further democratize local self-government to enable it to enjoy more authority, shoulder greater responsibility, take more initiative and experience greater autonomy in the management of the affairs of the local area.

Source: UPSC CSE Pre 2017

Q.6) With reference to Constitutional provisions concerning local governments prior to 1992, consider the following statements:

The subject of local government-

- 1. was controlled largely by the respective State governments without much interference from the Union government.
- 2. was directly/indirectly mentioned in Part IV of the Constitution.
- 3. was included in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None



Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, passed in 1992, gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) respectively. These amendments were enacted to decentralise power and strengthen local self-governance in rural and urban areas.

Statement 1 is correct: Prior to the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments in 1992, State governments had large control over local government without much interference from the Union **Government.** However, following the constitutional amendments, the States were required to revise their local government laws to align them with the amended Constitution. They were granted a one-year period to make the required adjustments in their state laws in accordance with these amendments.

Statement 2 is correct: Part IV of the Constitution (related to Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)) does contain mention of the subject village panchayats. Article 40 says, State shall take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Local governments were not included in the Fourth Schedule, which pertains to nominations to the **Rajya Sabha**. Instead, certain local government positions and representatives were nominated to the Legislative Councils of the States (Article 171), not the Rajya Sabha.

Source: Class XI NCERT- Indian Constitution at Work (Chapter 8- Local Government)

- Q.7) With reference to the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments Acts (CAAs), consider the following statements:
- 1. They were passed by the Parliament during the tenure of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- 2. They were enacted to strengthen the role of the District Magistrate in local governance matters. Which of the above given statements is /are correct?
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

While the 73rd Constitutional Amendments Acts (CAA) of 1992 pertains to rural local governance, the 74th CAA of 1992 deals with urban local governance.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts (CAAs) were passed by Parliament during the tenure of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao who was in office from 1991 to 1996.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The 73rd and 74th CAAs were not aimed at strengthening the role of the District Magistrate/Collector in local governance. Instead, they focused on decentralising power to promote local self-governance and democratic decision-making at the grassroots level.

Source: Class XI NCERT- Indian Constitution at Work (Chapter 8- Local Government)

Q.8) With reference to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India, consider the following statements:

Statement-I: It is mandatory for all States to implement a three-tier PRI system.

Statement-II: The 73rd Constitutional Amendment act aims to establish a uniform system of PRIs throughout the country.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA) of 1992 is a landmark legislation that brought about significant changes in the country's Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) or local government bodies at the rural level.

Statement-I is incorrect: The three-tier Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) system includes Gram Panchayats at the village level, Panchayat Samitis at the intermediate or block level, and Zilla Parishads at the district level. The Constitution (73rd CAA) exempts small states from establishing intermediate level (Panchayat Samitis), thus all states need not constitute 3 tier PRIs. A state having a population not exceeding 20 lakh may not constitute panchayats at the intermediate level.

Statement-II is correct: The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, passed in 1992, aimed to establish a uniform system of PRIs across India. It provided a framework for the functioning of PRIs, their composition, powers, and responsibilities. However, it is important to note that while it proposes a uniform system, some details (including structure of PRIs) may vary from one state to another based on local requirements such as population.

Source: Class XI NCERT- Indian Constitution at Work (Chapter 8- Local Government)

Q.9) With reference to 'Central Council of Local Government', consider the following statements:

- 1. It was constituted in 1993 as an attached body of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- 2. Presently the council works as an advisory body dealing with matters of urban local government only. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: 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.

Statement 2 is 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. Till 1958, it dealt with both urban as well as rural local governments, but after 1958 it dealt with matters of urban local government only.

Knowledge Base:

- 1) The Central Council of Local Government 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 programme of action
 - Recommending Central financial assistance
 - Reviewing the work done by the local bodies with the Central financial assistance

Source: M Laxmikanth

Q.10) Which of the following has been provided in the 74th Amendment Act, 1992 of the Constitution?

- 1. Municipal Committees
- 2. Ward Committees
- 3. Metropolitan Planning Committee
- 4. District Planning

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) 1 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Option 1 is incorrect: 74th Amendment Act does not mention municipal committees as a type of urban local government. It only mentions three types of municipalities: nagar panchayats, municipal councils and municipal corporations.

Option 2 is correct: 74th Amendment Act provides for the constitution of ward committees at ward level or other level within the territorial area of a municipality as may be provided in the state law.

Option 3 is correct: 74th Amendment Act provides for the constitution of a metropolitan planning committee for every metropolitan area, which is an area having a population of ten lakhs or more, to prepare a draft development plan for the area.

Option 4 is correct: 74th Amendment Act provides for the constitution of a district planning committee for every district, to consolidate the plans prepared by the panchayats and the municipalities in the district and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole.

Source: https://www.india.gov.in/my-government/constitution-india/amendments/constitution-india-seventy-fourth-amendment-act-1992

Q.11) In the areas covered under the Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, what is the role/power of Gram Sabha?

- 1. Gram Sabha has the power to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas.
- 2. Gram Sabha has the ownership of minor forest produce.
- 3. Recommendation of Gram Sabha is required for granting prospecting licence or mining lease for any mineral in the Scheduled Areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Panchayat (Extension of the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 or PESA, was enacted by the Centre to ensure self-governance through gram sabhas for people living in scheduled areas. It legally recognizes the right of tribal communities, residents of the scheduled areas, to govern themselves through their own systems of self-government. It also acknowledges their traditional rights over natural resources.

Statement 1 is correct. Section 4(m)(iii) of PESA requires the State to enact laws for the purpose of empowering Gram Sabhas and Panchayats at the appropriate level "to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas and to take appropriate action to restore any unlawfully alienated land of a Scheduled



Tribe".

Statement 2 is correct. Section 4(m)(ii) of PESA endows the Panchayats at the appropriate level and the Gram Sabha with the ownership of minor forest produce.

Statement 3 is incorrect. According to the provisions of the PESA Act, 1996 the recommendations of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level shall be made mandatory prior to grant of prospecting licence or mining lease for minor minerals (not any mineral) in the Scheduled Areas. Source) UPSC CSE Pre. 2012

Q.12) With reference to reservations of seats in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), consider the followings statements:

- 1. The Constitution requires the reservation of at least one-third of seats for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) at all three levels of PRIs.
- 2. The reservation provisions do not apply to the offices of chairpersons of the Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- 3. The Constitution mandates that at least one-third of the reserved seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) must be given to women belonging to that community.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The reservation provisions introduced by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA) was a significant step in promoting social justice and inclusive governance at the grassroots level. These provisions ensured adequate representation for marginalized communities and women in local self-government bodies.

Statement 1 is incorrect: While the Constitution (73rd CAA) mandates reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) at all three levels of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), it does not specify a reservation of one-third of seats for Other Backward Classes (OBCs). However, the Constitution allows the respective State governments to extend reservation benefits to OBCs based on their local requirements. Statement 2 is incorrect: Constitution (73rd CAA) provides reservation benefits to chairpersons at all three levels of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Article 243D says, the offices of the Chairpersons in the Panchayats at the village or any other level shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled **Tribes and women** in such manner as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide. It also says, **not less** than one-third of the total number of offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats at each level shall be reserved for women.

Statement 3 is correct: It is true that the Constitution (73rd CAA) mandates that a minimum of one-third of the reserved seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs) at all three levels of PRIs must be allocated to women from that community. This means that a seat can be reserved for both a female candidate and an individual from the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes at the same time. Source: Class XI NCERT- Indian Constitution at Work (Chapter 8- Local Government)

Q.13) Consider the following subjects:

- 1. Primary education
- 2. Libraries
- 3. Markets and Fairs
- 4. Non-conventional energy sources



- 5. Ferries and waterways
- 6. Law and Order

How many of the above given subjects are listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

- a) Only three
- b) Only four
- c) Only five
- d) All six

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Eleventh Schedule contains the 29 functional items placed within the purview of panchayats.

Option 1 is correct. Primary education is mentioned in Schedule XI of the Constitution.

Option 2 is correct. Libraries are mentioned in Schedule XI of the Constitution.

Option 3 is correct. Markets and Fairs are mentioned in Schedule XI of the Constitution.

Option 4 is correct. Non-conventional energy sources is mentioned in Schedule XI of the Constitution

Option 5 is correct. Roads, culverts, bridges, ferries, waterways and other means of communication are mentioned in Schedule XI of the Constitution.

Option 6 is incorrect. Law and Order is not mentioned in Schedule XI of the Constitution. 'Law and Order' is included in the State list of the 7th Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Source: NCERT Indian Constitution at work, Chapter 8

Q.14) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: In 1996, the PESA Act was enacted to extend the provisions of the Panchayats to Scheduled

Statement-II: The 73rd Constitutional amendment act did not apply to certain regions mentioned in the 5th schedule of Constitution.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation of Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation of Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement-I is correct, and Statement-II are correct. Statement-II is the correct explanation of Statement-I.

The 73rd constitutional amendment was passed in 1992 to strengthen local self-government in rural India. However, under Article 243(M), its application to scheduled and tribal territories was limited. Following the recommendations of the Bhuria Committee in 1995, the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act 1996 was enacted. PESA was enacted to extend the provisions of the 73rd Amendment (Panchayats) to the Constitution to the Scheduled Areas in order to empower local self-governance in these tribal regions. As 73^{rd} **Amendment** to the Constitution doesn't apply to the 5^{th} schedule of the Constitution. PESA provides a legal framework for local governance that takes into account the unique needs and customs of tribal communities in scheduled areas.

Source: NCERT Indian Constitution at work, Chapter 8

Q.15) Reservation of seats in Panchayat elections for Scheduled Castes shall not apply to the State of:

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Assam
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Haryana

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Reservation of seats in Panchayat elections for Scheduled Castes shall not apply to the State of Arunachal Pradesh because:

- 1) Arunachal Pradesh does not have any Scheduled Castes population as per the Census of India 2011.
- 2) Article 243M(4)(b) of the Constitution exempts Arunachal Pradesh from the application of Part IX relating to Panchayats, except for the provisions relating to the Gram Sabha and the reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes.
- 3) The Arunachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1997 provides for reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes and women in PRIs, but not for Scheduled Castes.

Source:

https://sirdpr.arunachal.gov.in/public/upload/document/training/Handbook_on_Panchayati_Raj_System_in_Arunachal_Pradesh.pdf

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the State Election Commission:

- 1. The members of the State Election Commission are appointed by the President of India.
- 2. The State Election Commission is subordinate to the Election Commission of India.
- 3. It is responsible for conducting elections for State Assemblies.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The State Election Commission (SEC) is an independent constitutional authority responsible for conducting and supervising elections to local bodies within a state.

Statement 1 is incorrect. Members of the State Election Commission (SEC) are appointed by the Governor of the respective state (not the President).

Statement 2 is incorrect. The State Election Commission (SEC) is not subordinate to the Election Commission of India (ECI). It operates independently at the state level and is responsible for conducting and supervising elections to local bodies within the state, such as panchayats and municipal corporations. While the ECI oversees parliamentary and state assembly elections, the SEC has authority over local government elections in the state.

Statement 3 is incorrect. State election commissions conduct elections for local government bodies within their respective states. These elections typically include municipal corporations, municipal councils, panchayats, and other local governing bodies The Election Commission of India (ECI) conducts state legislative assembly elections.

Source: NCERT Indian Constitution at work, Chapter 8

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding the State Finance Commission:

- 1. The State Finance Commission is constituted by the President of India after every five years.
- 2. It recommends ways to improve the financial position of the Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- 3. Its recommendations are binding on the state government.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The State Finance Commission (SFC) is a constitutional body. 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 provided for the establishment of the SFC by the Governor.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The State Finance Commission is **appointed by the Governor** of the State, not the President of India. Article 243I of the Constitution mandated the State Governor to constitute a Finance Commission every five years.

Statement 2 is correct. The State Finance Commission recommends ways to improve the financial position of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. It also suggests measures for the overall improvement of Panchayat's finances.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The recommendations of the State Finance Commission are not binding on the state government. While they carry significant weight, the state government has some discretion in implementing the recommendations, although they are expected to provide reasons for any deviation in a explanatory memorandum, before the State Legislature.

Source: NCERT Indian Constitution at work, Chapter 8

Q.18) Consider the following statements with reference to the District Planning Committee (DPC) in India:

- 1. It consolidates the plans prepared by both panchayats and municipalities in the district.
- 2. The provisions regarding the composition of such committees may be made by the respective State legislature.
- 3. At least 50 per cent of the members of the DPC must be nominated by the Governor of the respective state.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The formation of District Planning Committees (DPCs) is mandated by the Article 243ZD of the 74th Amendment of the Constitution. District Planning Committees serve as a link between Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.

Statement 1 is correct: District Planning Committees (DPCs) consolidate the plans prepared by panchayats and municipalities in the district, and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole. Every District Planning Committee in preparing the draft development plan, deals with matters of common interest between the Panchayats and the Municipalities including spatial planning, sharing of water and other physical and natural resources, the integrated development of infrastructure and

environmental conservation. It also discusses the extent and type of available resources whether financial or otherwise.

Statement 2 is correct: It is the State legislature that may make provisions with respect to the composition of district planning committees. Furthermore, state legislature can also make provisions with respect to the manner of election of members of such committees, the functions of such committees in relation to district planning and the manner of the election of the chairpersons of such committees.

Statement 3 is *incorrect*: The four-fifths of the members of a district planning committee are elected by the elected members of the District Panchayat and municipalities in the district from amongst themselves. (Through this we can say that, the governor does not nominate 50% of the members to DPC). The representation of these members in the committee is in proportion to the ratio between the rural and urban populations in the district.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth, 6th Edition, Chapter-39

Q.19) Consider the following statements with regard to the Gram Sabha:

- 1. It is mandatory to establish a Gram Sabha in every village or Panchayat area.
- 2. The Gram Sabha comprises all the people residing in the territory of the village.
- 3. The specific roles and functions of the Gram Sabha are determined by State legislation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Gram Sabha introduced by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, to strengthen grassroot democracy.

Statement 1 is correct. The Gram Sabha, as established by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, reflects the principles of decentralization of power. The Act made it **mandatory to establish a Gram Sabha in every village or Panchayat area**.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Gram Sabha **comprises all adult members of the village who are eligible to vote** in the local elections. This inclusive composition ensures that all sections of the community have the opportunity to participate.

Statement 3 is correct. The specific **roles and functions of the Gram Sabha are primarily determined by State legislation.** Each State in India has the flexibility to define the responsibilities and powers of the Gram Sabha within the broader framework of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.

Source: NCERT Indian Constitution at work, Chapter 8

Q.20) Whi<mark>ch of the f</mark>ollowing reasons are responsible for the ineffective performance of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)?

- 1. Excessive control by bureaucracy
- 2. Inadequate powers to Gram Sabha
- 3. Reluctance to collection of taxes by Gram Sabha
- 4. No funding from state governments

Select the correct option from the codes given below.

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only



- c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Even after conferring the constitutional status and protection through the 73rd Amendment Act (1992), the performance of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) has not been satisfactory and not up to the expected level.

Statement 1 is correct. In some States, the Gram Panchayats have been placed in a position of subordination. Hence, the Gram Panchayat Sarpanches have to spend extraordinary amount of time visiting Block Offices for funds and/or technical approval. These interactions with the Block staff office distort the role of Sarpanches as elected representatives

Statement 2 is correct. The non-existence of definite procedures and powers of Gram Sabha for functioning of local self-government make the system lack transparency, accountability and proper involvement of marginalized sections which are inadequately represented due to lack of any recognized procedure and law. Hence the Gram Sabha though can act as a string weapon for development of villages is undervalued and inappropriately represented.

Statement 3 is correct. An important power devolved to Gram Panchayats is the right to levy tax on property, business, markets, fairs and also for services provided like street lighting or public toilets, etc. Very few Panchayats use their fiscal power to levy and collect taxes. The argument pushed by Panchayat heads is that it is difficult to levy tax on your own constituency, especially when you live in the community. Statement 4 is incorrect. A review of money received and own source funds shows the overwhelming dependence of Panchayats on government funding. So, there is no lack of funding from state governments. When Panchayats do not raise resources and instead receive funds from outside, people are less likely to request a social audit, which impacts effective governance.

Source: M laxmikanth

Q.21) The Government enacted, the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act in 1996. Which one of the following is **not** identified as its objective?

- a) To provide self-governance
- b) To recognize traditional rights
- c) To create autonomous regions in tribal areas
- d) To free tribal people from exploitation

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The PESA Act was enacted to extend the provisions of 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts to the Fifth Schedule areas. Thus, it was meant to provide institutions of local self-governance in the Scheduled Areas and to recognize the traditional rights of the tribals. The provisions of this Act address some of the most complex problems of exploitation and marginalization of the tribals.

The act did not have any provisions of creating any autonomous regions.

Source: UPSC CSE 2013

Q.22) Which of the following is the correct method for selecting/appointing the Secretary of the Gram Sabha?

- a) Elected by the Gram Sabha members
- b) Appointed by the Village Head
- c) Appointed by the State Government



d) Selected by the Zila Panchayat

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Option a is incorrect. The Secretary of the Gram Sabha is not elected by the Gram Sabha members.

Option b is incorrect. The Secretary of the Gram Sabha is not appointed by the Village Head.

Option c is correct. The Gram Panchayat has a secretary who is also the Secretary of Gram Sabha. This individual is not elected, but rather appointed by the State Government. The Secretary is in charge of calling Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat meetings and keeping a record of the proceedings.

Option d is incorrect. The Secretary of the Gram Sabha is not selected by the Zila Parishad.

Source: : NCERT Class- 6 Social and Political life -1 Chapter 4

Q.23) Which among the following are the sources of income for the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in India?

- 1. Property Tax
- 2. Payment for Public Utilities
- 3. Loan from financial institutions
- 4. Excise Duty

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 2 and 3 only
- b) 1 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer

Option 1 is correct: Property tax is the amount that is paid by the landowner to the municipal corporation or the local government for his/her area. The tax must be paid every year. Property, office buildings, and residential homes that are rented out to third parties are considered real estate assets. Property tax is charged by the government on all tangible real estate that an individual owns. These real estate assets could include residential homes, office buildings and premises rented out to third parties. It also known as house tax.

Option 2 is correct: The non-tax revenue for local government comes from municipal properties, fees and fines, royalty, profits and dividends, interest, user charges and miscellaneous receipts. The user charges (i.e., payment for public utilities) include water charges, sanitation charges, sewerage charges and so on. Option 3 is correct: The urban local bodies raise loans from the state government as well as financial institutions to meet their capital expenditure. They can borrow from the financial institutions or other bodies only with the approval of the state government.

Option 4 is incorrect: Excise duty was a form of indirect tax that was levied by the Central Government of India for the production, sale, or license of certain goods prior to GST. However, Excise duty charges continue to be in force for alcohol and narcotics which are collected by state governments and not local government.

Q.24) Consider the following statements:

Statement I: In Panchayati Raj System in India, the Panchs are answerable to Gram Sabha.

Statement II: Panchs are elected by the members of the Gram Sabha.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Panchayati Raj System is a process through which people participate in their own government. In rural areas, the **Gram Panchayat is the first tier or level of democratic government**.

Statement I is correct: In the Panchayati Raj System in India, the Pancha are answerable to Gram Sabha. The Gram Sabha is the general body of voters in a village Panchayat and is considered to be the ultimate decision-making authority.

Statement II is correct and explains statement I: The Panchs and the Gram Panchayat are answerable to the Gram Sabha because it is the members of the Gram Sabha who elected them.

Source: NCERT, Social and Political life -1

Chapter 4, Page 40

Q.25) With reference to Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) under the provisions of Fifth Schedule of Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a constitutional body established to advise the state government on the advancement of the Scheduled Tribes in Scheduled areas.
- 2. It must be established in all states having Scheduled Areas, declared under the Fifth Schedule.
- 3. Only the Members of the State Legislative Assembly belonging to Scheduled Tribes can become a member of such Council.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: Tribes advisory council (TAC) is a Constitutional body as it was established under the Article 244 of the Constitution of India. The fifth schedule of the constitution provides for the establishment of Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) to advise the state government on welfare and advancement of the scheduled tribes in Scheduled Areas.

Statement 2 is **correct:** The fifth schedule of the constitution mandates establishment of the Tribes Advisory Councils (TAC) in all States having Scheduled Areas declared under the fifth schedule of the constitution. Further the states which have no notified scheduled area can also be directed by the President to establish TAC. For instance, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand not having anynotified Scheduled Area have TAC.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Tribes Advisory Council will be made of maximum 20 members out of which 3/4th of the members will have to be a Member of the State Legislative Assembly belonging to the Scheduled Tribes community. The Constitution (fifth schedule) states that if the number of representatives of STs in State Assembly is less than number of seats in TAC to be filled by such representatives, remaining

seats shall be filled by other members of those tribes which means TAC can include those members who is not a ST MLA in state.

Source:

 $https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1778540\#:\sim:text=According\%20to\%20the\%20provisions\%20of,Tribes\%20but\%20not\%20Scheduled\%20Areas$

Q.26) With reference to Town Area Committee, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is non-statutory body established by respective state governments.
- 2. It is an entirely nominated body including the chairperson, who is nominated by the District Magistrate. Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer

The Town Area Committee is set up for the administration of a small town. Features of the committee are: **Statement 1 is incorrect -** A town area committee is created by a separate act of a state legislature (Hence it is a statutory body). It is a semi-municipal authority and is entrusted with a limited number of civic functions like drainage, roads, street lighting, and conservancy.

Statement 2 is incorrect - The composition, functions and other matters related to the Town Area Committee are governed by the act. It may be wholly elected or wholly nominated by the state government or partly elected and partly nominated. It is not necessary to be entirely a nominated body.

Source: M Laxmikanth

Q.27) With reference to different types of municipal personnel systems in India, consider the following pairs:

Types of Municipal		Feature/ description
Personnel System		
1.	Separate	State government appoints,
	Personnel system	administers, and controls
		municipal personnel for
		every local body.
2.	United Personnel	Personnel are transferable
	System	between the local bodies in
		the state.
3.	Integrated	Each local body appoints,
	Personnel System	administers, and controls
		its own personnel.

How many of the above given pairs are correctly matched?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

There are three types of municipal personnel systems in India. The personnel working in the urban governments may belong to any one or all the three types. These are Separate Personnel System, United Personnel System, Integrated Personnel System.

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched: Under Separate Personnel System, each local body appoints, administers, and controls its own personnel. They are not transferable to other local bodies.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: Under United Personnel System, the state government appoints, administers, and controls the municipal personnel. They are transferable between the local bodies in the state.

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched: Under the Integrated Personnel System, the personnel of the state government and those of the local bodies form part of the same service. They are transferable not only between the local bodies in the state but also between local bodies and departments of state government. Source: M laxmikanth

Q.28) With respect to special provisions for the state of Nagaland in the Indian constitution, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Governor is required to annually report to the President on the administration of Hill Areas of Nagaland.
- 2. The Acts of Parliament related to ownership and transfer of land applies to Nagaland only after the approval by the Governor.
- 3. A Regional Council comprising 35 members must be established for the Tuensang district of the state. How many of the statements given above are correct?
- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Article 371-A of the Indian Constitution provides special provisions for Nagaland. **There is no requirement for the Governor of Nagaland to report on the administration of Nagaland's Hill Areas under Article 371-A. This particular provision applies to Manipur, not Nagaland. Article 371-C of the Indian Constitution outlines special provisions for Manipur and obliges the Governor to submit an annual report to the President regarding the administration of Manipur's Hill Areas.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Nagaland State Legislative Assembly (and not the Governor) holds the power to determine the applicability of Acts of Parliament concerning specific areas within Nagaland. These areas encompass religious and social practices, Naga customary law, civil and criminal justice following Naga customary law, and land and resource ownership and transfer. Only upon the Assembly's decision will such Acts apply in these domains.

Statement 3 is correct: A regional council with 35 members is mandated for the Tuensang district of the state. The Governor is responsible for establishing rules regarding the council's composition, member selection, qualifications, terms, salaries, and allowances. Additionally, these rules cover the council's operational procedures, appointment of officers and staff, and other factors essential for the council's constitution and effective operation.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth (7th edition)

Chapter 77, Page 561-562

Q.29) In the context of local administration, which one of the following statements most appropriately describes the term 'sub-contracting'?

a) A condition when state government delegates a part of its duties to local administration



- b) Task distribution among central, state and local agencies within set parameters
- c) Assigning part of the obligations and tasks under a contract to another party
- d) Sharing obligations between two government agencies under a contract.

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

In the context of local administration, subcontracting refers to the practice of assigning or outsourcing part of the obligations and tasks under a contract to another party known as a subcontractor. Subcontracting is especially prevalent in areas where complex projects are the norm, such as construction and information technology. Subcontractors are hired by the project's general contractor, who continues to have overall responsibility for project completion and execution within its stipulated parameters and deadlines. This can create a subcontractor risk for compliance.

Source: NCERT Social and Political life -1 Chapter 6, Page 54

Q.30) With reference to local self-governance in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. The constitution does not confer any inherent taxation powers on the local bodies.
- 2. The subject of Local governance falls under the Concurrent legislative jurisdiction under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- 3. Powers and functions of Gram Sabha are clearly mentioned in the Constitution.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The constitution does not confer any particular tax raising powers on the Panchayats. It is for the state legislatures to decide which taxes the panchayats in that state are eligible to levy and collect.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment acts of 1992, placed local governance in the State (not the Concurrent) List. Thus, matters related to local governance (both rural and urban) are placed under the legislative competence of the state.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The act provides for a Gram Sabha as the foundation of the Panchayati raj system. The Constitution says "it may exercise such powers and perform such functions at the village level as the legislature of a state determines". Hence, Powers and functions of Gram Sabha are not clearly mentioned in the Constitution.

Source: M Laxmikanth

Q.31) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The elections to the Panchayat are conducted by the State Election Commission.
- 2. The State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Chief Election Commissioner of India.
- 3. The State Legislatures have the power to make laws on all matters relating to Panchayat elections. Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- a) 2 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 1 and 3 only



Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer

Statement 1 is correct: The elections to the Panchayats in India are conducted by the respective State Election Commissions (SECs). The State Election Commission is responsible for overseeing and conducting the electoral process for Panchayat elections within the state under Article 243K of the constitution.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Governor of the state.

Statement 3 is correct: As per the provisions of the Constitution of India, the State Legislatures have the power to make laws on all matters relating to Panchayat elections. This includes the conduct of elections, the qualifications and disqualifications of candidates, the delimitation of constituencies, and other related aspects.

Source) CDS 2021(I)

Q.32) Consider the following statements:

Statement I: India follows asymmetrical type of federalism in its political system.

Statement II: Some states in India enjoy a special status under Indian Constitution.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Federalism in India refers to the distribution of power and responsibilities between the central government and the individual states or territories within the country. The Constitution of India does not use the term "federation" but instead describes India as a "Union of States".

Statement I is correct: India follows asymmetric federalism in its political system. Asymmetric federalism is a framework that recognizes the distinctive cultural differences in the country and permits self-rule within the scheme of a shared rule to territorially concentrated minorities. This means that different states in India have different levels of autonomy and powers, and not all states have the same powers or status.

Statement II is correct and explains statement I: Some states in India enjoy a special status under the Indian Constitution. For instance, Part XXI of the Indian Constitution provides for special provisions for some states such as Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh.

Source: https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/jess402.pdf

Q.33) Why does the Indian Constitution term India as a 'Union of states' rather than a 'Federation of states'?

- a) India operates under a single written Constitution that applies to both the Central and State Governments.
- b) No State in India can make decisions concerning foreign relations.
- c) None of the Indian states possesses the authority to secede from the Indian Union.
- d) India adheres to the principle of a single citizenship.

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

While India has a **federal structure** i.e., **two tiers of Government at Central and State level**, the framers of the Constitution preferred to refer to India as a Union of States rather than the Federation of States.

Option a is incorrect: Unlike in the United States, where States often have their own separate constitution the use of a single, written Constitution for both the Central (Union) Government and the State Governments is a distinctive feature of a federal system in India. It is considered a Unitary feature of India, but this is not the reason why India is termed as 'Union of States'.

Option b is incorrect: In India, foreign relations are an exclusive jurisdiction of the Central Government. Although this does establish the **Central government's supremacy over the State governments**, it's important to note that this is not the primary reason India is referred to as the 'Union of States.'

Option c is correct: Article 1 of the Indian Constitution characterizes India as a 'Union of States,' signifies two key points and they are:

- 1) The Indian Federation isn't formed through an agreement between the States.
- 2) No state possesses the right to secede from India.

Thus, none of the Indian states possesses the authority to secede from the Indian Union is the reason why India is termed as Union of States rather than the Federation of States.

Option d is incorrect: India follows the principle of a single citizenship meaning that all Indian citizens, regardless of their state of residence, have the same Indian citizenship. This is in contrast to the Federation of the United States of America where states may grant their residents separate state citizenship in addition to national citizenship. The absence of state-based citizenship in India is to promote the feeling of fraternity among Indians.

Source: Laxmikanth - A Union and its Territory

Q.34) With respect to Article 1 of the Indian Constitution, which of the following statements is correct regarding the distinction between the "Territory of India" and the "Union of India"?

- a) "Territory of India" encompasses acquired territory, states, and Union Territories (UTs), whereas "Union of India" includes states only.
- b) "Territory of India" covers territorial waters, whereas "Union of India" excludes them.
- c) Unlike the "Territory of India," the "Union of India" includes only territories directly administered by the Union Government.
- d) "Territory of India" includes only the States while 'Union of India' encompasses both States and Union Territories.

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

According to **Article 1 of the Indian Constitution**, the territory of India can be classified into three categories and they are as follows:

- 1) Territories of the states.
- 2) Union territories.
- 3) Territories that may be acquired by the Government of India at any time.

Option a is correct: Territory of India is a more comprehensive term that includes not only the states but also Union Territories and territories that may be acquired by the Government of India in the future. In contrast, "Union of India" includes States only. While States share powers with the Center in the federal system, the Union Territories (UTs) and acquired territories are directly administered by the Central government.

As a sovereign state, **India can acquire foreign territories through cession, occupation, conquest, or subjugation**. For instance, India acquired territories such as **Dadra and Nagar Haveli**, Goa, Daman and Diu, Puducherry, and Sikkim since the commencement of the Constitution.

Knowledge Base:

- Puducherry (formerly known as Pondicherry) and its enclaves were acquired from **France** in a transfer of sovereignty on November 1, **1954**. Union Territory of Puducherry comprises the former French establishments of **Puducherry**, **Karaikal**, **Mahe and Yanam**, which lie scattered in South India.
- 2) Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Goa, Daman, and Diu were acquired by India from Portugal in 1961, following a military operation and diplomatic negotiations. Diu remained in the possession of the Portuguese from 1535 until 1961, when it was liberated under Operation Vijay. Daman was under the rule of Portuguese till its liberation in 1961. When Goa attained statehood in 1987, Daman and Diu became a union territory in its own right. The area of Dadra & Nagar Haveli was liberated from Portuguese Rulers by people themselves on 2nd August 1954. The union territory was merged with the neighboring union territory of Daman and Diu to form the new union territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu on January 26, 2020.
- 3) **Sikkim became a part of India** through a referendum in **1975** and an agreement with the Chogyal (the monarch of Sikkim). Unlike the above territories, Sikkim was not a colonial possession but an independent kingdom that chose to merge with India. Sikkim became 22nd state of the Union of India. Source: Laxmikanth A Union and its Territory

Q.35) Which of the following statements regarding the dissolution of urban local bodies is/are correct?

- 1. If a municipality is dissolved before completion of its full term, then the new municipality reconstituted does not enjoy a full term of five years.
- 2. If the remaining period of the municipality before completion of its full term is less than 6 months then the election for a new municipality is not necessary.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: If a municipality is dissolved earlier than the completion of its full term, then it is mandatory according to 74th Constitutional Amendment Act to have a new municipality reconstituted. And a municipality thus made, does not enjoy full term, rather it exists only the remainder of the original term of the prematurely dissolved municipality.

Statement 2 is correct: All municipalities are to have a fixed term of 5 years, subject to premature dissolution if required. But, where the remainder of the period is less than six months, it shall not be necessary to hold any election for constituting the new municipality for such period.

Source: M Laxmikanth

Q.36) With reference to the State Reorganisation Commission, consider the following statements:

- 1. It was headed by the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- 2. It formally rejected language as the basis for reorganisation of States.
- 3. It proposed the welfare of the people in each State as one of the basis for reorganisation of States. How many of the statements given above are correct?
- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None



Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Central Government appointed a States Reorganisation Commission in 1953 to look into the question of redrawing of boundaries of the State. The States Reorganisation Act, 1956, that incorporated the major recommendations of this commission, made a major change in the Political landscape of India.

Statement 1 is incorrect: In 1953, the Government of India formed a three-member State Reorganisation Commission to thoroughly reconsider the issue of state reorganisation. This commission was **headed by** Fazl Ali (not Jawaharlal Nehru) and included two other members K.M. Panikkar and H.N. Kunzru.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The States Reorganisation Commission, submitted its report in 1955. It acknowledged language as a significant factor for state reorganisation. However, it did not endorse the idea of one language-one state, meaning language alone should not be the basis for State reorganisation. Instead, it emphasised that maintaining the unity of India should be the foremost consideration when restructuring the country's political regions.

Statement 3 is correct: The States Reorganisation Commission outlined the following four factors to be **considered** in any plan for the reorganisation of states and they are as follows:

- 1) Preservation and strengthening of the unity and security of the country.
- 2) Linguistic and cultural homogeneity.
- 3) Financial, economic and administrative considerations.
- 4) Planning and promotion of the welfare of the people in each state as well as of the nation as a whole. Therefore, the statement that the commission proposed welfare of people in each state as one of the basis for reorganising states is true.

Source: NCERT Class XII: Politics in India since Independence - Challenges of Nation Building Laxmikanth - A Union and its Territory

Q.37) "It is established through the official notification issued by the respective State Governments and operates in accordance with the concerned State Municipal Act. Typically, it is created to cater to the requirements of areas undergoing rapid urbanisation that have not yet attained Municipality status." Which of the following bodies best expresses these characteristics?

- a) Cantonment Board
- b) Notified Area Committee
- c) Township
- d) Special Purpose Agency

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

In India, eight categories of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) were established to improve the governance of urban areas. These bodies include Municipal Corporation, Municipality, Notified Area Committee, Town Area Committee, Cantonment Board, Township, Port Trust, and Special Purpose Agency.

Option a is incorrect: A Cantonment Board set up under the provisions of the Cantonments Act of 2006, a legislation enacted by the Central government. It works under the administrative control of the Defense ministry of the Central government. They are created as well as administered by the Central government.

Option b is correct: A Notified Area Committee (NAC) is a local urban government body established by the respective State Government through a gazette notification, hence the term "Notified Area". Further, NAC function within the framework of the concerned State Municipal Act,

NAC are normally created in areas that are rapidly urbanising or experiencing industrial growth and require local governance and administration. They are formed to manage and oversee the administration

and development of **specific urban areas that are not yet fully incorporated as municipalities** or municipal corporations. They serve as an intermediate level of urban local government.

Option c is incorrect: Township is a form of urban governance **established by large public enterprises**. It is designed to offer civic amenities to the employees and workers residing in housing colonies constructed near industrial plants and facilities.

Option d is incorrect: Special Purpose Agency (SPA) has been set up by the State Governments either as a Statutory body or as an Executive body. SPA is a Single purpose body because it was constituted to undertake specific functions that belong to the domain of Urban Local Governments.

Source: Laxmikanth - Municipalities

Q.38) With reference to special Constitutional provisions for certain states, consider the following:

- 1. Protection of land rights of indigenous people.
- 2. Protection of culture and religion of indigenous people.
- 3. Preferential employment to government services.
- 4. Giving rights to frame laws even if they differ from Central Laws.

How many of the above are correct reasons for providing special provisions for certain states in India under Article 371 to 371-J of the Indian Constitution?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

States like **Assam**, **Nagaland**, **Arunachal Pradesh**, **and Mizoram** have special powers granted by specific Constitutional provisions (under Article 371 to 371–J of the Indian Constitution) because of their unique social and historical conditions.

Option 1 is correct-Indigenous people have a strong connection to their land due to generations of living on and caring for it. However, they often face challenges from outsiders who take their land. In India, under Article 371, some states have special powers to protect indigenous land rights. They can make laws to stop the sale of indigenous land to non-indigenous people and create special land systems that recognize indigenous customs. Indians from outside this state, who are not permanent residents, are not permitted to purchase land or houses in the said states.

Option 2 is correct- Indigenous communities have rich cultural and religious traditions that have developed over centuries, closely tied to their connection with the land and nature. Some Indian states have been granted unique powers to protect these cultures and religions. They can make laws to safeguard sacred indigenous sites and cultural practices while also supporting indigenous education and cultural initiatives.

Option 3 is correct- Historically, indigenous communities have faced challenges in accessing government services, mainly because of discrimination, limited educational and training opportunities, and cultural barriers. However, in certain Indian states, special powers are granted to provide indigenous people with preferential employment opportunities in government services. This initiative aims to rectify the historical underrepresentation of indigenous individuals in government positions, ensuring that they have a say in decisions that impact their lives.

Option 4 is correct- Special provisions under Article 371 allow some states to have their own laws and regulations on certain matters, even if they differ from central laws. For example, Article 371A grants special powers to Nagaland, including the power to make laws on its own customs and traditions. This

means that central laws on these matters may not be applicable in Nagaland. Another example is **Article 371H**, **which grants special powers to Arunachal Pradesh**. Under this article, the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh **has the power to approve or disapprove of any central law that is applied to the state**.

Knowledge Base:

Article 371 of the Constitution of India grants special provisions to certain states, including:

- 1) Maharashtra
- 2) Andhra Pradesh
- 3) Telangana
- 4) Sikkim
- 5) Mizoram
- 6) Arunachal Pradesh
- 7) Gujarat
- 8) Nagaland
- 9) Assam
- 10) Manipur
- 11) Goa
- 12) Karnataka

Source: NCERT Class 10- Chapter 2 Federalism.

Q.39) With reference to Union of India, consider the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R):

Assertion (A): India is called as indestructible union of destructible states.

Reason (R): The Central government can initiate the Constitutional Amendment without the State government's consent.

Which of the following options given below is correct?

- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A
- c) A is true but R is false
- d) A is false but R is true.

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Assertion (A) is true- India is called an "indestructible union of destructible states". It means that the Constitution doesn't promise the continued existence or territorial integrity of a state. The central government can destroy the state but the state government cannot do so. In the USA, in contrast, the Constitution ensures the territorial integrity and ongoing existence of a state. The American Federal Government cannot create new states or change the boundaries of existing ones without the agreement of the states involved. This is why the USA is often referred to as 'an "indestructible union of indestructible states."

Reason (R) is true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)-India is called an "indestructible union of destructible states" because the Constitution empowers Parliament to create new states or modify the territories, borders, or names of existing states without requiring their approval. The Central government can initiate the Constitutional Amendment without the State government's consent. In essence, Parliament can reshape India's political landscape as it deems fit. Article 3 grants Parliament the authority to:

- a) Create a new state by taking territory from an existing state or by merging two or more states or parts of states or by joining any territory with a part of any state;
- b) **Expand the geographical area** of any state;



- c) **Reduce the geographical area** of any state;
- d) Modify the borders of any state; and
- e) Change the name of any state

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth (7th edition), Chapter 6, Page 50

Q.40) What was the key reason behind Dr. B R Ambedkar, opposing the idea of democratic decentralization via Panchayats?

- a) It would have been financially unviable for the new republic.
- b) The diversity of Indian society was a hindrance to a uniform Panchayati raj system.
- c) Villages were suffering from problems of illiteracy, caste discrimination and social inequality.
- d) There was no caste census available, so the policy of reservation would not have been possible.

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

According to Ambedkar, villages were unfit for the democratic decentralization as there was a lot of illiteracy, caste discrimination and social inequality in the villages. On November 4, 1948 Dr B.R. Ambedkar, while moving a motion in the Constituent Assembly for consideration of the Draft Constitution of India, made certain observations about the village. He said, "What is the village but a sink of localism, a den of ignorance, narrow mindedness, and communalism [putting your own ethnic group ahead of society]" This was in contrast to what Gandhiji and many other members of constituent Assembly believe, which was democratic decentralization should be adopted.

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/89388/1/Unit-6.pdf

Q.41) If a new state of the Indian Union is to be created, which one of the following Schedules of the Constitution must be amended?

- a) First
- b) Second
- c) Third
- d) Fourth

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Any change or creation of a new state would require amending the First Schedule to reflect the addition or alteration in the list. The First Schedule contains the list of states and union territories with their territories and capitals. Articles 1 to 4 are covered in the first schedule.

Source) UPSC CSE Pre 2001

Q.42) Consider the following provisions:

- 1. Direct Elections to all seats in Panchayats at Village level
- 2. Granting panchayats the powers to levy taxes
- 3. Establishment of State Election Commission
- 4. Establishment of State Finance Commission
- 5. Reservation of seats for backward classes

How many of the above are the compulsory provisions of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992? a) Only two

- b) Only three
- c) Only four
- d) All five



Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 is a landmark piece of legislation that has empowered the Gram Panchayats and made them the real instruments of self-government at the village level. The compulsory provisions of the Act ensure that the Gram Panchayats are democratically elected, financially independent, and accountable to the people.

Option 1 is correct- The Gram Sabha is a general assembly of the people of a village or group of villages. It is the **primary institution of self-government** at the village level. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act makes it compulsory for direct elections to all seats in panchayats at the village, intermediate, and district levels. This means that all members of panchayats at all three levels must be elected directly by the people

Option 2 is incorrect- Providing financial powers to the panchayats, that is, authorizing them to collect, levy and appropriate taxes, tolls, duties and fees is a voluntary provision of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.

Option 3 is correct- The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 makes it compulsory to establish a State Election Commission in every state to conduct elections to the Gram Panchayats. The State Election Commission is an independent body that is responsible for ensuring that the elections are free and fair.

Option 4 is correct- The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 makes it compulsory to establish a State Finance Commission in every state every five years to review the financial position of the Gram Panchayats and to make recommendations on the distribution of resources to the Gram Panchayats.

Option 5 is incorrect- Providing reservation of seats (both members and chairpersons) for backward classes in panchayats at any level is a voluntary provision of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992. Rather, the act makes it compulsory to have the reservation of seats (for members and chairpersons) for SCs, STs, and women in village panchayats at all levels.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth (7th edition), Chapter 39, Page 392

Q.43) Consider the following committees:

- 1. LM Singhvi Committee
- 2. Narasimham Committee
- 3. Usha Thorat Committee
- 4. Gadgil Committee

How many of the above committees were related to Panchayati Raj?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

In India, the term 'Panchayati Raj' refers to the rural local self-government system, which has been implemented in Indian states through state legislative acts with the aim of promoting grassroots democracy and rural development. The constitutional framework for this system was solidified through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992.

Option 1 is correct- The L.M. Singhvi Committee, appointed by the Government of India in 1986, proposed several key recommendations for revitalizing the Panchayati Raj system. These included constitutional recognition of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for stability, regular elections for democratic

accountability, sufficient financial resources for effective functioning, decentralization of powers to PRIs, and the strengthening of Gram Sabhas to enhance local decision-making.

Option 2 is incorrect- The Narasimham Committee, formed in 1991 by the Government of India and chaired by M. Narasimham, a former RBI governor, made key recommendations related to the financial health of the banking sector in its November 1991 report. These included enhancing the autonomy of the Reserve Bank of India for financial system regulation, liberalizing the banking sector to boost competition and efficiency, and improving governance in the financial sector through regulatory framework strengthening and enhanced transparency.

Option 3 is incorrect- The Usha Thorat Committee, appointed by SEBI in 2020 and led by former RBI deputy governor Usha Thorat, submitted its report in July 2021. The report recommended consolidating mutual fund regulations into a single rulebook for easier compliance, simplifying compliance requirements to reduce costs for mutual fund companies, and enhancing transparency in the mutual fund industry to aid investor decision-making.

Option 4 is correct- The Gadgil Committee, 1988 led by Madhav Gadgil, a former member of the Planning Commission, presented its report which suggested reinforcing the financial resources of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by allocating a greater share of central and state government taxes, granting PRIs the authority to raise revenue through taxes and user charges. It also recommended decentralizing powers and functions to PRIs across multiple domains, and enhancing their capacity through training, access to information, and technology.

Knowledge Base:

The 73rd Amendment Act of 1992 introduced a new segment in the Indian Constitution, called 'The Panchayats,' which includes provisions from Articles 243 to 243 O. Additionally, it incorporated an Eleventh Schedule into the Constitution, outlining 29 functional responsibilities of the panchayats, relating to Article 243-G.

Q.44) With regard to the comparison between states and Union Territories, consider the following statements:

- 1. Governor is the executive head of the state whereas the President is the executive head of the Union Territories.
- 2. The relationship between Centre and state is federal in character whereas in case of Union Territory, it is unitary in character.
- 3. Chief Minister is the elected head of the state, while the Lieutenant Governor is the elected head of the Union Territory.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Article 152 to 237 of the Indian Constitution is related to the State Government. Article 239 to 242 of the Indian Constitution is related to the Union Territories.

Statement 1 is correct- The **Governor** is the **constitutional head of the state**, appointed by the **President of India**. The **Lieutenant Governor is the administrator of a Union Territory**, appointed by the **President of India**. Therefore, the Governor is the executive head of the state, and the President is the executive head of the Union Territories.

Statement 2 is correct- In India, the Central Government and State Governments have separate powers as defined in the Constitution. There are three lists of subjects: **Union List for the Central Government, State List for State Governments, and Concurrent List for both**. This provision signifies the relationship between Centre and states to be federal in character.

Union Territories are under **Central Government**, and the Central Government can legislate on **all subjects** in Union Territories, even those in the State List. This signifies the unitary nature between the Union and the Union Territories.

Statement 3 is incorrect- The Chief Minister is the elected head of the state. The Lieutenant Governor is appointed (not elected) by the President of India.

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth (7th edition), Chapter 41, Page 413

Q.45) With reference to Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Only the Governor can declare an area as a Scheduled Area in a State under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution.
- 2. As per the Constitution, provisions related to the Panchayats as well as Municipalities do not apply to the Fifth Schedule Areas until Parliament makes a law regarding the same.
- 3. Any amendment to the Fifth Schedule requires a Constitutional amendment under Article 368 of the Constitution.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Article 244 in Part X of the Constitution envisages a special system of administration for certain areas designated as scheduled areas and tribal areas.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The President of India (not Governor of the State) declares an area as scheduled area in a state under the fifth schedule for any states except in four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram which are covered under the Sixth schedule.

Statement 2 is correct: Article 243M and Article 243 ZC of the constitution of India exempted Scheduled Areas declared under fifth schedule from the scope of applicability of provisions related to the Panchayats (Part IX) and Municipalities (Part IXA) respectively. However, this Article (243M & 243 ZC) allows Parliament by law to extend Part IX and IXA to scheduled areas with certain exceptions and modifications eg. PESA Act, 1996.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Any change in provisions mentioned in the fifth schedule can be amended by Parliament by simple majority and falls outside scope of Article 368.

Source: M Laxmikanth

Q.46) Consider the following States:

- 1. Bihar
- 2. Jharkhand
- 3. Odisha
- 4. Telangana
- 5. Gujarat

According to the Constitution of India, how many of the above States have Fifth Schedule Areas?

- a) Only two
- b) Only three
- c) Only four
- d) All five

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Scheduled areas are areas in India that are inhabited by tribal communities and are given special protection under the Constitution of India. The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the administration and control of scheduled areas. The Governor of a state has the power to declare any area in the state as a scheduled area after consulting the Tribes Advisory Council.

Option 1 is incorrect- Bihar does not have scheduled areas under the 5th Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Option 2 is correct- Jharkhand have scheduled areas under the 5th Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Some districts are Santhal Pargana, Dumka, and Giridih districts.

Option 3 is correct- Odisha have scheduled areas under the 5th Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Koraput, Malkangiri, and Rayagada districts are some of the districts.

Option 4 is correct- Telangana have scheduled areas under the 5th Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Some of the districts are Adilabad and Warangal districts.

Option 5 is correct- Gujarat have scheduled areas under the 5th Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Dang is one of those districts of Gujarat.

Knowledge Base:

There are 10 states having 5th scheduled areas:

- 1) Andhra Pradesh
- 2) Chhattisgarh
- 3) Gujarat
- 4) Himachal Pradesh
- 5) Jharkhand
- 6) Madhya Pradesh
- 7) Maharashtra
- 8) Odisha
- 9) Rajasthan and
- 10) Telangana

Source: Indian Polity by Laxmikanth (7th edition), Chapter 42, Page 415

Q.47) Arrange the following states in a chronological order according to the year of formation as a state?

- 1. Nagaland
- 2. Tripura
- 3. Himachal Pradesh
- 4. Mizoram

Which of the following options given below is correct?

- a) 1-2-3-4
- b) 1-3-2-4
- c) 3-1-2-4
- d) 3-2-1-4



Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The political map of India underwent continuous changes after the large-scale reorganization of the states in 1956 due to the pressure of popular agitations and political conditions. The demand for the creation of some more states on the basis of language or cultural homogeneity resulted in the bifurcation of existing states.

Option 1: The State of Nagaland was formed by taking the Naga Hills and Tuensang area out of the state of Assam in 1963. This was done to satisfy the movement of the hostile Nagas. However, before giving Nagaland the status of the 16th state of the Indian Union, it was placed under the control of governor of Assam in 1961.

Option 3: On the recommendation of the Shah Commission (1966), the Punjabi-speaking areas were constituted into the unilingual state of Punjab and the Hindi-speaking areas were constituted into the State of Haryana and the hill areas were merged with the adjoining union territory of Himachal Pradesh. In 1971, the union territory of Himachal Pradesh was elevated to the status of a state (18th state of the Indian

Option 2: In 1972, in Northeast India the two union territories of Manipur and Tripura and the sub-state of Meghalaya got statehood and the two union territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh (originally known as North-East Frontier Agency-NEFA) came into being. With this, the number of states of the Indian Union increased to 21 (Manipur 19th, Tripura 20th and Meghalaya 21st).

Option 4: In 1987, three new States of Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa came into being as the 23rd, 24th and 25th states of the Indian Union respectively. The union territory of Mizoram was conferred the status of a full state as a sequel to the signing of a memorandum of settlement (Mizoram Peace Accord) in 1986 between the Central government and the Mizo National Front, ending the two-decade-old insurgency. Source: Indian polity by M Laxmikanth 6th edition pdf. Chapter name- UNION and its TERRITORY. Page no- 149 to 152.

Q.48) The fundamental objectives of the Panchayati Raj institutions is to ensure which among the following?

- 1. People's participation in development
- 2. Political accountability
- 3. Financial mobilization

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statements 1 is correct but 2 is incorrect. Grass-roots democracy was established in India not to ensure any political accountability, but to ensure citizen's participation in governance and development leading to democratic decentralization.

Moreover, political accountability already existed in the villages by way of elections to State legislatures. Statement 3 is incorrect. Financial mobilization was never the basis for the establishment of Panchayati raj. Local financial mobilization (by way of octroi taxes etc.) is the outcome of the establishment of the PRIs, not its objective. In fact, only few states have devolved financial powers to their PRIs.

Source: UPSC CSE Pre 2015

Q.49) With reference to the Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC), consider the following statements:

- 1. The Constitution makes it mandatory for states to set up MPCs in Metropolitan areas.
- 2. It consists of members from both urban as well as rural local bodies.
- 3. The Governor can make provision with respect to the functions of MPC in relation to planning and coordination for the metropolitan area.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The Constitution makes it mandatory for States to set up MPCs in areas with population of 10 lakh and above. MPC is required to prepare a draft development plan.

Statement 2 is correct: Although this is a body related to urban local governance, and is under Part IXA, elected members from both urban local bodies and rural local bodies (only chairpersons of Panchayats in that metropolitan area) form a part of this committee.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The State Legislature can make provision with respect to the functions of MPC in relation to planning and coordination for the metropolitan area.

Knowledge Base:

The state legislature may make provisions with respect to the following aspects of Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC):

- 1) The composition of such committees;
- 2) The manner of election of members of such committees;
- 3) The representation in such committees of the Central government, state government and other organisations;
- 4) The functions of such committees in relation to planning and coordination for the metropolitan area; and
- 5) The manner of election of chairpersons of such committees.

Source: http://constitutionofindia.etal.in/article_243ze/

Q.50) Consider the following persons:

- 1. The members of the state legislative assembly representing constituencies that comprise, wholly or partly, the municipal area.
- 2. Members of Lok Sabha elected from any constituency within the state in which the municipality is located.
- 3. Persons having special knowledge or experience in municipal administration
- 4. The members of the state legislative council registered as electors within the municipal area

How many of the above persons can be provided representation in a municipality as per the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act 1992?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1, 3 and 4 are correct & Statement 2 is incorrect:

74th Constitutional Amendment Act provide for the representation of the following persons in a municipality:

- 1) Persons having special knowledge or experience in municipal administration without the right to vote in the meetings of municipality.
- 2) The members of the Lok Sabha and the state legislative assembly representing constituencies that comprise wholly or partly the municipal area.
- 3) The members of the Rajya Sabha and the state legislative council registered as electors within the municipal area.
- 4) The chairpersons of committees (other than wards committees).

Source: M laxmikanth