

# VISIONIAS

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Test Booklet Series

TEST BOOKLET

C

GENERAL STUDIES (P) 2020 – Test–2972

Time Allowed: Two Hours

Maximum Marks: 200

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS BOOKLET DOES **NOT** HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TURN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. ENCODE CLEARLY THE TEST BOOKLET SERIES **A, B, C** OR **D** AS THE CASE MAY BE IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACE IN THE ANSWER SHEET.
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. **Do NOT** write anything else on the Test Booklet.
4. This Test Booklet contains **100** items (Questions). Each item is printed in **English**. Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response with you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.
5. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See direction in the answers sheet.
6. All items carry equal marks. Attempt all items. Your total marks will depend only on the number of **correct responses** marked by you in the answer sheet. For **every incorrect** response **1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the allotted marks** will be deducted.
7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer sheet the response to various items in the Test booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the answer sheets as per instruction sent to you with your Admission Certificate.
8. After you have completed filling in all responses on the answer sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to Invigilator only the answer sheet. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. Sheet for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SO**

1. Which of the following is/are correct with reference to the elections to the Rajya Sabha?

1. A person seeking election to Rajya Sabha must be an elector in the state from where he seeks to be elected.
2. An elector belonging to a political party has to show the ballot paper after marking his vote to a nominated agent of that political party.

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

2. With reference to "International Pulsar Timing Array" (IPTA), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a consortium of radio astronomers across the world.
2. It aims to detect and characterize the low-frequency gravitational wave in the universe.
3. India is an associate member of the IPTA.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

3. With reference to the Gram Nyayalayas or Village Courts established under Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, consider the following statements:

1. Village Courts exercise the powers of both Criminal and Civil Courts.
2. They are bound by the rules of evidence provided in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.
3. An appeal against their decision lies to the High Court of the concerned state.

Which of the statements given above are **not** correct?

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

4. 'Windrush Generation', a term often seen in news, refers to:

- (a) the young and dynamic generation of tech-savvy millennials.
- (b) citizens of former British colonies who arrived in the United Kingdom to work.
- (c) the new age entrepreneurs who are engaged in space exploration.
- (d) a new competitive technology to maximize the potential of wind energy.

5. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Deputy Chief Minister (CM)?

1. The office of the Deputy Chief Minister is neither constitutional nor statutory.
2. He is appointed by the Chief Minister of the state.

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

6. Consider the following pairs:

<b>Cabinet Committee</b>	<b>Currently Chaired by</b>
--------------------------	---------------------------------

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs | : Minister of Home Affairs |
| 2. Cabinet Committee on Security          | : Minister of Defence      |
| 3. Cabinet Committee on Accommodation     | : Prime Minister           |

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

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) None

7. Which of the following provisions have been provided in the Indian constitution regarding the union or state legislature?

1. Minimum strength of a legislative state assembly.
2. Maximum number of nominated members to the Lok Sabha
3. Method of election of representatives to the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha from the Union Territories.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

8. Consider the following statements regarding the qualification of the candidates for the election to the local government, as per part IX of the constitution:

1. A person is eligible for contesting the elections to panchayats and municipalities only after he/she has attained the age of twenty-five years.
2. Any question regarding disqualifications of members of Panchayats/ municipalities is determined by the Gram Nyayalayas.

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

9. With reference to the Legislatures of Puducherry and National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Setting up of legislatures of both Puducherry and NCT of Delhi are provided through parliamentary law.
2. While the NCT Assembly is limited in the extent of its legislative powers, the Puducherry legislature can frame laws on all state subjects.

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

10. Consider the following events:

1. Abolition of privy purse.
2. Declaration of secularism as the Basic Structure of the Constitution.
3. Replacement of word "internal disturbance" with "armed rebellion" in the context of national emergency.

Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

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

11. Recently, Chaukhandi Stupa has been declared site of national importance by the Archeological Survey of India (ASI). In this context, which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) It is a rock cut structure built during the reign of Krishnadevaraya.
- (b) The structures at the stupa commemorate Humanyu's visit to this place.
- (c) It is located on the banks of River Godavari in Andhra Pradesh.
- (d) It represents the largest collection of buddhist relics belonging to Amaravati school of art.

**12.** With reference to Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency norms in India, consider the following statements:

1. They aim at lowering the fuel consumption of vehicles by lowering carbon dioxide emissions.
2. Currently, these norms are applicable only to petrol and diesel vehicles.

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

**13.** Arrange the following administrative officials in the order of their precedence.

1. Secretary
2. Under Secretary
3. Deputy Secretary
4. Joint Secretary

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

**14.** Consider the following statements:

1. Recently, the government has proposed to set up a Defence Space Agency to create space warfare weapon systems and technologies.
2. The 'Anti Satellite Test' recently conducted by India demonstrated India's capability in space warfare technology.

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

**15.** With reference to the Civil Services Board (CSB), consider the following statements:

1. A Civil Services Board at the union level is constitutionally mandated.
2. The board intends to decide upon the cases of allegations against the civil servants but has no right to consider their transfers.

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

**16.** The candidate(s) for which of the following posts is/are recommended by a committee headed by the Chief Minister?

1. State Chief Information Commissioner
2. State High Court Judge
3. Chairman of the State Human Rights Commission

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

**17.** With reference to the National Defence Fund, consider the following statements:

1. It has been set up to promote startups in the defence sector.
2. The fund is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions from the public and does not get any budgetary support.
3. It is administered by an Executive Committee chaired by the Prime Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**18.** A caretaker government can be installed under which of the following circumstances?

1. When the office of the President becomes vacant
2. When the House is prematurely dissolved
3. When the party securing maximum seats in elections is yet to prove its majority on the floor of the house

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

**19.** With reference to non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council, consider the following statements:

1. The non-permanent members are elected for a maximum term of 5 years.
2. A retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election.
3. Each candidate must be unanimously elected by the United Nations General Assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None

**20.** Consider the following statements regarding the office of Speaker in the Lok Sabha:

1. He is responsible for formulating the rules of the joint sitting of the house after consultation with Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
2. He must resign from his party membership upon joining the office to ensure non-partisanship.
3. He cannot suspend a member of the Lok Sabha without calling for adoption of motion.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None of the above

**21.** With reference to Zonal Cultural Centres, consider the following statements:

1. They are set up to promote various forms of folk art and culture.
2. They are established as autonomous bodies under the Ministry of Culture.

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

**22.** With respect to the national emergency, consider the following statements:

1. A national emergency can be revoked only through a resolution passed by the Lok Sabha.
2. Once a written notice regarding the discontinuity of the emergency is received by the speaker, a special sitting has to be compulsorily convened within 30 days.

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

**23.** With reference to 'wards committee', consider the following statements:

1. The constitution mandates for setting up of wards committee within the territorial area of a municipality having a population of at least ten lakhs or more.
2. The State legislature by law provides for both the composition and manner in which the seats in a wards committee shall be filled.

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

**24.** If the President of India declared the national emergency under Article 352 of the constitution on the ground of "external aggression" then:

1. He can reduce but can not cancel the revenue transfer from the centre to state.
2. He can issue ordinances on state subject if Parliament is not in session.
3. He can suspend the right to move to any court for enforcement of Fundamental rights under article 359 without the approval of Parliament.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

**25.** Consider the following statements regarding the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha:

1. It is defined as the leader of the opposition party having the greatest numerical strength and recognized as such by the Presiding officer.
2. He is a member of the committee to select the Chief Information Commissioner.
3. The leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were recognized for the first time in the year 1969 and 1952 respectively.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

26. In which of the following cases laws made by the Parliament on State list subject can be “repealed” by the state legislature?

1. Laws made by the Parliament on state list after imposition of state emergency under Article 356 of the Constitution.
2. Laws made on state list by the Parliament during a national emergency.
3. When Parliament makes law on state list to implement the international obligation and agreement.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) None

27. In context of the local governance in India, for which of the following representatives the direct elections is mandatory as per the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992?

1. The Chairperson of the Gram Panchayat
2. The Chairperson of the Municipal corporation
3. The members of the Panchayat at the district level

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

28. What does ‘statutory town’ mean?

- (a) Cities selected under Smart City project.
- (b) Urban settlements governed by urban local bodies.
- (c) A township plan project of real estate.
- (d) Illegal settlements in suburbs.

29. Which of the following statement is *not* correct regarding the tenth schedule to the Constitution of India?

- (a) It was introduced during the prime ministership of Rajiv Gandhi.
- (b) It is applicable to the nominated members of the Rajya Sabha.
- (c) It can be invoked for acts/activities outside the Parliament.
- (d) It is applicable during the process of election of members to the Rajya Sabha.

30. Panchayati Raj Institutions in India receive funds through which of the following sources?

1. Devolution of funds from state government based on recommendations of State Finance Commission.
2. Allocation of specific funds from the union government for centrally sponsored schemes.
3. Taxes on the sale and purchase of local language newspapers and the advertisements published in them.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

31. Under which of the following conditions, a Chief Minister is eligible to vote in the Presidential election?

1. If he is the Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Delhi
2. If criminal charges are leveled against him
3. He is a member of the Legislative Council

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) None



**32.** Consider the following statements regarding provisions for declaration of assets for the members of Parliament:

1. The provisions have been provided under the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951.
2. They require every member to furnish declaration regarding the assets of self, of their spouse and dependent children.
3. The declarations made by the MPs can be made available to any person only with the prior permission of the Speaker/Chairman.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**33.** 'World Population Prospects 2019' is a report released by which of the following?

- (a) International Monetary Fund
- (b) World Bank
- (c) United Nations
- (d) World Economic Forum

**34.** With reference to national emergency, consider the following statements:

1. Provision to limit national emergency to a specified part of Indian territory was added by the 42nd Constitutional amendment act of 1976.
2. The executive power of the Centre to give directions extends only to the State in which the emergency is imposed.

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

**35.** Which of the following statements is correct regarding the constitutional office of the Governor?

- (a) A person can be appointed a governor of maximum two states.
- (b) Constitution prohibits a person domiciled in a particular state to become the governor of the same state.
- (c) The Constitution does not lay down any grounds for removal of a governor.
- (d) The Governor presides over the meetings of the Council of Ministers.

**36.** "It is a rare herb with extraordinary medicinal properties found in the Agasthya hills. The Kani tribe of Kerala has preserved the herb and the knowledge about its use. This 'miracle plant' is known for its traditional use by the Kani tribal community to combat fatigue. Recently, scientists from the University of Kerala have decoded its genetic make-up."

Which of the following plant species is being referred to in the above passage?

- (a) Arogyapacha
- (b) Triphala
- (c) Dandelion
- (d) Madhunashini

**37.** Consider the following statements regarding the Contingency Fund of India:

1. The setting up of the Contingency Fund of India is mandatory under the Constitution of India for meeting unforeseen expenditures.
2. It is maintained by the Cabinet Secretary on behalf of the President of India.

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



- 38.** In the context of local governance, 'principle of subsidiarity' implies that:
1. local government institutions should act as subsidiaries of the state government.
  2. a higher authority should not exercise functions which can be carried out efficiently by lower departments/authorities.
- 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
- 39.** With reference to the state council of ministers, which of the following is/are provided in the Constitution of India?
1. The maximum number of ministers in a council
  2. Ranking of the ministers in the council
  3. The portfolios under the government that a minister can be assigned.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 1 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3
- 40.** Consider the following statements:
1. Prime Ministerial oath is administered by the Chief Justice of India.
  2. Article 75 of the Indian Constitution clearly states that the leader of the party in majority is to be appointed as the Prime Minister.
  3. If the Prime Minister is a member of the Rajya Sabha, he can nominate a minister who is a member of the Lok Sabha to be its leader.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 3 only  
(c) 2 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3

- 41.** With reference to the 'Habitat Rights' of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), consider the following statements:
1. The habitat rights of a PVTG extend to an area used by them for livelihood and economic activities.
  2. An area marked as a habitat for a PVTG cannot overlap with that of other traditional forest dwellers.
- 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
- 42.** Consider the following statements regarding Office of Whip:
1. The office of 'Whip' is mentioned neither in the Constitution of India nor in any statute.
  2. The Government Chief whip monitors and manages the government business in the House.
- 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
- 43.** With reference to fiscal federalism, the concept of Redistributive Resource Transfers (RRT) to a State refers to:
- (a) The devolution of untied funds to a State from the Centre.
  - (b) The expenditure on social security schemes by the Centre in a State.
  - (c) The gross devolution to the state adjusted for the respective state's share in aggregate GDP.
  - (d) None of the above.

44. Insertion of Part IX paves the way for democratic decentralisation by providing Panchayati Raj Institutions. In this context, which of the following is/are considered to be novel features of Panchayati Raj Institutions?

1. Political accountability of state executive
2. Devolution of taxation powers at the local level by the Parliament
3. Reservation to women

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

45. Consider the following statements:

1. Constitution has empowered the Union government to levy a tax on inter-state supply of goods and services.
2. Finance commission distributes the revenue collection between centre and state on interstate supply of goods and services.

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

46. Which of the following functions is **not** performed by the Goods and Services Tax Council?

- (a) It recommends the date on which the goods and services tax to be levied on petroleum crude.
- (b) It check the unfair profit-making activities by the trading community.
- (c) It decides the special rates of GST during the natural calamity.
- (d) It adjudicates any dispute arising out of the recommendations of the Council between two or more States.

47. With reference to the Strategic Partnership Policy, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to promote joint ventures between the indigenous private sector and global defence majors.
2. The application of policy is limited only to the projects involving manufacturing of submarines.
3. It has been recommended under the Defence Procurement Procedure, 2016.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

48. Which of the following statements is **not** correct about No-confidence motion?

- (a) It is nowhere mentioned in the Constitution.
- (b) It is the role of the Speaker to check if the motion is in order or not.
- (c) No reasons are mandatory for introducing the no-confidence motion.
- (d) The motion is to be compulsorily followed by a confidence motion in an alternative government.

49. With reference to the part IXA of the Indian constitution, for which of the following persons can the state legislatures provide for representation as members of Municipalities?

1. Persons having special knowledge or experience in municipal administration
2. Persons having the knowledge or practical experience in the field of art, science, literature or social service
3. Members of the Lok Sabha representing constituencies which comprise wholly or partly the municipal area

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

- 50.** With reference to Schedule V of the Indian Constitution, scheduled areas are declared by
- (a) Governor of a state
  - (b) Parliament
  - (c) President
  - (d) State Legislature

- 51.** Which of the following matters related to Parliament fall within the purview of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs?

1. Nominations to Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha
2. Elections to Parliament
3. Implementation of assurances given by Ministers in Parliament

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

- 52.** Which of the following committees, recently seen in news, recommended “Elephant Bonds” as a specialised security product providing funds towards Long Term Infrastructure?

- (a) Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla Committee
- (b) Bimal Jalan Committee
- (c) Madhav Gadgil Committee
- (d) Dr Bibek Debroy Committee

- 53.** Consider the following statements regarding Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS):

1. It was launched recently in 2018-19 budget.
2. It seeks to empower Panchayats and put in place accountability systems to make their functioning transparent and efficient.
3. Under this scheme, states/UTs are ranked on a devolution index which measures the extent of devolution of funds, functions and functionaries by States to Panchayats.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- 54.** With reference to the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) project, consider the following statements:

1. It is a project to track the arms and ammunition used by law enforcement agencies in India.
2. It has been launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

55. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Prime Minister of India?

1. The Prime Minister cannot vote during the passage of the no-confidence motion if he is a member of the Rajya Sabha.
2. He cannot hold the office, at any stage during his tenure, without being a Member of the Parliament.
3. He cannot be a member of any Departmentally-related Standing Committee.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

56. In the absence of the Chairman/Speaker and the Deputy Chairman/Speaker of the House, anyone from the panel of Vice-Chairmen/Chairpersons may preside over the House. This panel is elected/nominated by the:

- (a) members of the House.
- (b) Chairman/Speaker of the House.
- (c) Deputy-Chairman/Speaker of the House.
- (d) President of India.

57. India's first proton therapy centre was recently inaugurated in Chennai. Proton therapy is primarily used for

- (a) removal of contaminants from wastewater.
- (b) enrichment of uranium for use in nuclear reactors.
- (c) treatment of cancer.
- (d) extending the shelf life of foods.

58. In the context of Residuary powers, consider the following statements:

1. Power to legislate on the residuary subjects is vested with the Parliament.
2. Provision of residuary power in the Indian constitution has been borrowed from the Constitution of Canada.

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

59. The "Doctrine of Occupied field" is associated with:

- (a) synthesis of Parliamentary sovereignty and Judicial supremacy.
- (b) apparent conflict between Fundamental rights and Directive principles of state policy.
- (c) distribution of legislative powers between the centre and state legislatures.
- (d) balance between the individual rights and interests of the society.

60. Which of the following statements is **not** correct regarding 'Municipalities'?

- (a) The term for every municipality provided under the Constitution is for maximum five years from the date scheduled for its first meeting.
- (b) Every municipality shall be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard before its dissolution.
- (c) If the remainder period of the dissolved municipality is less than six months then it is not necessary to hold elections within that time frame (six months).
- (d) Retrospective laws can be brought to dissolve a municipality.

61. The term 'PRIASoft' sometimes mentioned in the news is best described as
- (a) Digital media tool recently introduced in Uttar Pradesh to report cases of eve-teasing.
  - (b) Digital accounting tool to keep track of all the receipts and expenditure of the Panchayati Raj Institutions.
  - (c) Software aimed at increased linkages of Self Help Groups (SHGs) with formal banking.
  - (d) New soft drink introduced in the market consisting of herbs known to have anti-ageing effects.

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

1. It is a body under Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.
2. India is a member of the Financial Action Task Force.
3. It issues the FATF blacklist to declare individuals engaged in money laundering activities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

63. 'One Health Concept', often seen in news, refers to:

- (a) an approach that seeks to establish a link between human health and animal health.
- (b) a new scheme launched by the government for women and child development.
- (c) an initiative of World Health Organization to integrate communicable and non-communicable diseases in their health prevention strategy.
- (d) a strategy adopted by government for equitable distribution of medical personnel in the country.

64. Consider the following statements regarding Starred and Unstarred Questions:

1. While a starred question requires an oral answer, an unstarred question requires a written answer.
2. While supplementary questions cannot follow in a starred question, they can follow for an unstarred question.

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

65. Consider the following statements regarding 'Office of profit':

1. The Indian constitution does not define the term 'Office of profit'.
2. Laws relating to the office of profit seek to enforce the principle of separation of power between the legislature and the executive.
3. Only the Parliament has the power to enact laws and keep certain offices out of the purview of the Office of Profit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

66. Who among the following takes part in the election of President?

1. Elected members of both house of parliament
2. All members of Legislative Assemblies of States/Union territories
3. Elected members of Legislative Councils of States

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

67. Consider the following statements regarding Rajya Sabha:

1. The allocations of seats is based on population of each state, with a higher seat to population ratio for smaller states.
2. There is no constitutional provision for reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Rajya Sabha.

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

68. Consider the following statements regarding Committee on Public Undertakings:

1. The chairman of the committee is appointed by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
2. It has no authority to examine the reports of the CAG.
3. A minister can not be appointed as a member of the committee.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

69. The establishment of the Inter-State Councils can be best explained as an exercise in

- (a) Administrative delegation
- (b) Direct democracy
- (c) Cooperative Federalism
- (d) Democratic decentralisation

70. In the context of the Panchayati Raj system in India, which of the following provisions were recommended by Balwant Rai Mehta Committee?

1. Establishment of a directly elected three-tier Panchayati Raj system.
2. All planning and development activities should be entrusted to these bodies.
3. Constitutional recognition to Panchayati Raj institutions.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

71. Which among the following subjects come under the State list?

1. Inter-State pilgrimage
2. Labour welfare
3. Forests
4. Water
5. Medical profession

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 3, 4 and 5 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only



**72.** Consider the following statements regarding rules of procedure and conduct of business in the Lok Sabha:

1. Until the formulation of rules, the procedure and conduct of business in Lok Sabha was regulated by the rules of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom.
2. These rules can be amended by the Speaker and require no approval from the House.
3. When the Rajya Sabha does not have a rule on a particular matter, it follows the Lok Sabha rule on that matter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3
- (e) None

**73.** Consider the following statements regarding the local governance:

1. It is mandatory for the state legislatures to transfer the subjects listed under Eleventh schedule to the panchayati raj institutions.
2. The state legislature can provide for mandatory educational qualifications for the candidates to contest elections to local bodies.

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

**74.** Consider the following passage:

"It is granted when the actual expenditure incurred exceeds the approved grants of the Parliament. Such grants are brought to the notice of the Parliament by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. However, before these grants are submitted to the Lok Sabha for voting, they must be approved by the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament."

Which of the following is being referred to in the above passage?

- (a) Exceptional grant
- (b) Excess grant
- (c) Additional grant
- (d) Supplementary grant

**75.** Consider the following statement with respect to Constitutional provisions related to official language and mother-tongue:

1. Article 350-B provides for instruction in mother-tongue at primary stage.
2. Any change in the official language of a state needs the approval of the Council of States.
3. Until Parliament provides otherwise, all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every high court are to be in the English language only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**76.** Consider the following statements regarding the Notified Area Committee:

1. Notified Area Committee is a statutory body created by an act of the state legislature.
2. All the members of the committee are nominated members.

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



77. With reference to the recently inaugurated, Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), consider the following statements:

1. It is the world's largest multi-stage and multi-purpose lift irrigation project.
2. It has been established on the river Krishna in Andhra Pradesh.

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

78. Consider the following passage:

"The objective of this instrument is to put off further consideration of the business in hand for the time being. It is intended to have a postponing or indefinitely delaying effect on a debate. If it is moved and carried, the subject under discussion is either shelved or the debate is postponed."

Which of the following Parliamentary instrument is being referred to in the above passage?

- (a) Point of Order
- (b) Calling Attention motion
- (c) Closure motion
- (d) Dilatory motion

79. With respect to the concurrent list, consider the following statements:

1. Amendment to the Concurrent list requires only the special majority of both the Houses of the Parliament under Article 368 of the constitution.
2. A law made on the subject under the concurrent list by the Centre will always prevail over the law made by the state.

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

80. With reference to 'Normalized Difference Vegetation Index', consider the following statements:

1. It measures the density of vegetation in a particular region by measuring the difference between visible and near-infrared sunlight reflected by the plants.
2. It is a technique used in tracking the presence of wild elephants.

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

81. 'Circular Economy', a term often seen in the news, refers to an:

- (a) economic model in which resources are recovered and reused at the end of each service life of a product.
- (b) economy in which every buyer is also a producer.
- (c) economic model in which an entrepreneur reinvests profit to increase the scale of business.
- (d) economy in which government finances all its expenditures from the taxes received.

82. Which of the following will lapse on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha or the legislative assembly of a state?

1. A Bill introduced in the Rajya Sabha and referred to the Joint Committee set up by the Rajya Sabha.
2. A Bill which has been passed by the legislative assembly of a state and is pending in the legislative council.
3. Any business pending before the Parliamentary committees of the Lok Sabha.

Select the correct code using the code given below.

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

**83.** Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Advocate-General for a State?

1. He is constitutionally obligated to resign when the council of ministers resigns.
2. He cannot appear in a court lower in rank to a district court.

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

**84.** The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is elected by the:

- (a) Elected as well as nominated members of the Rajya Sabha.
- (b) Elected members of the both houses of the Parliament.
- (c) Elected as well as nominated members of the two houses of the Parliament.
- (d) Elected members of the Parliament as well as state legislative assemblies.

**85.** *Libra* and *Monero*, recently seen in the news are:

- (a) Digital Wallets
- (b) Electric vehicles
- (c) Nanosatellites
- (d) Cryptocurrencies

**86.** Consider the following statements about the Cabinet Secretary of India:

1. He is the administrative head of the cabinet secretariat.
2. He enjoys the same rank as the Comptroller and Auditor General India in the table of precedence.

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

**87.** With reference to the National mission on Natural Language Translation, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to train school students in various international languages to bridge the gap of trained translator personnel.
2. It has been announced by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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

**88.** Which of the following parts of the constitution were amended/inserted by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992?

1. Directive Principles of State Policy
2. Part XIII
3. Schedule XI
4. Part IX

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

**89.** Which of the following instruments is/are used by the Indian Parliament to exercise control over the executive?

1. Half-an-Hour discussions
2. Consultative committees
3. Parliamentary forums
4. Prime Minister's Questions

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

**90.** With reference to the ordinance-making power of the President, consider the following statements:

1. This power is parallel to and coextensive with the legislative powers of Parliament.
2. The President can withdraw an ordinance only on the advice of the council of ministers.

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

**91.** With reference to the Resilient Kerala Program, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to enhance Kerala's resilience against the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.
2. It is financially supported by the World Bank.

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

**92.** Which of the following states are fully exempted from the applicability of Part IX of the constitution?

1. Nagaland
2. Assam
3. Manipur
4. Tripura

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

**93.** In the context of the seventh schedule of the constitution, consider the following statements:

1. Over the years, the subjects under the State List have gradually reduced.
2. Sarkaria Commission recommended that all residuary powers must remain with the Parliament.

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

**94.** Consider the following statements regarding Parliamentary privileges:

1. The Parliamentary privileges prevail in case of any conflict between the privileges of an MP and the fundamental rights of citizens.
2. In case of breach of privilege committed by the members, the House can impose punishment in the form of suspension and expulsion from the House.

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

**95.** With reference to Presidential Elections in India, consider the following statements:

1. The method of voting in the election is by secret ballot.
2. Provisions of NOTA are not applicable to the Presidential Elections.

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

96. With reference to 'Generalized System of Preferences', consider the following statements:

1. It is a preference program to help developing nations use trade to grow their economies.
2. It was initiated by the World Trade Organization.
3. Currently, the United States of America is the only country to operationalise this system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

97. With reference to the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a multi-national forum in Asia focussed on increasing cooperation in military-political, economic and environmental dimensions.
2. For becoming a member of CICA, a state must have at least a part of its territory in Asia.
3. India-Central Asia dialogue is an initiative of CICA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

98. Which of the following statements regarding Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is **not** correct?

- (a) He is the *ex-officio* chairman of the General Purposes Committee of the Rajya Sabha.
- (b) He is authorized to correct patent errors in a Bill passed by the Rajya Sabha.
- (c) He is elected by an electoral college consisting all the members of Parliament via open ballot.
- (d) He can be removed from office by a resolution of the Rajya Sabha, passed by a majority of its members at that time and agreed to by the House of the People.

99. Consider the following statements regarding the election of the President :

1. Only Supreme court is authorized to inquire into and decide over any disputes in the election of the president.
2. A candidate has to secure more than 50% of votes of total valid votes polled in order to be elected as President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

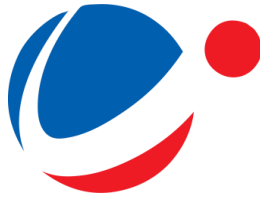
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

100. With reference to the 'attached office' to a government department, consider the following statements:

1. They are responsible for providing executive direction required in the implementation of the policies laid down by the department.
2. They function as field establishments or as agencies responsible for the detailed execution of the policies of government.
3. They serve as repository of technical information and advise the department on technical aspects of question dealt with by them.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



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## ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

### GENERAL STUDIES (P) TEST – 2017 (2020)

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#### Q 1.B

- In 2003, the following two changes were introduced with respect to elections to the Rajya Sabha:
  - Domicile or residency requirement of a candidate contesting an election to the Rajya Sabha was removed. Prior to this, a candidate had to be an elector in the state from where he was to be elected. Now, it would be sufficient if he is an elector in any parliamentary constituency in the country. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - Introducing open ballot system, instead of secret ballot system, for elections to the Rajya Sabha. This was done to curb cross-voting and to wipe out the role of money power during Rajya Sabha elections. Under the new system, an elector belonging to a political party has to show the ballot paper after marking his vote to a nominated agent of that political party. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

#### OTHER RELATED INFORMATION

- The maximum strength of the Rajya Sabha is fixed at 250, out of which, 238 are to be the representatives of the states and union territories (elected indirectly) and 12 are nominated by the president. At present, the Rajya Sabha has 245 members. Of these, 229 members represent the states, 4 members represent the union territories and 12 members are nominated by the president. The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the states and union territories.
  - Representation of States: The representatives of states in the Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected members of state legislative assemblies. The election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. The seats are allotted to the states in the Rajya Sabha on the basis of population. Hence, the number of representatives varies from state to state.
  - Representation of Union Territories: The representatives of each union territory in the Rajya Sabha are indirectly elected by members of an electoral college specially constituted for the purpose. This election is also held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. Out of the seven union territories, only two (Delhi and Puducherry) have representation in Rajya Sabha. The populations of other five union territories are too small to have any representative in the Rajya Sabha.
  - Nominated Members: The president nominates 12 members to the Rajya Sabha from people who have special knowledge or practical experience in art, literature, science and social service. The rationale behind this principle of nomination is to provide eminent persons a place in the Rajya Sabha without going through the process of election.

#### Q 2.D

- The International Pulsar Timing Array (IPTA) is a consortium of consortia, comprised of the European Pulsar Timing Array (EPTA), the North American Nanohertz Observatory for Gravitational Waves (NANOGrav), and the Parkes Pulsar Timing Array (PPTA). **It is a collaboration of radio astronomers from a dozen countries across the globe. It uses more than 12 radio telescopes all over the world with an aim to detect low frequency gravitational waves.**
- The goal of the IPTA is to **detect and characterize the low-frequency gravitational wave universe** through timing a global array of approximately 100-millisecond pulsars using the largest radio telescopes in the world. Through sharing resources and creating combined pulsar timing data sets, the IPTA is constructing the most sensitive low-frequency gravitational wave detector possible.



- **India has been an associate member of the IPTA since the last four years.**
- Recently, India hosted the annual meeting of IPTA in Pune. The upgrade of the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) in Pune and the Ooty Radio Telescope (ORT) are contributing to this global experiment.
- **What are Pulsars?: Pulsars are superdense, rapidly spinning neutron stars left behind when a massive star explodes.** Pulsars are spherical, compact objects that are about the size of a large city but contain more mass than the sun. Scientists are using pulsars to study extreme states of matter, search for planets beyond Earth's solar system and measure cosmic distances. Pulsars also could help scientists find gravitational waves, which could point the way to energetic cosmic events like collisions between supermassive black holes. Discovered in 1967, pulsars are fascinating members of the cosmic community.
- There are many astrophysical phenomena that are either very dim or completely invisible in any form of light that astronomy has relied on for 400 years. Gravitational waves are a powerful new probe of the Universe that uses gravity instead of light to take measure of dynamical astrophysical phenomena. Studying gravitational waves gives enormous potential for discovering the parts of the universe that are invisible by other means, such as black holes, the Big Bang etc. The gravitational wave spectrum covers a broad span of frequencies. A low-frequency range between 0.1 mHz and 1 Hz will help in detecting objects in much wider orbits and potentially much heavier than those in a high-frequency range, opening up the detection realm to a wider range of gravitational wave sources.

### Q 3.B

- Gram Nyayalayas are mobile village courts in India established under Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 for speedy and easy access to justice system in the rural areas of India. They are aimed at providing inexpensive justice to people in rural areas at their doorsteps. **The Act came into force on October 2, 2009** i.e. the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Gram Nyayalaya are courts of Judicial Magistrate of the first class** and its presiding officer (Nyayadhikari) is appointed by the State Government in consultation with the High Court of the State concerned.
- **Gram Nyayalaya exercises the powers of both Criminal and Civil Courts;** i.e., it can try criminal cases, civil suits, claims or disputes which are specified in the First Schedule and the Second Schedule to the Gram Nyayalaya Act and the scope of these cases can be amended by the Central as well as the State Governments, as per their respective legislative competence. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **The Gram Nyayalayas are not bound by the rules of evidence provided in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 . They are guided by the principles of natural justice** and subject to any rule made by the High Court. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Appeal in criminal cases shall lie to the Court of Session,** which shall be heard and disposed of within a period of six months from the date of filing of such appeal. **Appeal in civil cases shall lie to the District Court,** which shall be heard and disposed of within a period of six months from the date of filing of the appeal. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- It is a mobile court. The seat of the Gram Nyayalaya will be located at the headquarters of the intermediate Panchayat, but they will go to villages, work there and dispose of the cases. The Gram Nyayalaya can follow summary procedure for its execution.

### Q 4.B

- **The Windrush generation refers to the immigrants who were invited to the UK between 1948 and 1971 from Caribbean countries such as Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados. While a large proportion of them were of Jamaican/Caribbean descent, they also included Indians and other South Asians.**
- The name derives from the ship MV Empire Windrush, which on June 22, 1948, docked in Tilbury, Essex, bringing nearly 500 Jamaicans to the UK. The immigrants came at the invitation of the British government, which was facing a labour shortage due to the destruction caused by World War II. The 1971 Immigration Act gave Commonwealth citizens who were already living in the UK indefinite leave to remain.

- A scandal over the treatment of members of the Windrush generation has been mounting in recent months as a multitude of reports have come out about mostly elderly people being denied services, losing their jobs and even facing deportation. Many of the Windrush generation had arrived as children on their parents' passports. And although they have lived in Britain for many decades - paying taxes and insurance - they never formally became British citizens.
- The Windrush Scheme enables Commonwealth citizens, their children, and some other long term residents of the UK to obtain documentation confirming their status free of charge. Recently it was reported that more than 450 Indians have confirmed their British citizenship under the government's 'Windrush Scheme'.

#### Q 5.A

- Constitution of India provides for a parliamentary system of government in the states similar to the that of the Union.
- The council of ministers headed by the chief minister is the real executive authority in the state.
- Two important articles in this regard are:
  - Article 163 - deals with the status of the council of ministers
  - Article 164
    - Deals with the appointment, tenure, responsibility, qualifications, oath and salaries and allowances of the ministers.
    - The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister.
- **Deputy CM**
  - At times, the council of ministers may also include a deputy chief minister. However, the post of Deputy Chief Minister does not find mention in the Constitution. It is based upon the discretion of the Chief Minister and not backed by any statute or act. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - The deputy chief ministers are appointed mostly for local political reasons. **They are also appointed by Governor. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- There is no limitation as to how many Deputy CMs can be appointed. Recently In Uttar Pradesh, two Deputy CMs have been appointed. In Karnataka, three Deputy CMs have been appointed.

#### Q 6.D

- Under the Transaction of Business Rules, the Government of India has reconstituted Cabinet Committees (The allocation of the eight committees to various Cabinet Ministers were revised (latest) on June 06, 2019 and are as follows:
  - Appointments Committee of the Cabinet- chaired by the Prime Minister of India
  - Cabinet Committee on Accommodation- **chaired by the Minister of Home Affairs**
  - Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs- chaired by the Prime Minister
  - Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs- chaired by the Minister of Defence
  - Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs- chaired by the **Prime Minister of India**
  - Cabinet Committee on Security- chaired by the **Prime Minister of India**
  - Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth-chaired by the Prime Minister of India and
  - Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development- chaired by the Prime Minister of India

#### Q 7.A

- The Indian constitution provides for detailed scheme regarding the composition and formation of Parliament and state legislature -:
  - **Article 170** of the constitution provides that the legislative assembly of each state shall consist of not more than five hundred and **not less than sixty members** chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the state. **Hence, option 1 is correct.** The constitution also provides for exceptions to the minimum limit in the case of -:
    - Article 371F - Sikkim
      - ❖ The minimum limit is thirty members
    - Article 371G - Mizoram
      - ❖ The minimum limit is forty members.



- Article 371H - Arunachal Pradesh
  - ❖ The minimum limit is thirty members.
- Article 371I - Goa
  - ❖ The minimum limit is thirty members.
- **Article 331** of the constitution provides for nomination to the Lok Sabha. As per it, the President may, if he is of opinion that the Anglo-Indian community is not adequately represented in the House of the People, nominate **not more than two members** of that community to the Lok Sabha. **Hence, option 2 is correct.**
- **Article 80 and 81** of the constitution provides for method of election to the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha from the states i.e. through the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and direct election respectively. However, the constitution does not provide for the method of election of representatives to the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha from the Union Territories. The constitution authorizes the Parliament to decide on the method of election of representatives to the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha from the Union Territories. **Hence, option 3 is not correct.**
- Method of election of representatives to the Rajya Sabha from the Union Territories (UTs).
  - As of now, only two UTs namely National Capital Territory of Delhi and Puducherry send representatives to the Rajya Sabha. These representatives are elected in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
- Method of election of representatives to the Lok Sabha from the UTs is through direct election.

#### Q 8.D

- As per Article 243F, **no person shall be disqualified on the ground that he is less than twenty-five years of age if he has attained the age of twenty-one years.** Hence, a person become eligible for contesting the elections to Panchayats and municipalities after he/she has attained the age of **twenty-one years**. This is in contrast to eligibility for contesting legislative assembly elections and Lok Sabha elections wherein the minimum age required for the candidates is twenty-five years. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- A person shall be disqualified for being a member of a Panchayat if he is so disqualified by or under any law for the time being in force for the purposes of elections to the Legislature of the State concerned or if he is so disqualified by or under any law made by the Legislature of the State.
- If any question arises as to whether a member of a Panchayat has become subject to any of the disqualifications, the question shall be referred for the decision of such authority and in such manner as the Legislature of a State may provide. **Hence statement 2 is not correct**

#### Q 9.B

- **Under Article 239A(1) Parliament may by law create for the Union territory of Puducherry (The Government of Union Territories Act, 1963):**
  - (a) a body, whether elected or partly nominated and partly elected, to function as a Legislature for the Union territory, or
  - (b) a Council of Ministers, or both with such constitution, powers and functions, in each case, as may be specified in the law.
- Article 239A (2) states that any such law (under Article 239A(1)) shall not be deemed to be an amendment of this Constitution for the purposes of article 368 notwithstanding that it contains any provision which amends or has the effect of amending this Constitution.
- Article 239AA (1) states that as from the date of commencement of the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991, the Union territory of Delhi shall be called the National Capital Territory and the administrator thereof appointed under Article 239 shall be designated as the Lieutenant Governor.
- Also, **Article 239AA (2) (a) provides that there shall be a Legislative Assembly for the National Capital Territory** and the seats in such Assembly shall be filled by members chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the National Capital Territory. **Thus NCT legislature has been provided directly under the Constitution itself whereas legislature of Puducherry is provided by the Parliament. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**

- **Section 18 of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 Act**, which deals with “extent of legislative power” of the Puducherry Assembly, says that MLAs “**may make laws for the whole or any part of the Union Territory with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the State List or the Concurrent List**”. Whereas, as provided under **Article 239AA(3) (a) under the constitutional scheme**, the Delhi Assembly has the power to legislate on all subjects except law and order and land. Hence **statement 2 is correct**.

#### Q 10.A

- The constitutional provisions which deal with matter of privy purse are Articles 291 and 362. Article 291 guarantees payment of privy purse from the Consolidated Fund of India in accordance with covenants or agreements entered into with rulers of Indian States before the commencement of the Constitution and also exempts these sums from income-tax. The Article 362 guarantees the rights and privileges of the ex-rulers. **The practise of ‘privy purse’ done away with passing of 26th Amendment to the Constitution of India in 1971.** The then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, argued the case for abolition based on equal rights for all citizens and the need to reduce the Government’s revenue deficit.
- **In Bommai case (1994), the Supreme Court had laid down some guidelines for the imposition of President’s Rule in a state under Article 356. In the same case SC declared Secularism as one of the ‘basic features’ of the Constitution. On the basis of this, a state government pursuing anti-secular politics is liable to action under Article 356.**
- Originally, the Constitution mentioned ‘internal disturbance’ as the third ground for the proclamation of a National Emergency, but the expression was too vague and had a wider connotation. **Hence, the 44th Amendment Act of 1978 substituted the words ‘armed rebellion’ for ‘internal disturbance’.** Thus, it is no longer possible to declare a National Emergency on the ground of ‘internal disturbance’ as was done in 1975 by the Congress government headed by Indira Gandhi.
- **Hence, option a is correct.**

#### Q 11.B

- Recently, Chaukhandi Stupa has been declared of national importance by the Archeological Survey of India (ASI).
- **About Chaukhandi Stupa**
  - It is an **ancient Buddhist site in Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh)**, with a **lofty brick structure crowned with an octagonal tower**.
  - Originally stupa is said to be built by **Emperor Ashoka**.
  - The **octagonal tower on top is a Mughal monument built in 1588 to commemorate Humanyu’s visit to this place**.
- **About National Importance Site**
  - Under Section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958, ancient monuments or archaeological sites which are of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which have been in existence for not less than 100 years may be declared as of national importance.
  - The protection and maintenance of monuments declared as of national importance is taken up by ASI by way of structural repairs, chemical preservation and environmental development around the monument which is a regular and on-going process.

#### Q 12.A

- **Statement 1 is correct:** CAFE or Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency/Economy regulations are in force in many advanced as well as developing nations, including India. They aim at lowering fuel consumption (or improving fuel efficiency) of vehicles by lowering carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, thus serving the twin purposes of reducing dependence on oil for fuel and controlling pollution.
- **Statement 2 is not correct: The norms are applicable for petrol, diesel, LPG and CNG passenger vehicles.** CAFE regulations in India came into force from April 1, 2017. Under this, average corporate CO<sub>2</sub> emission must be less than 130 grams per km till 2022 and below 113 grams per km thereafter.
- Alongside the implementation of the CAFE norms, implementation of BS-VI emission norms from April 2020 onwards and the plan to shift to the mass use of electric vehicles by 2030 are some of the other steps

being taken by the government to reduce pollution. While CAFE regulations focus on reducing CO2 emissions, BS-VI focusses on other harmful exhaust from vehicles.

#### Q 13.D

- The Secretary is the administrative head of a Department and in a Department, the structure may comprise special secretaries, Additional secretaries, Joint secretaries, Directors, Deputy secretaries, under secretaries and section Officers. The functions of each of these are spelt out in the central secretariat Manual of Office Procedure as follows:
  - **Secretary**—A Secretary to the Government of India is the administrative head of the Ministry or Department. He is the principal advisor of the Minister on all matters of policy and administration within his Ministry/ Department, and his responsibility is complete and undivided.
  - **Joint Secretary/ Special Secretary/Additional Secretary**—When the volume of work in a Ministry exceeds the manageable charge of a Secretary, one or more wings may be established with Special Secretary / Additional Secretary /Joint Secretary, in charge of each wing. Such a functionary is entrusted with the maximum measure of independent functioning and responsibility in respect of all business falling within his wing subject, to the general responsibility of the Secretary for the administration of the wing as a whole.
  - **Deputy Secretary/Director/Director/Deputy Secretary** is an officer who acts on behalf of the Secretary. He holds charge of a Secretariat Division and is responsible for the disposal of Government business dealt within the Division under his charge. He should, ordinarily be able to dispose of the majority of cases coming up to him on his own. He should use his discretion in taking orders of the Joint Secretary/Secretary on more important cases, either orally or by submission of papers.
  - **Under Secretary** – An Under Secretary is in charge of the Branch in a Ministry consisting of two or more Sections and in respect thereto exercises control both in regard to the despatch of business and maintenance of discipline. Work comes to him from the sections under his charge. As Branch Officer he disposes of as many cases as possible at his own level but he takes the orders of Deputy Secretary or higher officers on important cases.
- **Hence the correct answer is option (d).**

#### Q 14.C

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Recently, the government has proposed to set up a Defence Space Agency(DSA) to create space warfare weapon systems and technologies. The DSA will be supported by a defence space research organization (DSRO) that should create weapons to deny, degrade, disrupt, destroy or deceive an adversary's space capability.
- **Statement 2 is correct: In March this year, the country had carried out the Anti Satellite Test which demonstrated its capability to shoot down satellites in space. With this missile test, India joined an elite club of four nations with such capability.** The test also helped the country develop deterrence capability against adversaries who may want to attack Indian satellites to cripple systems in times of war.

#### Q 15.D

- **Civil Services Board**
  - They are **mandated by the Supreme Court in Shri T.S.R. Subramanian Vs Union of India Case, 2013**
  - It directed the **Centre, State Governments and the Union Territories** to constitute Civil Services Boards (CSB) with high ranking serving officers, who are specialists in their respective fields. **It is established to consider the postings, transfers, and promotions of civil servants.**
  - It is under the purview of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions. **Hence statements 1 and 2 are not correct.**
  - It is headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

#### Q 16.A

- **State Chief Information Commissioner**
  - The Commission consists of a State Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten State Information Commissioners.
  - They are appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of a committee consisting of:
    - **Chief Minister as Chairperson**

- Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly
- One State Cabinet Minister nominated by the Chief Minister.
- **State Human Rights Commission**
  - The chairperson and members are appointed by the Governor on the recommendations of a committee consisting of:
    - **Chief minister as its head**
    - Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
    - State home minister
    - Leader of the opposition in the Legislative Assembly.
- **The Judges of the High Court**
  - They are appointed by the President.
  - The chief justice is appointed by the President after consultation with the chief justice of India and the governor of the state concerned.
  - For the appointment of other judges, the chief justice of the concerned high court is also consulted. In case of a common high court for two or more states, the governors of all the states concerned are consulted by the president.
  - However, the **Chief Minister is not consulted in the process of appointments of judges of High court.**

#### Q 17.B

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The National Defence Fund was set up to take charge of voluntary donations in cash and kind received for promotion of the national defence effort, and to decide on their utilisation. The Fund is used for the welfare of the members of the Armed Forces (including Para Military Forces) and their dependents.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Fund is administered by an Executive Committee, with PM as Chairperson, and Defence, Finance and Home Ministers as Members.
  - Finance Minister is the Treasurer of the Fund and the Joint Secretary, PMO dealing with the subject is Secretary of the Executive Committee. Accounts of the Fund are kept with the Reserve Bank of India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The fund is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions from the public and does not get any budgetary support. The fund accepts online contributions.
- Recently, Prime Minister approved changes to the 'Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme (PMSS) under the National Defence Fund (NDF).
- PMSS aims to promote technical and post-graduate education for the widows and children of the deceased/ex-service personnel of Armed Forces and Para Military Forces and Railway Protection Force. Now wards of state police officials who were killed during terror/naxal attacks have also been included.
- It is being implemented by the Department of ExServicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence in respect of armed forces. In so far as personnel of paramilitary forces and Railway Protection force are concerned, the scheme is being implemented by Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Railways respectively.

#### Q 18.D

- Caretaker government
  - It is a temporary ad hoc government that performs some governmental duties and functions in a country until a regular government is elected or formed
  - There is no mention of the caretaker government in the Constitution of India.
  - There are, however, conventions and court judgments dealing with its formation and powers.
- Origin
  - The caretaker government is a concept of the Westminster parliamentary system since the days of Churchill.
- It can be installed under certain conditions such as:
  - **Dissolution of the State Assembly or parliament.**
    - Recently in Telangana '(2018 elections), the outgoing government continued as caretaker government till the formation of the new government. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - **The defeat of government over a motion of no-confidence**

- In 1999, Government under PM Vajpayee continued as caretaker government after being defeated by No-Confidence Motion.
- **Party securing maximum seats has yet to prove its majority on the floor of the house. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - After general elections of 2019, BJP won the majority seats. President appointed PM Modi as caretaker prime minister and asked him to form the new government.
  - A vacancy in the office of the President does not necessitate any change in the composition or functioning of the Council of Ministers and thus the government functions (normally) like before. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**

#### Q 19.B

- India has won the unanimous support of all countries in the 55-member Asia-Pacific Group at the United Nations in support of its bid for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council (UNSC) for a two-year term in 2021-22.
- **UNSC Membership**
  - Along with the five permanent members, the Security Council of the United Nations has temporary members that hold their seats on a rotating basis by geographic region.
  - Five permanent members: China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US.
  - The 10 non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis:
    - Five for African and Asian States;
    - One for the Eastern European States;
    - Two for the Latin American and Caribbean States; and
    - Two for Western European and other States.
  - Each year the 193-member of UNGA elects five non-permanent members for a two-year term at the UNSC, with five replaced each year. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - To be approved, a candidate must receive at least two-thirds of all votes cast for that seat, which can result in deadlock if there are two roughly evenly matched candidates. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
  - **A retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - The Asia-Pacific Group gets to nominate one of its members for the 2020 elections to a non-permanent seat of UNSC.
  - Currently the 10 non-permanent members are Belgium, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and South Africa.

#### Q 20.D

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** According to article 118 of the Indian constitution, the President, after consultation with the Chairman of the Council of States and the Speaker of the House of the People, is responsible for making rules regarding procedure with respect to joint sittings.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The Speaker is looked upon as the true guardian of the traditions of parliamentary democracy. However, it is not mandatory for the speaker to resign from his party upon joining his office. In Britain, speakers remain strictly non-partisan and renounce all affiliation with their former political parties when taking office and afterward.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** The speaker can suspend a member of the Lok Sabha without calling for adoption of motion. He may invoke Rule 374A of the Lok Sabha's rules of procedure and conduct of business in case of grave disorder occasioned by a member coming into the well of the House or abusing the Rules of the House or persistently and wilfully obstructing its business by shouting slogans or otherwise. In such a case, the member concerned, on being named by the Speaker, stands automatically suspended from the service of the House for five consecutive sittings or the remainder of the session, whichever is less.

#### Q 21.C

- **Statement 1 is correct:** To protect, promote & preserve various forms of folk art and culture throughout the country including Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand & Odisha, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities & programmes on a regular basis all over the country.



- **Statement 2 is correct:** These Zonal Cultural Centres are established as autonomous bodies under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

#### Q 22.D

- **As per the article 352 (7) a proclamation of emergency may be revoked by the President at any time by a subsequent proclamation. Such a proclamation does not require parliamentary approval.**
- As per the article 352 (8) President must revoke a proclamation if the Lok Sabha passes a resolution disapproving of its continuation. Again, this safeguard was introduced by the 44th Amendment Act of 1978. Before the amendment, a proclamation could be revoked by the president on his own and the Lok Sabha had no control in this regard.
- The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 also provided that, where one-tenth of the total number of members of the Lok Sabha give a written notice to the Speaker (or to the president if the House is not in session), **a special sitting of the House should be held within 14 days** for the purpose of considering a resolution disapproving the continuation of the proclamation. **Hence, both statements are not correct.**

#### Q 23.B

- The constitution and composition of wards Committees, etc is provided under Article 243S of the Indian Constitution.
- Article 243S(1) says that there shall be constituted Wards Committees, consisting of one or more wards, within the territorial area of a Municipality having a population of three lakhs or more. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Related Information on Wards Committee:**
  - Article 243S(2) states that the **State legislature may, by law, make provision with respect to:**
    - the **composition** and the territorial area of a Wards Committee
    - the **manner in which the seats in a Wards Committee shall be filled.** Hence statement 2 is correct.
  - Article 243S(3) : A member of a Municipality representing a ward within the territorial area of the Wards Committee shall be a member of that Committee.
  - Article 243S(4) : Where a Wards Committee consists of (a) one ward, the member representing that ward in the Municipality; or (b) two or more wards, one of the members representing such wards in the Municipality elected by the members of the Wards Committee shall be the Chairperson of that Committee.
  - Article 243S(5) : Nothing in this article shall be deemed to prevent the Legislature of a State from making any provision for the constitution of Committees in addition to the Wards Committees.

#### Q 24.B

- The provision for National Emergency is provided for under Article 352 of the Constitution. **The President can declare a national emergency only if the Cabinet recommends in writing to do so.** Such a proclamation of emergency has to be approved by both the Houses of Parliament by an absolute majority of the total membership of the Houses, as well as 2/3rd majority of members present and voting within one month, otherwise, the proclamation ceases to operate.
- While a proclamation of national emergency is in operation, **the President can modify the constitutional distribution of revenues between the centre and the states. President can either reduce or cancel the transfer of finances from the Centre to the states.** Such modification continues till the end of the financial year in which the Emergency ceases to operate.
- **While a proclamation of national emergency is in operation, the President can issue ordinances on the state subjects also, if the Parliament is not in session.**
- **Article 359 authorises the president to suspend the right to move any court for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights during a National Emergency.** The suspension of enforcement relates to only those Fundamental Rights that are specified in the Presidential Order. The said rights are theoretically alive but the right to seek remedy is suspended. Suspension could be for the period during the operation of

emergency or for a shorter period as mentioned in the order, and the suspension order may extend to the whole or any part of the country. **It should be laid before each House of Parliament for approval.**

- **Hence, statements 1 and 3 are not correct and statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 25.C

- The criteria for leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha was spelt out initially by GV Mavalankar, the first Lok Sabha speaker. He had ruled in the Lok Sabha that the strength of the main Opposition party, to be officially recognised as such, must be equal to the quorum of the house which is equivalent to 10 per cent of the members.
- Subsequently, the statutory definition of the leader of opposition, however, came with the Salary and Allowances of Leader of Opposition Act of 1977. It said the Leader of Opposition will be from the Opposition party having the greatest numerical strength and recognised as such by the Lok Sabha Speaker or the Rajya Sabha Chairperson in the respective houses. While this act did not set the 10 per cent condition but Mavalankar's was a ruling of the Speaker and was enforceable as law. Mavalankar rule was finally incorporated in Direction 121(1) in Parliament (Facilities) Act 1998. This rule remains unchanged. **Consequently, leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha must be from a opposition party having at least 10 percent of the seats in the house and recognized as such by the Lok Sabha Speaker. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha is a member of committees entrusted with the responsibility of selecting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC), **Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)**, Director of CBI and Lokpal. In addition, the committees for selection of CVC and CIC also provide for the inclusion of the leader of the largest opposition party in case there is no recognized leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were recognized for the first time in the year 1969. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 26.C

- Constitution empowers the Parliament to make laws on any matter enumerated in the State List especially under extraordinary circumstances.
  - When the President's rule (under article 356) is imposed in a state, the Parliament becomes empowered to make laws with respect to any matter in the State List in relation to that state. A law made by the Parliament continues to be operative even after the President's rule. This means that the period for which such a law remains in force is not co-terminus with the duration of the President's rule. But, such a law can be repealed or altered or re-enacted by the state legislature. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - When the national emergency is in operation in country or part of it (352 article), Parliament acquires the power to legislate with respect to matters in the State List from article 250 of the constitution. The laws made on state list become inoperative on the expiration of six months after the emergency has ceased to operate. Hence, state legislatures are not required to repeal a law as it automatically dissolved after emergency. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - As per article 253 of the constitution, Parliament can make laws on any matter in the State List for implementing the international treaties, agreements or conventions. This provision enables the Central government to fulfill its international obligations and commitments. This is exclusive power of Parliament, the state government can not interfere in it. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 27.C

- As per Art 243C, the Chairperson of a panchayat at the village level shall be elected in such manner as the Legislature of a State provides.
- As per Art 243C, all the seats in a Panchayat shall be filled by persons chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the Panchayat area. **Hence option 3 is correct.**



- As per Article 243R, the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide for the manner of election of the Chairperson of a Municipality. That is, the states may provide for indirect elections as well. **Hence options 1 and 2 are not correct.**
- The Legislature of a State may, by law, provide for the representation:
  - of the Chairpersons of the Panchayats at the village level, in the Panchayats at the intermediate level or, in the case of a State not having Panchayats at the intermediate level, in the Panchayats at the district level;
  - of the Chairpersons of the Panchayats at the intermediate level, in the Panchayats at the district level;
  - of the members of the House of the People and the members of the Legislative Assembly of the State representing constituencies which comprise wholly or partly a Panchayat area at a level other than the village level, in such Panchayat;
  - of the members of the Council of States and the members of the Legislative Council of the State, where they are registered as electors within.

#### Q 28.B

- For the Census of India 2011, the definition of urban area is as follows:
  - **All places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee, etc. This category of urban units is known as Statutory Towns.** These towns are notified under law by the concerned State/UT Government and have local bodies like municipal corporations, municipalities, municipal committees, etc., irrespective of their demographic characteristics as reckoned on 31st December 2009. Examples: Vadodara Municipal Corporation, Shimla Municipal Corporation etc.
  - Census Towns: All other places which satisfied the following criteria:
    - A minimum population of 5,000;
    - At least 75 per cent of the male main working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits; and
    - A density of population of at least 400 persons per sq. km.

#### Q 29.D

- Option (a) is correct: The tenth schedule to the Indian Constitution, that is popularly referred to as the **'Anti-Defection Law'** was inserted in 1985 during the Prime Ministership of Rajiv Gandhi.
- It lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection by the Presiding Officer of a legislature based on a petition by any other member of the House. A legislator is deemed to have defected if he either voluntarily gives up the membership of his party or disobeys the directives of the party leadership on a vote. This implies that a legislator defying (abstaining or voting against) the party whip on any issue can lose his membership of the House. The law applies to both Parliament and state assemblies.
- It provides for the following grounds for disqualification:
  - If a member of a house belonging to a political party:
    - Voluntarily gives up the membership of his political party, or
    - Votes, or does not vote in the legislature, contrary to the directions of his political party. However, if the member has taken prior permission, or is condoned by the party within 15 days from such voting or abstention, the member shall not be disqualified.
    - If an independent candidate joins a political party after the election.
    - **If a nominated member joins a party six months after he becomes a member of the legislature. Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- **Option (c) is correct: It is also applicable for activities outside Parliament.** This was witnessed in the case of disqualification of Sharad Yadav and Ali Anwar as Rajya Sabha members. The Rajya Sabha chairman agreed to the JD(U)'s contention that the two senior leaders had "voluntarily given up" their membership by defying their party's directives and attending events of opposition parties. The JD(U) had sought their disqualification on the grounds that they had attended a rally of opposition parties in Patna in violation of its direction.

- **Option (d) is not correct:** The party can issue a whip for a Rajya Sabha candidate, but anti-defection law provisions do not apply, and a defiant MLA is not disqualified from membership of the House. **The Supreme Court has in the past held that open ballot votes in Rajya Sabha elections against the whip will not lead to disqualification as the Tenth Schedule, pertaining to anti-defection provisions, has a different purpose.**

#### Q 30.B

- 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 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
  - **Devolution from the State Government based on the recommendations of the State Finance Commission as per Article 243-I. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - Loans / grants from the State Government.
  - **Programme-specific allocation under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Additional Central Assistance. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - Internal Resource Generation (tax and non-tax).
- Taxes on the sale or purchase of newspapers and on advertisements published therein is a subject under the Union List in Schedule seven of the Constitution of India. It does not lie under the purview of the Panchayats. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 31.C

- The President is elected not directly by the people but by members of an electoral college consisting of:
  - the elected members of both the Houses of Parliament;
  - the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states; and
  - the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry
    - CM of Delhi is covered under this category. **Hence statement 1 is correct and 3 is not correct.**
- The Representation of the People Act, 1951
  - It provides for the conduct of the election of the Houses of Parliament and to State Legislatures
  - Qualifications and disqualifications for membership of those Houses
  - The corrupt practices and other offenses at or in connection with such elections
- Supreme Court in Lily Thomas Case, 2013 held that members convicted in a criminal case stand disqualified from the membership of the House immediately from the date of conviction. Hence they would not be able to vote in the election for President. The Supreme court had said that the charge sheet in a criminal case is not a ground to disqualify a politician for seeking votes and becoming a legislator. Thus politicians facing criminal charges are not debarred from contesting elections. Also levelling of charges against an MLA does not lead to his disqualification until and unless he is convicted of any crime. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 32.D

- The individuals contesting elections have to file an affidavit, declaring
  - their criminal records (if any),
  - assets & liabilities and
  - educational qualification.
- However, after getting elected, members of Parliament are required to file a declaration of assets and liabilities with the Speaker of Lok Sabha and the Chairman of Rajya Sabha.
- **Statement 1 and 2 are correct:** The rules to this effect were made in 2004 under the **Representation of Peoples Act, 1951**. These declarations have to be made by MPs within 90 days of taking their seat in Parliament. Every elected member is required to furnish declaration regarding the assets of self, of their spouse and dependent children.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Rajya Sabha rules specify that the declarations made by MPs shall be **made available to any person with the written permission of the Chairman**. The rules also specify that Rajya Sabha MPs are required to update their declarations every year. The Lok Sabha rules specify that the declarations made by the Lok Sabha MPs shall be treated as confidential and **shall not be made available to any person without the written permission of the Speaker**.

#### Q 33.C

- **The World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights**, is a biennial report published by the **Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs**, provides a comprehensive overview of global demographic patterns and prospects. The study concluded that the world's population could reach its peak around the end of the current century, at a level of nearly 11 billion.
- Key Highlights from the report are:
  - The next 30 years will see the population add 2 billion people to today's 7.7 billion, and reach 11 billion by the end of the century. The countries expected to show the biggest increase are India, Nigeria and Pakistan.
    - India is set to overtake China as the most populous country by 2027. The demographic dividend of Indian will peak by 2047.
  - The average number of births per woman globally, from 3.2 in 1990, fell to 2.5 by 2019 and is projected to fall further to 2.2 births by 2050.
  - In 2018, for the first time, persons aged 65 years or over worldwide outnumbered children under age five. Projections indicate that by 2050, there will be more than twice as many persons above 65 as children under five. By 2050, the number of persons aged 65 or over will also surpass the number of adolescents and youth aged 15-24.
  - Although overall life expectancy will increase (from 64.2 years in 1990 to 77.1 years in 2050), life expectancy in poorer countries is projected to continue to lag behind. Today, the average lifespan of a baby born in one of the least developed countries will be some 7 years shorter than one born in a developed country.
  - The populations of 55 countries are projected to decrease by 1% or more between 2019 and 2050 because of sustained low levels of fertility, and, in some places, high rates of emigration.
  - Males are projected to continue to outnumber females until the end of the century, but the gap will close.

#### Q 34.A

- The provision for National Emergency is provided for under Article 352 of the Constitution. The article 352 deals with constitutional provisions to be applied, whenever there is an extraordinary situation that may threaten the peace, security, stability and governance of the country or a part thereof.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** According to article 352, a proclamation of national emergency may be applicable to the entire country or only a part of it. The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 enabled the President to limit the operation of a National Emergency to a specified part of India.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** According to article 353, when an emergency is declared not in the whole of India but only in a part of India, the executive power of the Centre to give directions, and the power of Parliament to make laws can extend not only to the State in which the territory under emergency lies but also to any other state.

#### Q 35.C

- Articles 153 to 167 in Part VI of the Constitution deal with the state executive which consists of:
  - Governor
  - Chief minister
  - Council of ministers
  - Advocate general of the state.
- There is no office of vice-governor (in the state) like that of Vice-President at the Centre.
- Usually, there is a governor for each state, but the 7th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956 facilitated the appointment of the same person as a governor for two or more states. **Hence option (a) is not correct**

*Source Channel*

*<https://t.me/visionpt3652019>*

- The Constitution does not lay down any grounds upon which a governor may be removed by the President. **Hence option (c) is correct**
- The Constitution provides the following eligibilities for governor:
  - He should be a citizen of India.
  - He should have completed the age of 35 years.
- Additionally, two **conventions** have also developed in this regard over the years.
  - He **should be an outsider**, that is, he should not belong to the state where he is appointed so that he is free from the local politics. **Hence option (b) is not correct**
  - While appointing the governor, the president is required to consult the chief minister of the state concerned, so that the smooth functioning of the constitutional machinery in the state is ensured.
  - However, both the conventions have been violated in some of the cases.
- Council of Ministers is headed by the Chief Minister. Moreover, the Chief Minister is the one who recommends to the governor for the appointment of other ministers. **Hence option (d) is not correct**

#### Q 36.A

- **Scientists from the University of Kerala have decoded the genetic make-up of Arogyapacha (Trichopus zeylanicus), a highly potent medicinal plant endemic to the Agasthya hills.**
- Arogyapaacha is a small rhizomatous, perennial herb distributed in Sri Lanka, Southern India and Malaysia.
  - In India, it is found at an altitude of around 1000 meters.
  - Within India, the plant is endemic to the region of the Western Ghats that falls in the Thiruvananthapuram district of the State of Kerala and the Tirunelveli district of the State of Tamil Nadu.
- This 'miracle plant' is known for its traditional use by the Kani tribal community to combat fatigue. Studies have also proved its varied spectrum of pharmacological properties such as anti-oxidant, aphrodisiac, anti-microbial, anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory, anti-tumour, anti-ulcer, anti-hyperlipidemic, hepatoprotective and anti-diabetic.
- The Kani tribal people live in the forests of the Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala. The Kanis are reported traditionally to be a nomadic community but most of them are well settled now for along time.
- Jeevani" is a restorative, immuno-enhancing, anti-stress and anti-fatigue agent, based on the herbal medicinal plant arogyapaacha, used by the Kani tribals in their traditional medicine.
- Within the Kani tribe, the customary rights to transfer and practice certain traditional medicinal knowledge are held by tribal healers, known as Plathis.
- In Malayalam, arogyapacha means 'health green'.

#### Q 37.D

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The setting up of Contingency fund of India is not mandatory under the Indian constitution unlike the Consolidated fund of India and Public Account of India. **Article 267 of the Indian constitution says that Parliament may by law establish a Contingency Fund** to be entitled "the Contingency Fund of India". In addition, this fund shall be placed at the disposal of the President to enable advances to be made by him out of such fund for the purposes of meeting unforeseen expenditure pending authorisation of such expenditure by Parliament. In this context, the Parliament has enacted the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950 to set up the the Contingency fund of India.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs holds the fund on behalf of the President. While earlier the fund had a limit of Rs 50 crore, it was raised to Rs 500 crore in the last decade. Parliamentary approval for such unforeseen expenditure is obtained, ex-post-facto and an equivalent amount is drawn from the Consolidated Fund of India to recoup the Contingency Fund after such ex-post-facto approval.

#### Q 38.B

- Subsidiarity as "a principle states that a central authority should have a subsidiary function, performing only those tasks which cannot be performed at a more local level."
- **The Principle of Subsidiarity (PoS) stipulates: functions shall be carried out closest to citizens at the smallest unit of governance possible and delegated upwards only when the local unit cannot perform the task.**
- The citizen delegates those functions he cannot perform, to the community, functions that the community cannot discharge are passed on to local governments in the smallest tiers, and so on, from smaller tiers to

larger tiers, from local government to the State Governments, and from the States to the Union. In this scheme, the citizen and the community are the centre of governance. In place of traditional hierarchies, there will be ever-enlarging concentric circles of government and delegation is outward depending on necessity.

- **Hence only statement 2 is correct.**

**Q 39.B**

- **State council of ministers**
  - Article 163 deals with the status of the council of ministers
  - Article 164 deals with the appointment, tenure, responsibility, qualifications, oath and salaries and allowances of the ministers.
- **Size of the state council of ministers or the ranking of ministers**
  - **The Constitution does not specify the size of the state council of ministers or the ranking of ministers. Hence option 2 is not correct.**
  - They are determined by the chief minister according to the exigencies of the time and requirements of the situation.
- **The maximum strength of the Council of Minister**
  - It is defined through the 91st Amendment Act of 2003.
  - **The total number of ministers, including the chief minister, in the council of ministers in a state, shall not exceed 15 percent of the total strength of the legislative assembly of that state. Hence option 1 is correct.**
  - The number of ministers, including the chief minister, in a state, shall not be less than 12.
- **The portfolios (departments and responsibilities) assigned to a particular minister is not defined in the Constitution. They are assigned by the Chief Minister. Hence option 3 is not correct.**

**Q 40.B**

- Article 74 provides for a council of Minister headed by Prime Minister to aid and advise the President.
  - Before the Prime Minister enters upon his office, the president administers to him the oaths of office and secrecy. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Article 75 states that the Prime Minister shall be appointed by the president.
  - However, this does not imply that the president is free to appoint anyone as the Prime Minister.
  - **In accordance with the conventions** of the parliamentary system of government, the President has to appoint the leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha as the Prime Minister. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - But, when no party has a clear majority in the Lok Sabha, then the President may exercise his personal discretion in the selection and appointment of the Prime Minister.
- **Leader of the House**
  - The term Leader of the House has been defined in Rules of Procedure of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
  - 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. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - 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. If PM is a member of the upper house, he becomes its leader.

**Q 41.A**

- **Recently, the Chhattisgarh government is processing habitat rights for Abujh Marias, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).** Abujhmarh, where this tribe lives, is considered by the government to be one of the last remaining strongholds of Left-wing extremism. The Abujhmarh forest is spread over 1,500 square miles in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh.
- The FRA has a provision that says, "In view of the differential vulnerability of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs) among the forest dwellers, the District Level Committee should play a pro-active



role in ensuring that all PTGs receive habitat rights in consultation with the concerned PTGs' traditional institutions of these groups, after filing claims before the gram sabha”.

- Habitat is defined under the act as, “the area comprising the customary habitat and such other habitats in reserved forests and protected forests of primitive tribal groups and pre-agricultural communities and other forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes.”
- **Statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is not correct:** The Ministry of Tribal affairs further clarifies the scope and extent of the definition of habitat rights in the context of PVTG in a FAQ released in the year 2012: “**The right to community tenures of habitat and habitation may be recognized over customary territories used by the PVTG for habitation, livelihoods, social, economic, spiritual, cultural and other purposes. In some cases, the habitats of PTGs may overlap with forest and other rights of other people/communities**”.

#### Q 42.B

- The Chief whip is responsible for administering the whipping system that ensures the members to attend the meetings of the House of Legislature for their support on any important matter during division on the Floor of the House, as the party leadership desires.
- **Statement 1 is not correct:** While there is no mention of office of 'Whip' in the Indian constitution, it has been given a statutory status by the Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Act, 1998. It is related to facilities to Leaders and Chief Whips of recognised parties and groups in Parliament.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Government Chief Whip has some very important duties concerning the mapping, monitoring and management of government business in the House. After the start of the Session, the main function of the Government Chief Whip is to ensure that the Government business is transacted in accordance with the planned program. It is part of his duty to advise the Government on parliamentary business and procedure and to maintain a close liaison with Ministers in regard to business which affects their departments.
- Another important function of the Government Chief Whip is to constantly feel the pulse of the House and apprise the leader of the government about the happenings in the House. They keep in close touch with the Whips of the other parties also on matters concerning the business in the House.

#### Q 43.C

- Transfer of resources to states by the Centre are done to avert regional inequalities and correct fiscal imbalances. **Redistributive Resource Transfers thus is defined as gross devolution to the states (by the Centre) adjusted for the respective state's share in aggregate GDP( Gross Domestic Product).**
- Redistributive Resource Transfers are the state's share in aggregate gross domestic product and serve as a useful measure of “aid”. Economic Survey (2016-17) pointed out that there is no evidence of a positive relationship between these transfers and various economic outcomes, including per capita consumption, GSDP growth, development of manufacturing, own tax revenue effort, and institutional quality. Thus, it suggested that Redistributive Resource Transfers should be significantly linked to fiscal and governance efforts on the part of the States.

#### Q 44.C

- Our Constitution provides a clear mandate for democratic decentralisation not only through the Directive Principles of State Policy which exhorts the State to promote Panchayati Raj Institutions but more specifically now through the 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution which seek to create an institutional framework for ushering in grass roots democracy through the medium of genuinely self-governing local bodies in both urban and rural areas of the country.
- Thus, the Constitution through 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 aims to provide for :
  - Gram Sabha in a village or group of villages;
  - Constitution of Panchayats at village and other level or levels;
  - Reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in proportion to their population for membership of Panchayats and office of Chairpersons in Panchayats at each level;
  - **Reservation of not less than one-third of the seats for women; hence option 3 is correct.**
  - fixing tenure of 5 years for Panchayats and holding elections within a period of 6 months in the event of supersession of any Panchayat;

- **devolution by the State Legislature of powers and responsibilities upon the Panchayats with respect to the preparation of plans for economic developments and social justice and for the implementation of development schemes; hence option 2 is not correct.**
- sound finance of the Panchayats by securing authorisation from State Legislatures for grants-in-aid to the Panchayats from the Consolidated Fund of the State, as also assignment to, or appropriation by, the Panchayats of the revenues of designated taxes, duties, tolls and fees; etc
- Political accountability of state executive is not a novel feature introduced through the insertion of Part IX but was already been ensured through various mechanisms since the adoption of the Constitution e.g. removal of Chief Minister, state council of ministers, appointment and removal of Governor, etc. **Hence option 1 is not correct.**

#### Q 45.A

- Article 246 of the Constitution demarcated the powers of the Union and the State by classifying their powers into 3 lists, i.e. (i) Union List- on which the Centre has the exclusive jurisdiction to make laws (ii) State list, on which states have exclusive jurisdiction to make laws and (iii) Concurrent List – on which both centre and state can make laws and as stated above, the central law prevails over state in cases of repugnancy.
- According to Article 246A Parliament has exclusive power to make laws with respect to goods and services tax where the supply of goods, or services, or both takes place in the course of inter-State trade or commerce.
- According to Article 269A Goods and services tax on supplies in the course of inter-State trade or commerce shall be levied and collected by the Government of India and such tax shall be apportioned between the Union and the States in the manner as may be provided by Parliament by law on the recommendations of the Goods and Services Tax Council. **Hence, statement 1 is correct and 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 46.B

- According to article 279A, Goods and Services Tax Council shall make recommendations to the Union and the States on—
  - the taxes, cesses and surcharges levied by the Union, the States and the local bodies which may be subsumed in the goods and services tax;
  - the goods and services that may be subjected to, or exempted from the goods and services tax;
  - model Goods and Services Tax Laws, principles of levy, apportionment of Goods and Services Tax levied on supplies in the course of inter-State trade or commerce under article 269A and the principles that govern the place of supply;
  - the threshold limit of turnover below which goods and services may be exempted from goods and services tax;
  - the rates including floor rates with bands of goods and services tax;
  - **any special rate or rates for a specified period, to raise additional resources during any natural calamity or disaster;**
  - special provision with respect to the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand; **and**
  - **The Goods and Services Tax Council shall recommend the date on which the goods and services tax be levied on petroleum crude, high-speed diesel, motor spirit (commonly known as petrol), natural gas and aviation turbine fuel.**
  - **The Goods and Services Tax Council shall establish a mechanism to adjudicate any dispute —**
    - between the Government of India and one or more States;
    - or between the Government of India and any State or States on one side and one or more other States on the other side;
    - or between two or more States, arising out of the recommendations of the Council or implementation thereof.
    - any other matter relating to the goods and services tax, as the Council may decide.



- **The National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA)** is the institutional mechanism under GST law to check the unfair profit-making activities by the trading community. The Authority's core function is to ensure that the benefits of the reduction in GST rates on goods and services made by GST Council and proportional change in the Input tax credit passed on to the ultimate consumers and recipient respectively by way of reduction in the prices by the suppliers. **Hence, option b is the right answer.**

#### Q 47.B

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Policy on Strategic Partnerships in Defence sector intends to promote Indian private sector participation in defence manufacturing. The concept of this model was first suggested by the Dhirendra Singh Committee.
  - The partnership model broadly involves creating two separate pools of Indian private companies and foreign Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEMs).
  - The policy aims to promote Joint ventures between the indigenous private sector and global defence majors.
  - These few Indian private companies will be designated as Strategic Partners (SP) that would assume the role of system integrators and also lay a strong defence industrial foundation. The Government will co-opt them for 'Buy and Make' and Government-to-Government procurement programmes.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The policy on Strategic Partnerships in Defence sector was approved by Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) in May, 2017. It was promulgated on 31.05.2017 as Chapter-VII of Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) – 2016 titled as 'Revitalising Defence Industrial Ecosystem through Strategic Partnerships'. The Strategic Partnership Model (SPM) is a different category of Capital Acquisition in addition to the existing categories as mentioned in Chapter-I of DPP-2016 i.e. 'Buy (Indian-IDDM)'; 'Buy (Indian)'; 'Buy & Make (Indian)'; 'Buy & Make' and 'Buy (Global)'.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The following four segments have been identified for acquisition under the Strategic Partnership (SP) route:
  - Fighter Aircraft
  - Helicopters
  - Submarines
  - Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs) / Main Battle Tanks (MBTs).

#### Q 48.D

- A government can function only when it has majority support in the Lok Sabha. The party can remain in power when it shows its strength through a floor test which is primarily taken to know whether the executive enjoys the confidence of the legislature.
- If any member of the House feels that the government in power does not have a majority then he/she can move a no-confidence motion. If the motion is accepted, then the party in power has to prove its majority in the House. The member need not give a reason for moving the no-confidence motion.
- A no-confidence motion can be moved by any member of the House. It can be moved only in the Lok Sabha and not Rajya Sabha.
- **Option (a) is correct:** While it is not mentioned in the Indian constitution, rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Lok Sabha specifies the procedure for moving a no-confidence motion.
- If the **Speaker is of opinion that the motion is in order**, the Speaker shall read the motion to the house and shall request those members who are in favour of leave being granted to rise in their places, and if not less than fifty members rise accordingly, the Speaker shall declare that leave is granted and that the motion will be taken upon such day, not being more than ten days from the date on which the leave is asked for as the Speaker may appoint. If less than fifty members rise, the Speaker shall inform that the member has not the leave of the House. Therefore, the Speaker only has to verify if the motion is in order or not; it is the House which grants the final leave to admit the motion. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- **Option (c) is correct:** A no-confidence motion need not set out any grounds on which it is based. Even when grounds are mentioned in the notice and read out in the House, they do not form part of the no-confidence motion

- **Option (d) is not correct:** There is no such provision for the introduction of a compulsory provision for a confidence motion. The Law Commission of India in its One Hundred Seventieth Report on Reform of Electoral Laws(1999) has suggested simultaneous motion of non-confidence in the incumbent government as well as confidence in alternative government by inserting Rule 198A in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha to eliminate the need for midterm election and ensure stability of government.

#### Q 49.A

- **Article 243R provides that the Legislature of a State may provide for the representation of a few persons in a Municipality without having the right to vote in the meetings of the Municipality. These are:**
  - **persons having special knowledge or experience in municipal administration**
  - **the members of the House of the People and the members of the Legislative Assembly of the State representing constituencies which comprise wholly or partly the Municipal area**
  - the members of the Council of States and the members of the Legislative Council of the State registered as electors within the Municipal area;
  - the Chairpersons of the Committees constituted under clause (5) of article 243S:
- Persons having the knowledge or practical experience in the field of art, science, literature or social service: This criterion is required for persons represented in the legislative councils of the state through nomination by the Governor. **Hence only statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 50.C

- **Scheduled Areas under Schedule V**
  - The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in any state except the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
  - Special system of administration for 'scheduled areas' and 'tribal areas' is envisaged under Article 244 in Part X of the Constitution.
  - **Power to declare an area to be a scheduled area is vested with the President. Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**
  - He can also increase or decrease its area, alter its boundary lines, rescind such designation or make fresh orders for such redesignation on an area in consultation with the governor of the state concerned.
- **Tribal Areas under Schedule VI**
  - The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
  - The tribal areas in the four states have been constituted as autonomous districts.
  - The governor is empowered to organize and re-organize the autonomous districts. Thus, he can increase or decrease their areas or change their names or define their boundaries and so on.

#### Q 51.C

- **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs**
  - In a Parliamentary form of Government, the day-to-day working of the Parliamentary system makes large claims on time and resources of the various Ministries/Departments. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is one of the key Ministries of the Union Government. The task of efficiently handling diverse and enormous parliamentary work on behalf of the Government in the Parliament has been assigned to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
  - The Ministry renders secretarial assistance to the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, which, inter-alia recommends prorogation of both the Houses of the Parliament, Govt's stand on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.
  - **The Ministry pursues with the other Ministries for prompt and proper implementation of assurances given by Ministers in the Parliament. Hence, option 3 is correct.**
  - There are also several other items of work allocated to this Ministry which involve liaison between Members of Parliament, two Secretariats of Parliament and the various Ministries.
- Nominations to Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha are within the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Elections to Parliament are within the purview of the Ministry of Law and Justice. **Hence, option 1 and 2 are not correct.**

**Q 52.A**

- High-Level Advisory Group (HLAG) headed by Dr Surjit S. Bhalla has been constituted by the Department of Commerce. The HLAG has made several recommendations for boosting India's share and importance in global merchandise and services trade. Among other things, the Report identifies tax reforms also to boost export and investment channels for exports.
- The Committee has recommended "Elephant Bonds" as a specialised security product providing funds towards Long Term Infrastructure.
- HLAG has also made recommendations for reforms in Financial Services Framework for making India a Preferred Destination for financial services.

**Q 53.B**

- Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS) is a Central Sector Plan Scheme under Ministry of Panchayati Raj being implemented since 2005-06. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- It aims at:
  - incentivization of States for devolving funds, functions and functionaries (3Fs) to Panchayats and
  - incentivization of Panchayats to put in place accountability systems to make their functioning transparent and efficient. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The scheme is 100% centrally funded.
- Under PEAIS, State Governments/UTs are ranked on a Devolution Index(DI) which measures the extent of devolution of 3Fs by States to Panchayats. States are ranked on the DI through a study conducted by an independent organization. Since 2011-12, best performing Panchayats in the country have also been incentivized. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The assessment of States along the DI follows a two-stage process. The States that fulfil mandatory provisions of the Constitution qualify for further assessment on the extent of devolution.

**Q 54.D**

- **A project called Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) has been undertaken by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under the Ministry of Communications to help mobile phone users trace their stolen or lost mobile phones.** This project is aimed at blocking of reported lost or stolen mobile phones across mobile networks, discouraging their theft, as well as facilitating in tracing of such phones.
- All mobile phones have a unique International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number which is used to identify them. Because IMEI is reprogrammable, some miscreants do reprogram the IMEI number, which results in the cloning of IMEI causing multiple phone devices with same IMEI number. As on date, there are many cases of cloned/ duplicated IMEI handsets in the network. It is for this purpose that the CEIR (website) project has been undertaken, apart from helping address security, theft, and other concerns.
- Under the project, DoT, will have a database of all IMEI numbers in India since 2017. It will also have access to GSM Association's (GSMA) worldwide database of IMEI numbers to compare and detect mobile phone with counterfeit IMEI numbers.

**Q 55.A**

- Prime Minister (PM) is the real executive authority (de facto executive). He is the most powerful among the council of Ministers.
- However, he has the following limitations:
  - Article 75 of the Constitution says that the council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. It means that the ministry stays in the office so long as it enjoys the confidence of the majority of the members of the Lok Sabha. In other words, the Lok Sabha can remove the ministry from office by passing a no-confidence motion.

- No confidence motion can only be introduced and voted upon in Lok Sabha. If the PM is a member of the Rajya Sabha, he shall not be able to vote upon it. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- A person who is not a member of either House of Parliament can also be appointed as a minister. But, within six months, he must become a member (either by election or by nomination) of either House of Parliament, otherwise, he ceases to be a minister. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- On the recommendation of the Rules Committee of the Lok Sabha, 17 Departmentally-Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) were set up in the parliament in 1993. In 2004, seven more such committees were set up, thus increasing their number from 17 to 24. The main objective of the standing committees is to secure more accountability of the Executive (i.e., the Council of Ministers) to the Parliament, particularly financial accountability. They also assist the Parliament in debating the budget more effectively. Each standing committee consists of 31 members (21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha). The members of the Lok Sabha are nominated by the Speaker from amongst its own members, just as the members of the Rajya Sabha are nominated by the Chairman from amongst its members. **A minister is not eligible to be nominated as a member of any of the standing committees.** In case a member, after his nomination to any of the standing committees, is appointed a minister, he then ceases to be a member of the committee. The term of office of each standing committee is one year from the date of its constitution. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

#### Q 56.B

- **Lok Sabha**
  - In the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House, anyone from the panel of Chairpersons may preside over the House. **This panel is nominated by the Lok Sabha Speaker.** Usually, ten members are part of the panel of chairpersons.
- **Rajya Sabha**
  - **The Chairman shall, from time to time, nominate** from amongst the members of the Council a panel of not more than six Vice-Chairmen, any one of whom may preside over the Council in the absence of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman when so requested by the Chairman, or in his absence, by the Deputy Chairman.
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 57.C

- Vice President of India inaugurated India's first proton therapy centre in Chennai for the treatment of Cancer. With this India becomes 16th country in the world to offer the therapy.
- **About Proton Therapy**
  - **It is a type of radiation therapy which uses protons rather than x-rays to treat cancer.**
  - It is considered as one of the most advanced forms of external beam radiation therapy for cancer treatment in the world. It is also known as Proton Beam Therapy and offers high levels of precision as compared to other treatment options.
  - It is particularly effective for paediatric cancers and tumours affecting the brain, eye, colon, breast, gastrointestinal area, pelvis, and prostate and those close to the spinal cord, brain stem and other vital organs.

#### Q 58.C

- Article 248 (2) of the Constitution of India says that the Parliament has exclusive power to make any law with respect to any matter not enumerated in List II and III. Such power shall include the power of making any law imposing a tax not mentioned in either of those lists. Residuary power of legislation includes the power to levy residuary taxes. As it is vested in Centre, Constitution has made the Centre very strong that shows the unitary character of Indian polity.
- India has adopted some of the features from the Constitution of Canada like the
  - Federation with a strong Centre

- vesting of residuary powers in the Centre
- the appointment of state governors by the Centre, and
- advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
- **Hence both the statements are correct.**

#### Q 59.C

- The Doctrine of Occupied Field simply refers to those legislative entries of State List, which are expressly made 'subject' to a corresponding Entry in either the Union List or the Concurrent List.
- As per the doctrine of "occupied field" enshrined in Article 254(1) of the Constitution, if there exists a Central law on a concurrent subject, then a State law cannot override it.
- **Hence, the option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 60.D

- Article 243-U of the Indian Constitution provides for the duration of municipalities, etc.
- The Article 243-U(1) provides that every Municipality unless sooner dissolved under any law for the time being in force, shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and no longer; provided that a municipality shall be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard before its dissolution. **Hence statements (a) and (b) are correct.**
- Article 243-U(2) provides that no amendment of any law for the time being in force shall have the effect of causing dissolution of a Municipality at any level, which is functioning immediately before such amendment, till the expiration of its duration specified in clause (1). Therefore no retrospective laws can be brought to dissolve municipalities. **Hence statement (d) is not correct.**
- Article 243-U(3) provides that an election to constitute a Municipality shall be completed.
  - before the expiry of its duration specified in clause (1);
  - before the expiration of a period of six months from the date of its dissolution: provided that where the remainder of the period for which the dissolved Municipality would have continued is less than six months, it shall not be necessary to hold any election under this clause for constituting the municipality for such period. **Hence statement (c) is correct.**
- Article 243-U(4): 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 under clause (1) had it not been so dissolved.

#### Q 61.B

- **PRIASoft aims to keep track of all the in-flow (Receipts) and out-flow (Expenditure) of the Panchayati Raj Institutions.** The Application facilitate better financial management of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by bringing about transparency and accountability in the maintenance of accounts thereby leading to better credibility and ultimately strengthening of PRIs. **It is a centralized Accounting Software intended for use by all the three levels of Panchayati Raj namely Zilla, Block and Village Panchayat.** Apart from making the process of accounting simple and easy (necessarily due to lack of trained manpower at this level), it ensures a better financial management, transparency and accountability at the Panchayat level.

#### Q 62.B

- **The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 by the Ministers of its Member jurisdictions(G7).** The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for **combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.** The FATF is, therefore, a "policy-making body" which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.
  - **Statement 1 is not correct:** The FATF and the OECD are separate organisations. Although the member countries overlap to a large degree, there are several countries which are members of the



FATF and not the OECD, and vice versa. However, the FATF Secretariat (currently 40 people) is housed administratively at the OECD.

- In addition, the FATF was not formed as a formal international organisation. Rather, the FATF is a task force composed of member governments who agree to fund the FATF on temporary basis with specific goals and projects (a "mandate").
- The FATF has developed a series of recommendations that are recognised as the international standard for combating of money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The FATF monitors the progress of its members in implementing necessary measures, reviews money laundering and terrorist financing techniques and counter-measures, and promotes the adoption and implementation of appropriate measures globally.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** India is a member of the Financial Action Task Force.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** Recently, Pakistan was placed on the blacklist of the of FATF's Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) for non-compliance and non-enforcement of safeguards against terror financing and money laundering. The FATF blacklist has been issued by the Financial Action Task Force since 2000 and **lists countries** which it judges to be non-cooperative in the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, calling them "**Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories**" (NCCTs).

#### Q 63.A

- 'One Health' is an approach to designing and implementing programmes, policies, legislation and research in which multiple sectors communicate and work together to achieve better public health outcomes.
- **The World Organization of Animal Health, commonly known as OIE (an abbreviation of its French title), introduced the concept of One Health concept in early 2000s as "human health and animal health are interdependent and bound to the health of the ecosystems in which they exist".**
- As human populations expand, it results in greater contact with domestic and wild animals (both aquatic and terrestrial), providing more opportunities for diseases to pass from one to the other. Climate change, deforestation and intensive farming further disrupt environment characteristics, while increased trade and travel result in closer and more frequent interaction, thus increasing the possibility of transmission of diseases.
- The areas of work in which a One Health approach is particularly relevant include food safety, the control of zoonoses (diseases that can spread between animals and humans, such as flu, rabies and Rift Valley Fever), and combatting antibiotic resistance (when bacteria change after being exposed to antibiotics and become more difficult to treat).

#### Q 64.A

- **Statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is not correct:** A Starred Question is one to which a member desires an oral answer from the Minister in the House and is required to be distinguished by him/her with an asterisk. Answer to such a question may be followed by supplementary questions by members. On the other hand, an Unstarred Question is one to which written answer is desired by the member and is deemed to be laid on the Table of the House by Minister. Thus it is not called for oral answer in the House and no supplementary question can be asked thereon.
- **The first 25 questions selected through the ballot are listed as starred questions for a sitting.** An MP is allowed to ask two supplementary questions in pursuance of a starred question asked by him, and the speaker may allow any other MP to ask a supplementary question. On the other hand, the questions which need not be responded to with an oral answer but with a written response are known as 'unstarred questions'. Through a ballot process, **250 unstarred questions can be raised per day during a particular session.**

#### Q 65.B

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Indian constitution doesn't provide any definition of the term 'Office of Profit'. However, the definition has evolved over the years with interpretations made in various court judgments. An office of profit has been interpreted to be a position that brings to the office-holder some financial gain, or advantage, or benefit. The amount of such profit is immaterial. In 1964, the Supreme



Court ruled that the test for determining whether a person holds an office of profit is the test of appointment. Several factors are considered in this determination including factors such as:

- whether the government is the appointing authority,
- whether the government has the power to terminate the appointment,
- whether the government determines the remuneration,
- what is the source of remuneration, and
- the power that comes with the position.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** MPs hold the government accountable for its work. The essence of disqualification under the office of profit law is if legislators holds an 'office of profit' under the government, they might be susceptible to government influence, and may not discharge their constitutional mandate fairly. The intent is that there should be no conflict between the duties and interests of an elected member. Hence, the office of profit law simply seeks to enforce a basic feature of the Constitution- the principle of separation of power between the legislature and the executive.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** Under the provisions of Article 102 (1) and Article 191 (1) of the Constitution, an MP or an MLA (or an MLC) is barred from holding any office of profit under the central or state government. The articles clarify that "a person shall not be deemed to hold an office of profit under the government of India or the government of any state by reason only that he is a minister".
- Parliament has enacted the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 for listing offices that are outside the purview of the 'Office of Profit'. The Joint Committee on Office of Profit is constituted in pursuance of a Government motion adopted by Lok Sabha and concurred in by Rajya Sabha. It consists of 15 members. The main functions of the Committee are examining the composition and character of the Committees appointed by the Central and State Governments and to recommend what offices should come within the purview of 'Office of Profit'.
- **Even state legislatures have power to make laws to exempt certain offices from 'Office of Profit' for MLAs.** For instance- Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Members (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 2017 declared certain offices of profit which will not disqualify their holders for being, or for being chosen as, members of the Rajasthan Assembly.

#### Q 66.A

- The President is elected not directly by the people but by members of electoral college consisting of
  - the **elected members of both the Houses of Parliament;**
  - the **elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states;** and
  - the **elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry**
- Where an assembly is dissolved, the members cease to be qualified to vote in the presidential election, even if fresh elections to the dissolved assembly are not held before the presidential election.
- **The members (both elected and nominated) of the state legislative councils** (in case of the bicameral legislature), the **nominated members of the Legislative councils of states/Union territories and nominated members of both of houses of Parliament do not** participate in the election of the President.

#### Q 67.C

- The members of the Rajya Sabha are elected on the basis of a single transferable vote by the elected members of the State legislative assembly. Unlike the United States Senate, the states don't have equal representation. The number of seats is specified in the Fourth Schedule, and is based on the population of each state, with a higher seat to population ratio for smaller states. The states were allocated one seat per million people for the first five million and one seat per each additional two million or part thereof exceeding one million. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Article 330 of the Indian constitution provides for reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha. However, there is no constitutional provision for reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Rajya Sabha. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Rajya Sabha members are elected by the elected members of Assemblies of the States and two Union Territories in which States were not given equal representation. However, there is no constitutional provision that the Union territory/state without a legislature assembly can't have representatives in the Rajya Sabha. Examples -:

- Prior to the enactment of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, the electoral college for the Union territory of Delhi consisted of the elected members of the Metropolitan Council of Delhi constituted under the Delhi Administration Act, 1966.
- During the initial constitution of the Rajya Sabha there were no Legislative Assemblies as regards to Part C States, namely, Kutch, Manipur and Tripura. Hence, the Act of 1950 provided constitution of electoral colleges of 30 members each elected by adult franchise from the territorial constituencies for the purpose of filling seats allocated to them in the Rajya Sabha.

#### Q 68.C

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** Committee on Public Undertakings has 22 members from both the houses of parliament {15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha}. These members are elected by the members of parliament from amongst themselves via principle of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote, so that all parties get due representation. Term of the members is one year. **However, the chairman of this committee, appointed by the Lok Sabha speaker is always from the Lok Sabha.**
- It is entrusted with the responsibility for the examination of the working of the public undertakings specified in the Fourth Schedule to the Rules of Business and conduct of business in the Lok Sabha.
- The functions of the Committee shall include -:
  - to examine the reports and accounts of the public undertakings specified in the Fourth Schedule of the rules of procedure and conduct of business in the Lok Sabha;
  - to examine the reports, if any, of the Comptroller and Auditor-General on the public undertakings; **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - to examine, in the context of the autonomy and efficiency of the public undertakings, whether the affairs of the public undertakings are being managed in accordance with sound business principles and prudent commercial practices;
- A Minister is not eligible to be elected as a member of the Committee and if a member, after the election to the Committee, is appointed a Minister, such member ceases to be a member of the Committee from the date of appointment as Minister. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

#### Q 69.C

- **Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states i.e. to promote cooperative federalism.** It was set up in 1990.
- Article 263 specifies the duties that can be assigned to it in the following manner:
  - enquiring into and advising upon disputes which may arise between states;
  - investigating and discussing subjects in which the states or the Centre and the states have a common interest; and
  - making recommendations upon any such subject, and particularly for the better co-ordination of policy and action on it

#### Q 70.B

- Balwant Rai G Mehta committee submitted its report in November 1957 and recommended the establishment of the scheme of 'democratic decentralization', which ultimately came to be known as Panchayati Raj. The specific recommendations made by it are:
  - Establishment of a three-tier panchayati raj system—gram panchayat at the village level, panchayat samiti at the block level and zila parishad at the district level. These tiers should be organically linked through a device of indirect elections.
  - The village panchayat should be constituted with directly elected representatives, whereas the panchayat samiti and zila parishad should be constituted with indirectly elected members. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - All planning and development activities should be entrusted to these bodies. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - The panchayat samiti should be the executive body while the zila parishad should be the advisory, coordinating and supervisory body.
  - The district collector should be the chairman of the zila parishad.

- There should be a genuine transfer of power and responsibility to these democratic bodies.
- Adequate resources should be transferred to these bodies to enable them to discharge their functions and fulfil their responsibilities.
- A system should be evolved to effect further devolution of authority in future.
- Recommendation for constitutional recognition to Panchayati Raj institutions was given by LM Singhvi Committee. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 71.C

- The state legislature has “in normal circumstances” exclusive powers to make laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the State List.
- This has at present 61 subjects like Inter-State pilgrimage, Water, public order, police, public health and sanitation, agriculture, prisons, local government, fisheries, markets, theaters, gambling etc.
- Both, the Parliament and state legislature can make laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the Concurrent List. This list has at present 52 subjects like Legal and Medical profession, Registration of birth and death, criminal law and procedure, civil procedure, marriage and divorce, population control and family planning, electricity, labour welfare, economic and social planning etc.
- The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 transferred five subjects to Concurrent List from State List, that is,
  - education,
  - forests,
  - weights and measures,
  - protection of wild animals and birds, and
  - administration of justice; constitution and organization of all courts except the Supreme Court and the high courts.

#### Q 72.D

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in force immediately before the commencement of the Constitution of India were modified and adopted by the Speaker of Lok Sabha in exercise of the powers conferred on the Speaker by article 118(2) of the Constitution and published under the title “Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House of the People” in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated the 17th April, 1952.
- Those Rules were amended by the Speaker from time to time on the recommendations of the Rules Committee of the House until September 1954. However, in 1956, Rules Committee recommended that the rules contained in the Fourth Edition of the Rules as amended from time to time might be approved by the House under Article 118(1) of the Constitution. This was accepted by the Lok Sabha. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Under the rules of procedure and conduct of business in the Rajya Sabha, all matters not specifically provided for in these rules and all questions relating to the detailed working of these rules shall be regulated in such manner as the Chairman may, from time to time direct. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 73.B

- As per Article 40 under part IV of the Indian Constitution (Directive Principle of the State Policy), 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. However, while implementing 73rd constitutional amendment, states have been given enough freedom to take their geographical, politico-administrative and others conditions into account while adopting the Panchayati Raj System.
  - Article 243H states that subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Legislature of a State may, by law, endow the Panchayats (expression may by law implies that it is not mandatory) with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the appropriate level, **with respect to the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and the implementation of schemes for economic development**

and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule. Therefore, it is not mandatory for the state legislatures to transfer all of the subjects listed under 11th schedule to the local bodies **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- **The state legislature can mandate minimum educational qualifications for the candidates to contest elections to local bodies.** Recently, Uttarakhand has unanimously passed a bill to this effect which made minimum educational qualifications mandatory for rural election candidates. Earlier, Rajasthan and Haryana has also attempted to adopt this model. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 74.B

- The Indian constitution contains provisions providing for grants under extraordinary or special circumstances:
- **Supplementary Grant**
  - It is granted when the amount authorised by the Parliament through the appropriation act for a particular service for the current financial year is found to be insufficient for that year.
- **Additional Grant**
  - It is granted when a need has arisen during the current financial year for additional expenditure upon some new service not contemplated in the budget for that year.
- **Excess Grant**
  - It is granted when money has been spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted for that service in the budget for that year.
  - When actual expenditure incurred exceeds the approved grants of the Parliament, the Ministry of Finance presents a Demand for Excess Grant. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India bring such excesses to the notice of the Parliament.
  - It is voted by the Lok Sabha after the financial year. Before the demands for excess grants are submitted to the Lok Sabha for voting, they must be approved by the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament. **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**
- **Vote of Credit**
  - It is granted for meeting an unexpected demand upon the resources of India when on account of the magnitude or the indefinite character of the service, the demand cannot be stated with the details ordinarily given in a budget. Hence, it is like a blank cheque given to the Executive by the Lok Sabha.
- **Exceptional Grant**
  - It is granted for a special purpose and forms no part of the current service of any financial year.
- **Token Grant**
  - It is granted when funds to meet the proposed expenditure on a new service can be made available by reappropriation. Demand for the grant of a token sum (of Re 1) is submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha and if assented, funds are made available. Reappropriation involves the transfer of funds from one head to another. It does not involve any additional expenditure.

#### Q 75.A

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** Under **Article 350A** - It shall be the endeavour of every State and of every local authority within the State to provide adequate **facilities for instruction in the mother-tongue at the primary stage of education** to children belonging to linguistic minority groups; and the President may issue such directions to any State as he considers necessary or proper for securing the provision of such facilities.
- Under **Article 350B** - **There shall be a Special Officer for linguistic minorities to be appointed by the President.** It shall be the duty of the Special Officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under this Constitution and report to the President upon those matters at such intervals as the President may direct, and the President shall cause all such reports to be laid before each House of Parliament, and sent to the Governments of the States concerned.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The Constitution specifies that Hindi written in Devanagari script is to be the official language of the Union. But, the form of numerals to be used for the official purposes of the Union has to be the international form of Indian numerals and not the Devanagari form of numerals. **The**

**Constitution does not specify the official language of different states.** It specifies that **The legislature of a state may adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the state or Hindi as the official language of that state and it does not need the approval of Rajya sabha.** Until that is done, English is to continue as official language of that state. Under this provision, **most of the states have adopted the major regional language as their official language.**

- **Statement 3 is correct:** The constitutional provisions dealing with the language of the courts and legislation are as follows:

**Until Parliament provides otherwise, the following are to be in the English language only:**

**(a) All proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every high court.**

**(b) The authoritative texts of all bills, acts, ordinances, orders, rules, regulations and bye-laws at the Central and state levels.**

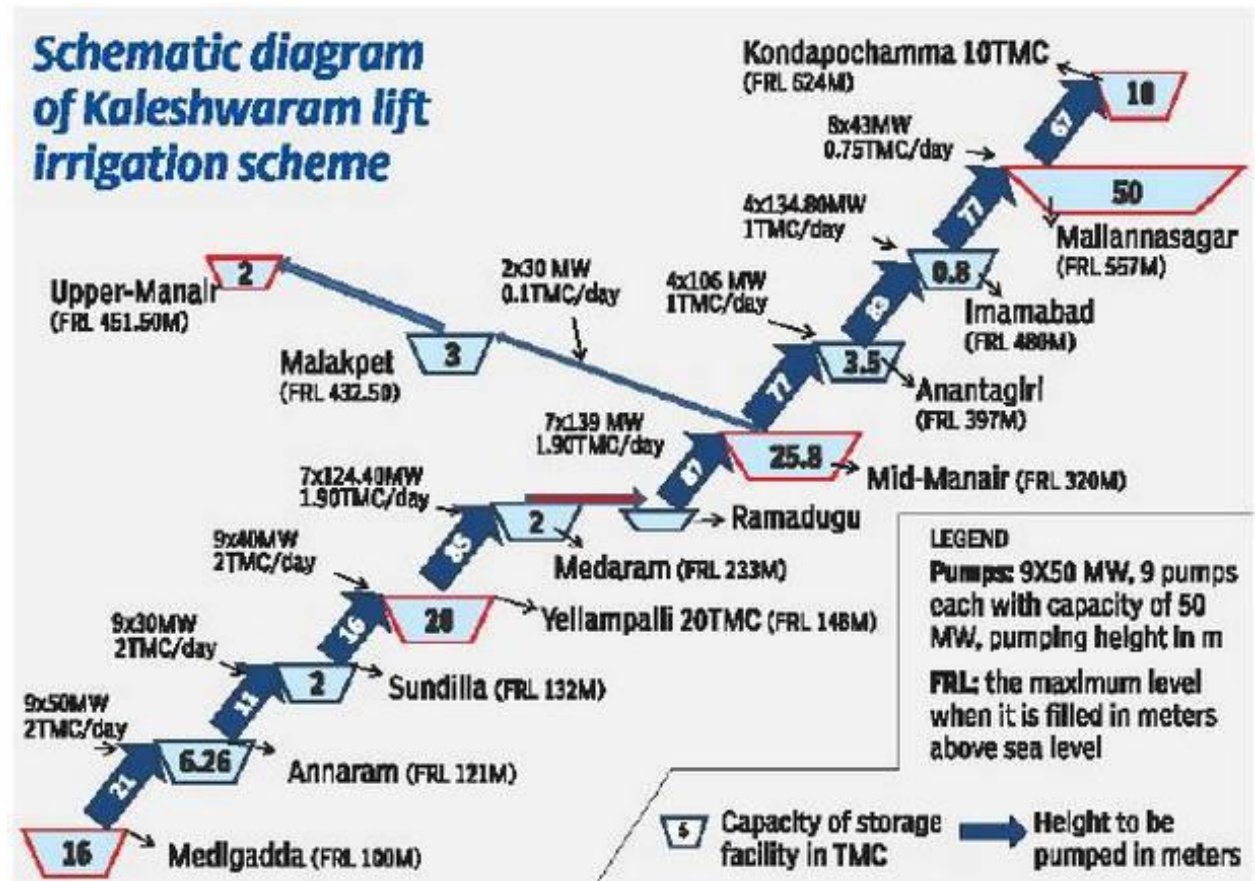
#### Q 76.B

- **Notified Area Committee**
- A notified area committee is created for the administration of two types of areas:
  - a fast developing town due to industrialization
  - a town which does not yet fulfill all the conditions necessary for the constitution of a municipality, but which otherwise is considered important by the state government.
- Since it is **established by notification** in the government gazette, it is called a notified area committee. Though it functions within the framework of the State Municipal Act, only those provisions of the act apply to it which are notified in the government gazette by which it is created.
- It may also be entrusted to exercise powers under any other act. Its powers are almost equivalent to those of a municipality.
- Unlike the municipality, **it is an entirely nominated body**, that is, all the members of a notified area committee including the chairman are nominated by the state government.
- **Thus, it is neither an elected body nor a statutory body.**
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 77.A

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Recently, Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), **the world's largest multi-stage and multi-purpose lift irrigation scheme**, was inaugurated in the Jayashankar-Bhupalapally district. Waters of the Godavari will be tapped by reverse pumping and storage, thereby facilitating agriculture on over 38 lakh acres, including creating about 18 lakh acres of new ayacut, helping rejuvenate thousands of tanks, providing water for industries, and supplying drinking water including to Hyderabad and Secunderabad by creating a series of storage tanks and a network of pipelines.
- **The world's largest pumping station** has been set up underground and has an 81-km tunnel running between Yellampalli barrage and Mallanna Sagar reservoir. The world's biggest pump house in Package-8 with seven pumps of 139 MW each has been deployed underground, along with eight pumping stations located 150 metres underground. This pumping station has five floors with each floor housing lifting operations.
- **Ayacut:** It is the area served by an irrigation project such as a canal, dam or a tank.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, to harness the floodwaters of the Godavari, is aimed at making Telangana drought-proof. It is a multi-purpose irrigation project on the **Godavari River in Kaleshwaram, Telangana**. The project is intended to irrigate over 37 lakh acres of new and existing ayacut, providing drinking water to Hyderabad and villages en route and supplying water for industrial needs by lifting 195 tmc ft of water from the Godavari at 2 tmc ft a day during the flood season. By lifting one more tmc ft water a day later, the government plans to bring another 8 lakh acres under irrigation.





Q 78.D

- **Dilatory motion**
  - It is a generic name for motions the object of which is to put off further consideration of the business in hand for the time being. It is intended to have a postponing or indefinitely delaying effect on a debate. If it is moved and carried, the subject under discussion is either shelved or the debate is postponed. **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**
  - A dilatory motion is a superseding motion because if it is accepted by the Chair. He proposes the motion as a new question, which supersedes the original question and must be disposed of before the debate on the original question can be resumed.
- **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.
- **Calling Attention motion**
  - Calling attention is a type of motion introduced by a member to call the attention of a minister to a matter of urgent public importance. The minister is expected to make authoritative statement from him on that matter. It can be introduced in any house of the parliament.
- **Closure motion**
  - Closure is one of the means by which a debate may be brought to an end by a majority decision of the House, even though all Members wishing to speak have not done so.

Q 79.D

- **Provisions of the Constitution which are related to the federal structure of the polity can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and also with the consent of half of the state**



**legislatures by a simple majority under Article 368 of the Constitution.** There is no time limit within which the states should give their consent to the bill.

- The following provisions can be amended in this way:
  - Election of the President and its manner.
  - Extent of the executive power of the Union and the states.
  - Supreme Court and high courts.
  - Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states.
  - Any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule that is Union, State and Concurrent list.
  - Representation of states in Parliament.
  - Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure (Article 368 itself).
- **In case of a conflict between the Central law and the state law on a subject enumerated in the Concurrent List, the central law prevails over the state law.** But, there is an exception. If the state law has been reserved for the consideration of the president and has received his assent, then the state law prevails in that state. But, it would still be competent for the Parliament to override such a law by subsequently making a law on the same matter.
- **Hence, both statements are not correct.**

#### Q 80.C

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) quantifies vegetation by measuring the difference between near-infrared (which vegetation strongly reflects) and red light (which vegetation absorbs). NDVI always ranges from -1 to +1. For example, when the NDVI values are negative, it's highly likely that it's water. On the other hand, if the NDVI value close to +1, there's a high possibility that it's dense green leaves. But when NDVI is close to zero, there is not green leaves and it could even be an urbanized area. Overall, NDVI is a standardized way to measure healthy vegetation. **When the NDVI values are high, the vegetation can be expected to be healthier vegetation. When you have low NDVI, you have less or no vegetation.**
- In particular, there are several sectors that use NDVI. For example, in agriculture, farmers use NDVI for precision farming and to measure biomass. Whereas, in forestry, foresters use NDVI to quantify forest supply and leaf area index. Furthermore, NASA states that NDVI is a good indicator of drought. When water limits vegetation growth, it has a lower relative NDVI and density of vegetation.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** For both academic and practical purposes, there is the practice of remotely monitoring vegetation in an area and representing it in terms of maps and parameters. One such parameter used is the normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) which is measured remotely from satellite data. This has been used to estimate the amount of food abundance available to herbivorous animals, for example, elephants. The NDVI is used, for instance, in attempts to track the presence of elephants using the vegetation they consume.

#### Q 81.A

- **A circular economy is an alternative to a traditional linear economy (make, use, dispose of) in which resources are kept in use for as long as possible, the maximum value is extracted from them whilst in use, the products and materials are recovered and regenerated at the end of each service life.** This economic system is aimed at minimising waste and making the most of resources.
- It is an industrial system that is restorative or regenerative by intention and design. It replaces the end-of-life concept with restoration, shifts towards the use of renewable energy, eliminates the use of toxic chemicals, which impair reuse and return to the biosphere, and aims for the elimination of waste through the superior design of materials, products, systems and business models.
- Recently, in June 2019, FICCI organized a 'Circular Economy Symposium'. The NITI Aayog has also stressed on the need for promoting non-government organisations to spread awareness and developing a circular economy as a national agenda.

#### Q 82.C

- Effect of dissolution on the Bills pending before Joint Committees

- On dissolution of the Lok Sabha, the Joint Committee set up by the Lok Sabha on a Bill introduced therein will also dissolve and as such the Members of the Rajya Sabha serving on such Committee will also cease to be the Members of the Joint Committee.
- Thus a Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha and referred to the Joint Committee will lapse. By the same logic, a Joint Committee set up by the Rajya Sabha will also become defunct on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. In both the cases the status of the Joint Committee becomes defunct.
- However, a Bill introduced in the Rajya Sabha and referred to the Joint Committee setup by the Rajya Sabha will not lapse on the date of the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. **Hence, option 1 is not correct.**
- Article 196 of the Indian constitution provides that a bill which is pending in the legislative assembly of a State, or which having been passed by the legislative assembly is pending in the legislative council, shall lapse on a dissolution of the Assembly. **Hence, option 2 is correct.**
- All business pending before the DRSCs (which are joint committees of the two Houses) and Parliamentary Committees of the Lok Sabha lapses upon dissolution of the Lok Sabha as the Committees themselves stand dissolved. **Hence, option 3 is correct.**

#### Q 83.D

- **Advocate-General for the State.**
- Article 165 states that the Governor of each State shall appoint a person who is qualified to be appointed a Judge of a High Court to be Advocate-General for the State.
- When considering the qualification of a person for appointment as an Advocate-General, the question is only whether he is qualified to be appointed as a Judge of the High Court as laid down in article 217 (2), and not whether he has attained the age at which he would have to retire had he been appointed a Judge of the High Court.
- In the performance of his official duties, the advocate general is entitled to appear before any court of law **within the state. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- The term of office of the advocate general is not fixed by the Constitution. He holds office during the pleasure of the governor. Conventionally, he resigns when the government (council of ministers) resigns or is replaced, as he is appointed on its advice. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- He may also quit his office by submitting his resignation to the governor.

#### Q 84.C

- The Vice-President acts as the ex-officio chairman of Rajya Sabha. Like the president, he is elected not directly by the people but by the method of indirect election. He is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the members of both Houses of Parliament.
- This electoral college is different from the electoral college for the election of the President in the following two respects:
  - It consists of both elected and nominated members of the Parliament (in the case of the president, only elected members). **Hence option (c) is correct.**
  - It does not include the members of the state legislative assemblies (in the case of President, the elected members of the state legislative assemblies are included).

#### Q 85.D

- **Facebook recently unveiled a digital currency called Libra** as the company seeks to make its ads more valuable by enabling smoother transactions and payments online, particularly among those without credit cards or bank accounts. It will use the same security and record-keeping principles as Bitcoin, the most popular digital currency system today. But unlike Bitcoin, Libra is backed by several traditional financial companies, including PayPal, Visa and Mastercard, and will base its value on multiple real-world currencies such as the US dollar and the euro.
- **What is a cryptocurrency?** Cryptocurrency is a form of digital cash that uses encryption technology to make it secure. Cryptocurrencies exist not as physical bills or coins but rather as lines of digitally signed computer code. Records are typically kept on ledgers known as blockchain. Although it's possible to trace bitcoins and some other cryptocurrencies as they are spent, owners of accounts behind the transactions aren't necessarily known. That makes such currencies a favourite among certain cybercriminals. But it is sometimes possible to tie cryptocurrency transactions to a real person who has cashed out digital coinage into a traditional currency.

- **Monero** is a secure, private and untraceable currency. This open-source cryptocurrency was launched in April 2014. The development of this cryptocurrency is completely donation-based and community-driven. Monero has been launched with a strong focus on decentralization and scalability, and it enables complete privacy by using a special technique called “ring signatures.” With this technique, there appears a group of cryptographic signatures including at least one real participant, but since they all appear valid, the real one cannot be isolated. Because of exceptional security mechanisms like this, Monero has developed something of an unsavory reputation; it has been linked to criminal operations around the world.

#### Q 86.A

- **Cabinet Secretary is the administrative head of the Cabinet Secretariat (which is under the direct charge of the Prime Minister) and also the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board.** The Cabinet Secretary is the top-most executive official and the senior-most civil servant of the Government of India. Generally the senior-most officer of the Indian Administrative Services is appointed as the Cabinet Secretary. His appointment is approved by the President. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- In the table of precedence (issued by the President's Secretariat), the Cabinet Secretary comes at number 11 (The President of India comes at number 1), while the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India comes at 9A (which is shared by the Chief Election Commissioner and the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission). **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 87.B

- **The Ministry of Electronics and IT has announced a ₹450 crore proposal for Natural Language Translation — one of the key missions identified by the Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).**
- It aims to make opportunities and progress science and technology accessible to all. This mission aims to remove the barrier that a requirement of high-level faculty in English poses today. Using a combination of machine and human translation, the mission will eventually enable access to teaching and researching material bilingually- in English and one's native Indian language. It is planned to set up an ecosystem which involves central and state government agencies and start-ups who will work with scientists and build implementable solutions.
- **Lead Agencies involved in this mission are:**
  - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
  - Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)
  - Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- The PM-STIAC is an overarching body that identifies challenges in certain areas of science and technology. It then creates a road map to deal with these challenges and presents the recommendations to the Prime Minister. Besides natural language translation, other missions identified by the body include Quantum Frontier, Artificial Intelligence, National Bio-diversity mission, electric vehicles, BioScience for Human Health and deep ocean exploration.

#### Q 88.C

- Panchayati Raj is the foundation of India's political system, as a decentralized form of government in which each village would be responsible for its own affairs. This vision was incorporated in the constitution through **Article 40 (DPSP) which reads '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'**. This provision of the Directive Principles was finally given constitutional sanctity by enacting 73rd Amendment 1992. Thus, the 73rd Amendment Act did not bring any amendments to Directive Principles of State Policy.
- **The provisions of the 73rd Amendment 1992 added a new Part IX to the constitution titled “The Panchayats” covering provisions from Article 243 to 243(O). It also added a new Eleventh Schedule covering 29 subjects within the functions of the Panchayats.** However, no changes were made in the Part-III(Fundamental Rights) or Part-IVA(Fundamental Duties) of the constitution. **Hence, only options 3 and 4 are correct.**

- **Part XIII deals with trade and commerce within India. No amendments were brought in it through the 73rd Amendment Act.**

#### Q 89.A

- One of the most important functions of the Parliament is to exercise control over the executive. Some of the instruments of this control include - :
  - The council of ministers are responsible to the Lok Sabha thus require majority in the Lok Sabha for their survival.
  - Any withdrawal from the consolidated fund of India can not be done without the approval of the Parliament.
  - Presence of various procedural devices like the system of parliamentary Committees, Questions, Calling Attention, **Half-an-Hour Discussion**, etc. constitute very potent instruments for effecting parliamentary control over administrative action. **Hence, option 1 is correct.**
- **Consultative committees**
  - The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs constitutes Consultative Committees of Members of both the Houses of Parliament, which are attached to various Ministries, and arranges meetings thereof. The Minister/Minister of State in-charge of the Ministry concerned acts as the chairman of the Consultative Committee of that Ministry.
  - The main purpose of these Committees is to provide a forum for informal discussions between the Government and Members of Parliament on policies and programs of the Government and the manner of their implementation.
  - These don't fall under the purview of instruments used by the Indian Parliament to exercise control over the executive. **Hence, option 2 is not correct.**
- **Parliamentary forums**
  - The Parliamentary Fora or Forums provide a platform to members of the house to have interaction with the Ministers concerned, experts and key officials from the nodal Ministries with a view to have a focused discussion on critical issues facing the country. These are primarily for making the members of the house more aware of the critical issues.
  - These don't fall under the purview of instruments used by the Indian Parliament to exercise control over the executive. **Hence, option 3 is not correct.**
- **Prime Minister's Questions**
  - Prime Minister's Question also referred to as PMQs gives MPs the chance to question the Prime Minister. PMQs takes place at midday every Wednesday when the Commons is sitting.
  - While this tool is available in the British Parliament, it is not available in the Indian Parliament. **Hence, option 4 is not correct**

#### Q 90.B

- **Ordinance Making Power of President**
  - Article 123 of the Constitution empowers the President to promulgate ordinances during the recess of Parliament.
  - He can promulgate an ordinance only when either or both the Houses of Parliament are not in session.
- **Coextensive nature**
  - Ordinance-making power is **coextensive** as regards all matters except duration, with the law-making powers of the Parliament because:
    - An ordinance can be issued only on those subjects on which the Parliament can make laws.
    - An ordinance is subject to the same constitutional limitation as an act of Parliament. Hence, an ordinance cannot abridge or take away any of the fundamental rights.
- **Parallel Nature**
  - The power of the President to legislate by ordinance is **not a parallel power** of legislation because an ordinance made when both the Houses are in session is void. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - The President can also withdraw an ordinance at any time. However, his power of ordinance-making is not a discretionary power, and he can promulgate or withdraw an ordinance only on the advice of the council of ministers headed by the prime minister. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

### Q 91.C

- **The Government of India, the Government of Kerala and the World Bank signed a Loan Agreement of USD 250 million for the First Resilient Kerala Program to enhance the State's resilience against the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.** The 2018 floods and landslides in Kerala led to severe impact on property, infrastructure, and lives and livelihoods of people. One-sixth of the State's population - about 5.4 million people - were affected while 1.4 million were displaced from their homes, especially the poor and vulnerable segments of the population.
- The World Bank has been working closely with the Government of India and Kerala since the floods struck in August 2018 in assessing the impact of the floods and assisting in recovery and reconstruction. The Bank support also helped identify policies, institutions and systems for resilience to disaster risks and climate change.
- **The Program aims to support the State with:**
  - improved river basin planning and water infrastructure operations management, water supply and sanitation services.
  - resilient and sustainable agriculture, enhanced agriculture risk insurance.
  - improved resilience of the core road network.
  - unified and more up-to-date land records in high-risk areas.
  - risk-based urban planning and strengthened expenditure planning by urban local bodies.
  - strengthened the fiscal and public financial management capacity of the state.

### Q 92.C

- Article 243M of the Indian Constitution states that part IX does not apply to certain areas.
- Article 243M(2): Nothing in this Part shall apply to:
  - **the States of Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram.**
  - **the hill areas in the State of Manipur for which District Councils exist under any law for the time being in force.**
- Article 243M(3) Nothing in this Part:
  - relating to Panchayats at the district level shall apply to the hill areas of the District of Darjeeling in the State of West Bengal for which Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council exists under any law for the time being in force;
  - shall be construed to affect the functions and powers of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council constituted under such law.
  - Article 243M(3A) Nothing in article 243D, relating to reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes, shall apply to the State of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Article 243M(4) Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution
  - the Legislature of a State referred to in sub-clause (a) of clause (2) may, by law, extend this part to that State, except the areas, if any, referred to in clause (1), if the Legislative Assembly of that State passes a resolution to that effect by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting;
  - Parliament may, by law, extend the provisions of this Part to the Scheduled Areas and the tribal areas referred to in clause (1) subject to such exceptions and modifications as may be specified in such law, and no such law shall be deemed to be an amendment of this Constitution for the purposes of article 368.
- **Hence only option (c) is correct.**

### Q 93.A

- Since 1950, the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution has seen a number of amendments. **The Union List and Concurrent List have grown while subjects under the State List have gradually reduced.** The 42nd Amendment Act was implemented in 1976, restructured the Seventh Schedule ensuring that State List subjects like education, forest, protection of wild animals and birds, administration of justice, and weights and measurements were transferred to the Concurrent List.
- Sarkaria Commission Recommendation on Concurrent List:



- **The residuary powers of taxation should continue to remain with the Parliament, while the other residuary powers should be placed in the Concurrent List.**
- The Centre should consult the states before making a law on a subject of the Concurrent List.
- Ordinarily, the Union should occupy only that much field of a concurrent subject on which uniformity of policy and action is essential in the larger interest of the nation, leaving the rest and details for state action.
- **Hence only statement 1 is correct.**

#### Q 94.B

- The term 'parliamentary privilege' has two significant aspects of the law in the parliamentary form of Government: the privileges and immunities of the houses of the parliament and state assembly. The parliamentary privileges protect the integrity and dignity of the house of parliament and state assembly. Members of the parliament and state assembly carry great responsibility which includes aspiration of the people who elect their representative.
- Originally, the Constitution (Article 105) expressly mentioned two privileges, that is, freedom of speech in Parliament and right of publication of its proceedings. It should be noted here that the Parliament, till now, has not made any special law to exhaustively codify all the privileges. They are based on five sources, namely -:
  - Constitutional provisions,
  - Various laws made by Parliament,
  - Rules of both the Houses,
  - Parliamentary conventions, and
  - Judicial interpretations.
- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The dispute between the privileges of a MP and the fundamental rights is an evolving jurisprudence. While, in M.S.M. Sharma's case the Supreme Court held that in case of conflict between fundamental right under Article 19 (1) (a) and a privilege under Article 194 (3) the latter would prevail. However, it also held that the proposition laid down in Sharma's case was explained not to mean that in all cases the privileges shall override the fundamental rights.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In case of breach of privilege or contempt committed by the members, the House can impose punishment in the form of admonition, reprimand, withdrawal from the House, suspension from the service of the House, imprisonment and expulsion from the House.

#### Q 95.C

- The President is elected not directly by the people but by members of an electoral college consisting of:
  - the elected members of both the Houses of Parliament
  - the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states; and
  - the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry
- The President's election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting is by secret ballot. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Provisions of NOTA are not applicable for Presidential Elections. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 96.A

- **Statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is not correct:** Generalized System of Preferences originated in the UNCTAD II Conference in New Delhi in 1968, as the generalized, non-reciprocal, non-discriminatory system of preferences in favour of the developing countries, including special measures in favour of the least advanced among the developing countries, should be:
  - to increase their export earnings;
  - to promote their industrialization; and
  - to accelerate their rates of economic growth.
- Under GSP schemes of preference-giving countries, selected products originating in developing countries are granted reduced or zero tariff rates over the MFN rates. The least developed countries (LDCs) receive special and preferential treatment for a wider coverage of products and deeper tariff cuts.



- The idea of granting developing countries preferential tariff rates in the markets of industrialized countries was originally presented by Raul Prebisch, the first Secretary-General of UNCTAD, at the first UNCTAD conference in 1964. The GSP was adopted at UNCTAD II in New Delhi in 1968.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** There are currently 13 national GSP schemes notified to the UNCTAD secretariat. The following countries grant GSP preferences: Australia, Belarus, Canada, the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America.
- India was the largest beneficiary of the programme in 2017 with \$5.7 billion in imports to the US given duty-free status, however, it has been discontinued as a beneficiary in 2019.

#### Q 97.C

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia. **The Confidence Building Measures are categorised under five broad headings: economic dimension, environmental dimension, human dimension, fight against new challenges and threats, and military-political dimension.** The idea of convening the CICA was first proposed by the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan - Elbasy H.E. Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, on 5 October 1992, at the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.
- **Statement 2 is correct: For becoming a member of CICA, a state must have at least a part of its territory in Asia.** Fifteen states meeting this criterion signed the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations between the CICA Member States at the First Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in 1999 and became founding members of CICA. Presently CICA has twenty-seven Member States accounting for nearly ninety per cent of the territory and population of Asia. Eight countries and five multi-national organizations, including United Nations, have the observer status.
- **Statement 3 is not correct: India-Central Asia dialogue is not an initiative under CICA.** India and the five Central Asia nations (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) have backed an inclusive peace process in Afghanistan that is Afghan-owned and Afghan-led. The understanding was reached at the first-ever India-Central Asia Dialogue in Uzbekistan capital Samarkand in January 2019.

#### Q 98.C

- The General Purposes Committee of the Rajya Sabha consists of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, members of the panel of Vice-Chairmen, Chairmen of all Parliamentary Standing Committees of Rajya Sabha, Leaders of recognised parties and groups in Rajya Sabha and such other members as may be nominated by the Chairman. **The Chairman, Rajya Sabha, is the ex-officio Chairman of the Committee.** The functions of the Committee are to consider and advise on such matters concerning the affairs of the House as may be referred to it by the Chairman from time to time. **Hence, option (a) is correct.**
- After a Bill is passed by the House, the Chairman is empowered to correct patent errors and make such other changes in the Bill as are consequential on the amendments adopted by the House. Patent errors include typographical errors, mistakes with numbers etc. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- The Vice-President is the ex-officio chairman of the Rajya Sabha. He is elected by an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting in such election is by **secret ballot**. The members of the Rajya Sabha are also elected in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. However, the the process of election in this case is through **open ballot**. **Hence, option (c) is not correct.**
- The Vice-President (ex-officio chairman of the Rajya Sabha) can be removed from office by a resolution of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), passed by a majority of its members at that time and agreed to by the House of the People (Lok Sabha). **Hence, option (d) is correct.**

#### Q 99.C

- The President's election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting is by secret ballot. This system ensures that the successful candidate is returned by the **absolute majority of votes**. A candidate, in order to be declared elected to

the office of President, must secure a fixed quota of votes. The quota of votes is determined by dividing the total number of valid votes polled by the number of candidates to be elected (here only one candidate is to be elected as President) plus one and adding one to the quotient (i.e. **More than 50%**). The formula can be expressed as:

- Electoral quota =  $\left[ \frac{\text{Total number of valid votes polled}}{(1+1)} \right] + 1$ , **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- All doubts and disputes in connection with the election of the **President are inquired into and decided by the Supreme Court whose decision is final.** The election of a person as President cannot be challenged on the ground that the electoral college was incomplete (ie, the existence of any vacancy among the members of the electoral college). If the election of a person as President is declared void by the Supreme Court, acts done by him before the date of such declaration of the Supreme Court are not invalidated and continue to remain in force. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

#### Q 100.B

- Each Department may have one or more attached or subordinate offices. The role of these offices are:
- Where the execution of the policies of the government requires decentralisation of executive action and/or direction, a department may have under it executive agencies called 'Attached' and 'Subordinate' offices.
- **Attached offices are generally responsible for providing executive direction required in the implementation of the policies laid down by the department to which they are attached. They also serve as repository of technical information and advise the department on technical aspects of question dealt with by them** e.g. Central Public Works Department, Central Water Commission, Central Electricity Authority, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Directorate General of Factory Advice & Labour Institutes etc.
- **Subordinate offices generally function as field establishments or as agencies responsible for the detailed execution of the policies of government.** They function under the direction of an attached office, or where the volume of executive direction involved is not considerable, directly under a department. In the latter case, they assist the departments concerned in handling technical matters in their respective fields of specialisation e.g. (service centre of CPWD, CGHS dispensary, Directorate General of Mines & Safety etc. **Hence, only statement 2 is not correct.**