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Test Booklet Series

T.B.C : P-SIA-A-GS

TEST BOOKLET

Serial : P-GSI-252602

GENERAL STUDIES - PAPER – I

INDIAN POLITY - I

TEST – 02



Time Allowed : Two Hours

Maximum Marks : 200

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1. With reference to the term “Republic” in the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. It implies that the head of the State is directly elected for a fixed tenure.
2. It ensures that sovereignty rests with the people and not with any hereditary ruler.
3. It reflects the absence of any privileged class and guarantees equal access to public offices.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

2. Consider the following:

1. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India
2. The Judges of the High Courts
3. The Advocate General of a State
4. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha
5. The Governors of States

Provisions related to oaths or affirmations of which of the above are mentioned under the Third Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

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

3. Which of the following provisions were introduced by the Government of India Act, 1935?

1. Federation of India
2. Provincial autonomy
3. Bicameralism in all provinces
4. Federal Court of India

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

4. With reference to the Constitution of India, which of the following statements is/are **not** correct?

1. The term ‘Federation’ is nowhere used in the Constitution.
2. The term ‘Cabinet’ is explicitly mentioned in the Constitution.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

5. Consider the following:

Statement-I :

The Constitution of India is a mix of flexible and rigid features.

Statement-II :

Most provisions of the Indian Constitution can be amended by Parliament itself, whereas a few provisions of the Constitution require both the Parliament and the state legislature to act combinedly.

Statement-III :

For amending certain provisions of the Constitution, ratification by three-fourths of the states is required.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct, and both of them explain Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement-I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct, and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement-II nor Statement-III is correct

6. Consider the following statements:

Statement I :

Right to disconnect is recognised as a Fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

Statement II :

It allows employees to disconnect from their employer outside of working hours.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is not correct
- (d) Statement I is not correct, but Statement II is correct

7. In the Preamble of the Constitution of India, Liberty is provided for how many of the following?

- 1. Thought
- 2. Expression
- 3. Belief
- 4. Faith
- 5. Worship

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

8. Which of the following are correct regarding the bill introduced for the purpose of altering the boundaries of any State?

- 1. It can be introduced only in the House of the People.
- 2. It requires prior recommendation of the President.
- 3. It should be passed by a special majority in the Parliament.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

9. Consider the following countries:

- 1. Afghanistan
- 2. Bangladesh
- 3. Pakistan
- 4. Sri Lanka

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 provides citizenship to people from which of the above countries?

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

10. Consider the following :

- 1. Protection of life and personal liberty
- 2. Freedom of speech and expression
- 3. Equality before the law
- 4. Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion

Which of the above fundamental rights are available to both citizens and foreigners?

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

11. Consider the following statements regarding the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946:

- 1. It recommended the formation of a Constituent Assembly.
- 2. It supported the idea of two Constituent Assemblies.
- 3. It recommended the immediate transfer of power to the Indians.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

12. Consider the following features:

- 1. Parliamentary sovereignty
- 2. Republic polity
- 3. Collective responsibility of the executive to the legislature
- 4. Written Constitution

How many of the features mentioned above are common to both the Indian and British Constitutions?

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

13. Article 20, clause (1) States that :

“No person shall be convicted of any offence except for violation of a law in force at the time of the commission of the act charged as an offence, nor be subjected to a penalty greater than that which might have been inflicted under the law in force at the time of the commission of the offence”

The above provision speaks about the

- (a) Prohibition against double jeopardy
- (b) Prohibition against Self-incriminating evidence
- (c) Prohibition against ex-post facto legislation
- (d) Protection against arbitrary arrest and detention

14. Consider the following:

- 1. The State Legislature prescribes residence as a criterion for appointment in employment under the State Government.
- 2. The State Legislature prescribes religion as a criterion for appointment in employment under a State Government in an office in connection with the affairs of any religious or denominational institution.

Which of the above-mentioned scenarios is/are violations of Article 16 of the Indian Constitution?

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

15. Consider the following government initiatives:

- 1. Depot Darpan Portal
- 2. Electronic National Agriculture Market
- 3. Anna Mitra App
- 4. Anna Sahayata Platform
- 5. Agristack portal

How many of the above digital initiatives are related to transforming the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India?

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

16. Consider the following statements regarding Citizenship in India:

- 1. All matters relating to citizenship are regulated by the Parliament.
- 2. The process of obtaining citizenship in India is dependent on the religion of the person.

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

17. How many of the following statements are correct with respect to Article 20 of the Indian Constitution?

- 1. It prohibits the legislature from making retrospective civil and criminal laws.
- 2. It prevents a person from getting punished twice for the same offence by administrative authorities.
- 3. It prevents an accused person from being compelled to give his/her biological specimens.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

18. Which of the following is **not** a Directive Principle of State Policy under Part IV of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Organisation of village panchayats
- (b) Prohibition of intoxicating drinks
- (c) Promotion of scientific temper
- (d) Separation of the judiciary from the executive

19. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Parliament may by law empower any court to exercise the power to issue writs within the local limits of its jurisdiction.
- 2. The right to Constitutional remedies guaranteed by the Constitution of India cannot be suspended in any situation.

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

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

20. Consider the following members:

1. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
2. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
3. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
4. C. Rajagopalachari

Who among the above-mentioned were members of both the Interim Government (1946) and the First Cabinet of Free India (1947)?

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

21. Which Constitutional Amendment inserted Article 31C to give precedence to certain Directive Principles over Fundamental Rights under Articles 14 and 19?

- (a) 24th Amendment
- (b) 25th Amendment
- (c) 42nd Amendment
- (d) 44th Amendment

22. **Assertion (A) :**

Secularism, as a basic feature of the Indian Constitution, means that the State remains neutral and does not favour or discriminate against any religion

Reason (R) :

One of the Directive Principles of State Policy states that it will be a part of the duty of the state to improve the breeds of cattle and prevent the slaughter of cows and calves.

Which of the following is correct?

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

23. How many of the following provisions were present in the original Constitution of India?

1. Both men and women have the right to an adequate means of livelihood equally
2. Providing equal justice and free legal aid
3. Making provision for humane conditions of work
4. Uniform civil code for the citizens
5. Safeguarding of forests and wildlife

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

24. Consider the following:

“The 42nd Constitutional Amendment was made in the light of the recommendations of the ___(1)___ Committee Report. It suggested ___(2)___ items to be incorporated in the constitution as duties of the citizen. After the passage of the 42nd Constitutional Amendment, there were ___(3)___ Fundamental Duties of the citizens of India in 1977.”

Select an option given below that correctly completes the passage:

- (a) Swaran Singh, Ten, Eleven
- (b) Swaran Singh, Eight, Ten
- (c) Gadgil, Ten, Eleven
- (d) Swaran Singh, Eight, Eleven

25. Which of the following federal principles is/are **not** found in the Indian federation?

1. Bifurcation of the judiciary between the Federal and State Governments.
2. The Federal and State Governments have their own officials to administer their respective laws and functions.
3. The Union cannot be destroyed by any state seceding from the Union at its will.
4. The Federal Government can redraw the map of the Indian Union by forming a new State.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

26. Which of the following statements about the changes made by the forty-second amendment to the Constitution relating to the Directive Principles of state policy are correct?

1. It enabled the state to provide free legal aid to its citizens.
2. It provided for the state to secure the participation of workers in the management of undertakings.
3. It made dowry-taking a culpable offence.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

27. Match List I with List II

	Form Of Government		Countries
(A)	Parliamentary, Federal, Republican	1.	United Kingdom
(B)	Presidential, Federal, Republican	2.	France
(C)	Parliamentary, Unitary, Monarchical	3.	United States Of America
(D)	Parliamentary Cum-Presidential, Unitary, Republican	4.	India
		5.	Nigeria

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

	A	B	C	D
(a)	4	3	1	2
(b)	4	3	2	1
(c)	3	4	1	5
(d)	3	5	4	1

28. Consider the following statements:

1. The right to collective bargaining is protected under Article 19 of the Indian Constitution.
2. The State can restrict the right to move freely throughout the territory of India on the grounds of protecting the interests of the general public.

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

29. "The Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy," is said by :

- (a) M.K. Gandhi
- (b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (c) Dr Radhakrishnan
- (d) Dr. Ambedkar

30. The Indian Citizenship can be deprived of a person under which of the following conditions:

1. When the citizen has shown disloyalty to the Constitution of India
2. When the citizen has unlawfully communicated with the enemy during a war
3. When a registered citizen has been imprisoned in any country for two years within five years of registration

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

31. Which of the following statements regarding Article 22 of the Constitution of India are correct?

1. The fundamental right conferred by this article protects persons against detention in certain cases.
2. This fundamental right is guaranteed both to citizens and non-citizens.
3. The rights guaranteed under this provision are applicable to those arrested under laws providing for preventive detentions.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

32. "The _____ provided a separate electorate for the _____." Which of the following options fills the above statement?

- (a) Government of India Act 1909, Muslim Community
- (b) Government of India Act 1909, Depressed Class
- (c) Government of India Act 1919, Muslim Community
- (d) Government of India Act 1919, Depressed Class

33. How many of the following constitutional provisions are considered violations of the Right to Equality?

1. The President / Governor is not subject to any kind of criminal proceeding during their tenure.
2. A Member of Parliament is not obliged to attend any proceedings on civil matters during the session of the Parliament.
3. Establishment of Special Courts that deal with a specific area of law.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

34. Which of the persons are eligible to be members of the Advisory Board constituted for dealing with matters related to Preventive Detention?

1. A Serving Judge of a High Court
2. A Retired Judge of a High Court
3. Any person qualified to be appointed as a Judge of a High Court

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

35. In India, every religious denomination has the right to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes, subject to which of the following conditions?

1. Public order
2. Morality
3. Health

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

36. The State Government does **not** have the power to make laws with respect to which of the following conditions?

1. Abrogation of certain fundamental rights to police forces.
2. Enabling subordinate courts to issue writs.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

37. Which of the following Articles of the Indian Constitution directly govern the filing of a mercy petition in matters concerning the Right to Life under Article 21?

1. Article 21
2. Article 72
3. Article 161
4. Article 134

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

38. Consider the following:

1. A foreigner from UNICEF working and getting remuneration from the Government of India.
2. An Indian from UNICEF working and getting remuneration from a foreign nation.

Who among the persons mentioned above can receive a title from a foreign state without the consent of the President of India?

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

39. Consider the following pairs that are related to the term 'Digital Colonism' that was recently in the news:

Term	Meaning
I. Inclusive Digital Future	– Data kept within the country
II. Digital Sovereignty	– Managing global data exchange
III. Data Localisation	– Equal digital access for all
IV. Cross-Border Data Flows	– Nations' control over digital space

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) All four
- (d) None

40. Article 13 of the Indian Constitution deals with "Laws inconsistent with the fundamental rights". How many of the following fall under the definition of "Laws" under this article?

1. Permanent laws
2. Temporary laws
3. Statutory instruments in delegated legislation
4. Non-legislative sources of law
5. Constitutional Amendments

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

41. Which of the following articles have been used to support the nationalisation of mineral resources as well as public utilities?

- (a) Article 39
- (b) Article 42
- (c) Article 46
- (d) Article 48A

42. Consider the following statements:

Statement I :

The Supreme Court has ruled that denying preferred food to prisoners with disabilities violates their fundamental rights.

Statement-II :

Article 21 of the Indian Constitution extends the right to life to all prisoners.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

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

43. Consider the following statements:

1. Maternity leave is a constitutional right, even for the birth of the third child.
2. The Maternity Benefit Act allows 26 weeks of paid leave for every child.
3. There is no mandatory rest period for the woman after her miscarriage.

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

44. With reference to the fundamental right of Freedom of Speech and Expression, consider the following statements:

1. It is only available against the State and not against private individuals.
2. It is only available to citizens.
3. The State can impose reasonable restrictions on this right if it affects friendly relations with a foreign state.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

45. Consider the following statements regarding 'Socialist' and 'Secular' in the Indian Constitution:

1. Only after the 42nd Amendment did Socialist content become present in the constitution.
2. Only the country of India has both Socialist and Secular principles in its constitution.

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

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

46. The distinction between the commercial and political functions of the East India Company was made by which of the following Acts?

- (a) Regulating Act, 1773
- (b) Pitt's India Act, 1784
- (c) Charter Act, 1813
- (d) Government of India Act, 1858

47. Consider the following statements:

1. Marriage & Divorce
2. Inheritance
3. Property dispute
4. Reservation
5. Succession

How many of the above aspects are dealt with by the Uniform Civil Code?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) None

48. Under Article 19(2) of the Constitution, the freedom of speech and expression is not absolute. Restrictions can be imposed on which of the following grounds?

1. Sovereignty and integrity of India
2. Security of the State
3. Friendly relations with foreign States
4. Public order, decency or morality
5. Contempt of court
6. Defamation
7. Incitement to an offence

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

49. With reference to preventive detention, consider the following:

1. An enemy alien can be detained in custody without informing them of the grounds for arrest.
2. The power of preventive detention is an exception to Article 21.
3. Both the Parliament and the State Legislature have the power to enact a law for preventive detention.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

50. Consider the following pairs:

Article in the Constitution of India	Description
1. Article 31	The original Article 31 dealt with the right to property, but it was repealed and replaced by Article 300A.
2. Article 33	Restriction on rights conferred by this Part III while martial law is in force in any area.
3. Article 34	Power of Parliament to modify the rights conferred by this Part in their application to Forces, etc.
4. Article 35	Grants Parliament exclusive power to create laws that implement specific fundamental rights.

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

51. Consider the following with respect to the reservation in promotion for the government servants :

1. Article 16(4A) of the Indian Constitution permits states to provide reservations in promotion in favour of the depressed class who are not adequately represented.
2. It is neither a statutory right nor a fundamental right.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

52. Consider the following statements with respect to Civil and Criminal Law:

1. Both law considers offences against the State or society as a whole.
2. If found guilty, the accused can face penalties ranging from fines to imprisonment in both the Law.
3. In both cases, the prosecution must establish the accused's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

53. Which of the following situations abridges the provisions of the Protection of the interests of minorities provided in the Constitution of India?

1. Setting up a university for the promotion of the majority language.
2. Refusal to admit a child to an educational institution on the grounds of the place of birth.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

54. "Where an appeal or revision is provided against an order passed by a court, tribunal or any other authority before superior forum and such superior forum modifies, reverses or affirms the decision put in issue before it, the decision by the subordinate forum merges in the decision by the superior forum and it is the latter which subsists, remains operative and is capable of enforcement in the eye of the law." Which one of the following judicial doctrines is mentioned in the above passage?

- (a) Doctrine of Pith and Substance
- (b) Doctrine of Merger
- (c) Doctrine of Eclipse
- (d) Doctrine of Harmonious Construction

55. Under Article 341 of the Indian Constitution, which among the following authorities are empowered to recognise a caste, race or tribe as a Scheduled Caste?

- (a) Chief Minister of a State
- (b) Prime Minister of India
- (c) The President of India
- (d) All the above

56. With reference to the devolution of resources to panchayats, consider the following statements:

1. States are not mandated to grant the financial power to collect taxes to Panchayats.
2. Panchayats may receive grants from the Union Government as per the recommendations of the Central Finance Commission.
3. Karnataka ranks first in the Panchayat Devolution Index, 2024.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

57. Which of the following best describes the "horizontal application" of fundamental rights?

- (a) It applies only to actions of the state and its instrumentalities.
- (b) It can be enforced against other citizens.
- (c) It refers to the enforcement of rights through ordinary civil laws only
- (d) It is the power of parliament to amend fundamental rights.

58. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I :

Parliament has enacted the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956, for dispute resolution relating to waters of inter-State rivers.

Statement II :

Water is under the Union List subject of the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Which of the following statements is correct in relation to the above statements?

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

59. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Census is a part of the concurrent list under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- 2. The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner is empowered to implement the census in India.
- 3. The 16th census will be India's first digital census, and it will enable self-enumeration by the public.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

60. With reference to judges of the Supreme Court of India, consider the following statements:

- 1. They can hold office until they attain the age of sixty years.
- 2. The President can issue a removal of a judge if the Parliamentary address regarding the issue obtains a special majority support in both Houses.
- 3. In India, Supreme Court judges have not been impeached yet.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

61. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Any law passed by the State Legislature providing for the taking over of the management of any property by the State for a limited period in the public interest should receive the assent of the President.
- 2. Any law passed by the State Legislature that abridges any of the rights conferred by Article 19 for securing any of the principles laid down in Part IV of the Constitution should receive the assent of the President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

62. Consider the following:

- 1. President
- 2. Governor
- 3. State government

Which among the above authorities has the power to remit sentences of convicts?

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

63. Consider the following:

	Writ	Meaning	Scope
1.	Habeas Corpus	"To have the body of"	Can be issued by the High Court irrespective of the Jurisdiction
2.	Prohibition	"To forbid"	Directs inactivity on the part of lower judicial courts.
3.	Quo Warranto	"By what authority or warrant?"	Can be invoked by anyone, not necessarily the aggrieved person

How many of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

64. With reference to the Meri Panchayat Application, consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the National Informatics Centre under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
2. It provides panchayat-specific weather forecasts.
3. It gives access to Panchayat budgets and development plans.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

65. Timely justice is essential to build public trust in the legal system. Prolonged delays may deter people from approaching courts. This hesitation to approach courts due to the high stress levels ordinary citizens experience in courtrooms is termed as:

- (a) Black coat syndrome
- (b) White coat hypertension
- (c) Red tapism
- (d) White coat syndrome

66. With reference to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. The Speaker acts like a tribunal while deciding a question on the defection of a member of parliament.
2. The Speaker's decision on defection is subject to judicial review.
3. The Speaker may disqualify a member of the Parliament for disobeying his political party's directions.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

67. With reference to the Indian Polity, consider the following information:

Provision	Stated under
1. Rights of detenu	Fundamental rights
2. Defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so	Fundamental duties
3. Uniform Civil Code	Directive Principles of State Policy

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

68. With reference to the Standing Committee on Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, consider the following statements:

1. It has members from both the Houses of Parliament.
2. The Chairperson of the committee is elected by its members.
3. It cannot recommend cut motions on demands for grants by concerned ministries.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

69. With reference to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. It mandates the inclusion of women and non-Muslims in the Central Waqf Council.
2. Appeals on orders of Tribunals for Waqf disputes lie exclusively with the Supreme Court.

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

70. Consider the following statements:

1. India has conducted simultaneous elections only three times since its independence.
2. The Joint Parliamentary Committee on One Nation One Election has a majority of its members from the Lok 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

71. With reference to the Delimitation Commission, consider the following statements:

1. The President constitutes a Delimitation Commission every 10 years.
2. The Commission falls under the purview of the Ministry of Law and Justice in India.
3. Orders of the Delimitation Commission cannot be questioned in courts of law.
4. Only Parliament has the authority to modify orders of the Commission.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

72. Which of the following Acts mandated obtaining the Governor-General's prior approval before introducing certain types of Bills in the Legislative Council?

- (a) Charter Act of 1853
- (b) Indian Councils Act of 1861
- (c) Indian Councils Act of 1892
- (d) Government of India Act 1919

73. With reference to the ECINET Application, consider the following statements:

- 1. It helps to file election disputes.
- 2. It provides access to election data from authorised sources.
- 3. It will integrate multiple applications of the Election Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

74. With reference to the office of the Vice-President of India, consider the following statements:

- 1. She/He can resign from the office by submitting a resignation letter to the Prime Minister of India.
- 2. The resolution for her/his removal can only be introduced in the Rajya Sabha and not the Lok Sabha.
- 3. She/He can be removed from office through a resolution passed by both houses of the Parliament with a special majority.
- 4. If the office falls vacant due to resignation, the newly elected Vice President remains in the office for a five-year term.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

75. Consider the following statements:

- 1. A private member in the Parliament can introduce a Constitutional Amendment Bill, while a money bill can only be introduced by a minister.
- 2. Private members' bills have never been passed in the Indian 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

76. Which of the following given below fall under the definition of State under Article 12 and are explicitly mentioned in the Constitution?

- 1. Government of India
- 2. Parliament of India
- 3. Local authorities
- 4. Statutory authorities
- 5. Private body working an instrument of State

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

77. Consider the following statements:

Statement I :

The Central Information Commission (CIC) can call for any public record from any court or office in India.

Statement II :

The CIC is vested with powers similar to those of a civil court when trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

Statement III :

The CIC is constituted under the Right to Information Act, 2005

Which of the following statements is correct in relation to the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct, and both of them explain Statement I.
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement I.
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct, and that explains Statement I.
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct.

78. Consider the following articles:

- 1. Article 14
- 2. Article 15
- 3. Article 21

Which of the above Articles is/are connected to the concept of inclusive digital access as a fundamental right?

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

79. Consider the following Statements regarding 'Constitutional Morality':

- 1. It signifies a harmonious relationship between the government and the governed.
- 2. Fundamental Rights restrict the application of Constitutional Morality.

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. Consider the following statements regarding the Abolition of titles under Article 18 of the Indian Constitution:

- 1. The state cannot confer any title on both citizens and foreigners.
- 2. Hereditary titles are exempted under Article 18.
- 3. National awards such as Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, and Padma Bhushan do not come under the purview of Article 18.
- 4. Recipients of national awards should not use them as prefixes or suffixes to their name; otherwise, the government may forfeit the award.

How many of the statements given above is /are correct?

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

81. Consider the following statements:

Statement I :

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has banned public access to several OTT platforms for streaming obscene content.

Statement II :

Article 39 (f) directs the State to prevent exploitation and ensure the healthy development of children and youth.

Statement III :

The Indian Constitution permits reasonable restrictions on free speech under Article 19(2).

- (a) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct, and both of them explain Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement-I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct, and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement-II nor Statement-III is correct

82. With reference to the Deputy Speaker, consider the following statements:

- 1. He/she can preside over the Joint Sitting of Parliament if the Speaker is absent.
- 2. The Office of the Deputy Speaker is not considered subordinate to that of the Speaker.
- 3. He/she cannot be a member of Parliamentary committees.
- 4. He/she is always a member of the main Opposition party.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

83. Separation of powers between the executive and the judiciary is:

- (a) A Liberal-Intellectual Directive Principle of State Policy
- (b) An element of the basic structure of the Constitution
- (c) A basis for the American Presidential system
- (d) All the above

84. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Concept of "Scheduled Castes" originated in statutory form in the Government of India Act, 1935.
- 2. The President of India, under Article 366, notifies the Scheduled Castes for each state and union territory.
- 3. Once notified, the list of Scheduled Castes can be altered only by Parliament through a law.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

85. Consider the following statements regarding Overseas Citizens of India (OCI):

1. An OCI is a foreign national of Indian origin who gets special status to live, work, and travel in India.
2. An OCI must register with the Foreign Regional Registration Office (FRRO) if staying in India for more than 10 years.
3. Special permission from the FRRO is needed for research, missionary, or journalistic activities.
4. In India, an OCI can pursue careers like doctors, nurses, dentists, advocates, architects or chartered accountants.

How many of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?

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

86. Consider the following statements regarding the "SHRESHTA scheme" that was recently in the news:

1. It is a government-funded residential school initiative aimed at providing quality education to students from rural backgrounds.
2. Private schools and schools run by NGOs or voluntary organisations can both participate under this scheme.

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. Recently, the Department of Consumer Affairs launched an online portal that lets consumers file grievances conveniently without visiting the forum physically. Which of the following is it?

- (a) e-Daakhil
- (b) e-Samadhan
- (c) Nyaya Setu
- (d) Jan Suraksha Portal

88. Consider the following statements regarding "Amrit Gyaan Kosh" that was recently in the news:

1. It is a digital knowledge repository of governance case studies, focusing on India-centric ideas and scalable governance models.
2. It is connected to the iGOT platform, which offers online training for government officials under Mission Karmayogi.
3. The initiative aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of health, education, agriculture, and digital governance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

89. With Reference to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, consider the Following Statement:

- I. The act created two Union Territories, named Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir, with their respective legislature.
- II. The present UT of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly can legislate on all State List subjects except "Police" and "Public Order".
- III. The act granted Sixth Schedule status to the UT of Ladakh.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

90. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 19(1)(g) of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to access any part of the country, subject to certain exceptions and restrictions.
2. Safe and motorable roads are considered a component of the Right to Life under Article 21.

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. The term "The Gen Z revolution" is sometimes mentioned in the news, which is a protest against social media bans that triggers political upheaval, leading to government dissolution in which of the following countries?

- (a) Bhutan
- (b) Taiwan
- (c) Nepal
- (d) Sri Lanka

92. Consider the following statements with respect to the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK):

1. It is currently a fully statutory body under the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993
2. Under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, NCSK is mandated to monitor the implementation of the Act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

93. Consider the following with respect to the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025:

1. The act imposes a complete ban on all online games involving money.
2. This act applies to online money gaming services offered within the territory of India only.
3. The act recognises e-sports and Online Social games as a legitimate competitive sport in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

94. Consider the following statements:

Statement I :

Lokpal can inquire into a corruption complaint against a High Court judge.

Statement II :

Lokpal has jurisdiction to inquire into allegations of corruption against public servants under the Union Government.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

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

95. Consider the following statements with respect to Surrogacy rules in India:

1. The child to be born through surrogacy must have at least one gamete from the intending parents.
2. Single women opting for surrogacy should be either a divorcee or a widow.
3. The surrogate mother is required to carry the child to help another individual or couple without receiving monetary compensation.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

96. Consider the following statements regarding the E-SECBHR app by the Bihar State Election Commission:

1. Only one registered voter is allowed to log in using one mobile number.
2. All Senior citizens, disabled people and pregnant women can avail this option.
3. Facial recognition is used for voter identity verification during login but not for voting.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

97. Consider the following statements regarding the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India:

1. The Lok Sabha has recently enabled simultaneous interpretation of parliamentary proceedings in all the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule.
2. The Kokborok language has already been included in the Eighth Schedule.

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

98. Recently, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced that it will begin a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar ahead of its state assembly elections. In this aspect, consider the following powers of the ECI :

1. Section 16 of the Representation of the People Act 1950 (RPA) deals with disqualifications for voter registration in an electoral roll.
2. Section 21 of the RPA empowers the ECI to prepare and revise electoral rolls.

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

99. Which of the following writs can be issued against administrative authorities?

- (a) Prohibition, Certiorari and Mandamus
- (b) Certiorari and Mandamus
- (c) Mandamus only
- (d) Prohibition and Certiorari

100. Consider the following principles:

1. Welfare state
2. Dignity of the individual
3. Integrity of the state
4. Parliamentary privilege

How many of the above have been held by the Supreme Court to be part of the basic structure of the Constitution?

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

1. With reference to the term “Republic” in the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:
1. It implies that the head of the State is directly elected for a fixed tenure.
 2. It ensures that sovereignty rests with the people and not with any hereditary ruler.
 3. It reflects the absence of any privileged class and guarantees equal access to public offices.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

EXPLANATION:

A democratic polity can be classified into two categories: monarchy and republic. In a monarchy, the head of the State (usually king or queen) enjoys a hereditary position, that is, he comes into office through succession, e.g., in Britain.

In a republic, on the other hand, the head of the State is always elected directly or indirectly for a fixed period, e.g., India, USA, etc.

- The term ‘republic’ in our Preamble indicates that India has an elected head called the president. He is elected indirectly for a fixed period of five years. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Republic in the Indian Constitution vests political sovereignty in the people and not in a single individual like a king; and the absence of any privileged class, and hence all public offices are opened to every citizen without any discrimination. **So, Statements 2 and 3 are correct.**

2. Consider the following:
1. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India
 2. The Judges of the High Courts
 3. The Advocate General of a State
 4. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha
 5. The Governors of States
- Provisions related to oaths or affirmations of which of the above are mentioned under the Third Schedule of the Constitution?
- (a) 1 and 2 only**
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

EXPLANATION:

The Third Schedule provides forms of oaths or affirmations for persons in decision-making positions, such as Ministers, Judges or Auditors. The purpose behind these oaths or affirmations is to ensure that the duties assigned to them are discharged faithfully, without any pressure or biases, to maintain secrecy in matters and to ensure that the post is not misused.

The Third Schedule provides for the forms of oaths or affirmations including.

- Form of oath of office for a union minister.
- Form of oath of secrecy for a union minister.
- Form of oath or affirmation to be made by a candidate for election to Parliament.
- Form of oath or affirmation to be made by a member of Parliament.
- Form of oath or affirmation to be made by the judges of the Supreme Court and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India
- Form of oath of office for a minister for a state.
- Form of oath of secrecy for a minister for a state.
- Form of oath or affirmation to be made by a candidate for election to the legislature of a state.

- Form of oath or affirmation to be made by a member of a state legislature.
- Form of oath or affirmation to be made by the judges of the High Court.

Thus, Only the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) and the Judges of the High Courts have their oaths or affirmations mentioned in the Third Schedule. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ARTICLES RELATED TO THIRD SCHEDULE

- **Article 75(4):** The President administers the oath of office and secrecy to Union Ministers before they handle their charge. The oath follows the form in the Third Schedule.
- **Article 99:** Members of both Houses of Parliament take an oath or affirmation before the President or a person appointed by them.
- **Article 124(6):** Supreme Court Judges must take an oath or affirmation before the President as prescribed in the Third Schedule.
- **Article 148(2):** The Comptroller and Auditor General of India takes an oath or affirmation before the President as per the Third Schedule.
- **Article 164(3):** State Ministers take an oath of office and secrecy according to the Third Schedule before entering office.
- **Articles 84(a) & 173:** Disqualify members of Central and State Legislatures if they are not Indian citizens or do not take an oath or affirmation as prescribed by the Election Commission under the Third Schedule.
- **Article 188:** Members of State Legislative Assemblies or Councils take an oath or affirmation before the Governor according to the Third Schedule.
- **Article 219:** Judges of High Courts take an oath or affirmation before the Governor as prescribed in the Third Schedule

3. Which of the following provisions were introduced by the Government of India Act, 1935?

1. Federation of India
2. Provincial autonomy
3. Bicameralism in all provinces
4. Federal Court of India

Select the correct answer using the code below:

(a) 1, 2 and 4 only

(b) 1, 3 and 4 only

(c) 2, 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

EXPLANATION:

The Government of India Act of 1935 marked a second milestone towards a completely responsible government in India. It was a lengthy and detailed document having 321 Sections and 10 Schedules.

- It provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation consisting of provinces and princely states as units. The Act divided the powers between the Centre and units in terms of three lists—Federal List (for Centre, with 59 items), Provincial List (for provinces, with 54 items) and the Concurrent List (for both, with 36 items). Residuary powers were given to the Viceroy. However, the federation never came into being as the princely states did not join it. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It abolished dyarchy in the provinces and introduced 'provincial autonomy' in its place. The provinces were allowed to act as autonomous units of administration in their defined spheres. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It introduced bicameralism in six out of eleven provinces, not in all provinces.. Thus, the legislatures of Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Bihar, Assam and the United Provinces were made bicameral, consisting

of a legislative council (upper house) and a legislative assembly (lower house). However, many restrictions were placed on them. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

- It provided for the establishment of a Federal Court, which was set up in 1937. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT OF 1935	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It provided for the adoption of dyarchy at the Centre. Consequently, the federal subjects were divided into reserved subjects and transferred subjects. However, this provision of the Act did not come into operation at all. ➤ It further extended the principle of communal representation by providing separate electorates for depressed classes (Scheduled Castes), women and labour (workers). ➤ It abolished the Council of India, established by the Government of India Act of 1858. The Secretary of State for India was provided with a team of advisors. ➤ It extended the franchise. About 10 per cent of the total population got the voting right. ➤ It provided for the establishment of a Reserve Bank of India to control the currency and credit of the country. ➤ It provided for the establishment of not only a Federal Public Service Commission, but also a Provincial Public Service Commission and Joint Public Service Commission for two or more provinces.

4. With reference to the Constitution of India, which of the following statements is/are **not** correct?

1. The term 'Federation' is nowhere used in the Constitution.
2. The term 'Cabinet' is explicitly mentioned in the Constitution.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

The Constitution of India provides for a federal system of government in the country. The framers of the Constitution adopted the federal system due to two main reasons: the large size of the country and its socio-cultural diversity. They realised that the federal system not only ensures the efficient governance of the country but also reconciles national unity with regional autonomy.

- However, the term 'federation' has nowhere been used in the Constitution. Instead, Article 1 of the Constitution describes India as a 'Union of States'. According to Dr B.R. Ambedkar, the phrase 'Union of States' has been preferred to 'Federation of States' to indicate two things:
- The Indian federation is not the result of an agreement among the states like the American federation, as the states in India have no right to secede from the federation. The federation is a union because it is indestructible.
- The Indian federal system is based on the 'Canadian model' and not on the 'American model'. The 'Canadian model' differs fundamentally from the 'American model' insofar as it establishes a very strong centre. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The term 'Cabinet' is explicitly mentioned in the Indian Constitution. The cabinet system was inserted in Article 352 of the Constitution in 1978 by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act.

Article 352 defines the cabinet, saying that it is 'the council consisting of the prime minister and other ministers of cabinet rank appointed under Article 75' and does not describe its powers and functions. In other words, its role in our politico-administrative system is based on the conventions of parliamentary government as developed in Britain. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

DISTINCTION BETWEEN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND CABINET	
Council of Ministers	Cabinet
It is a wider body consisting of 60 to 70 ministers.	It is a smaller body consisting of 15 to 20 ministers.
It includes all three categories of ministers, that is, cabinet ministers, ministers of State, and deputy ministers.	It includes the cabinet ministers only. Thus, it is a part of the Council of Ministers.
It does not meet, as a body, to transact government business. It has no collective functions.	It meets, as a body, frequently and usually once a week to deliberate and make decisions regarding the transaction of government business. Thus, it has collective functions.
It is vested with all powers, but in theory.	It exercises, in practice, the powers of the Council of Ministers and thus acts for the latter.
Its functions are determined by the cabinet.	It supervises the implementation of its decisions by the Council of Ministers.
It is a constitutional body, dealt with in detail by Articles 74 and 75 of the Constitution.	It was inserted in Article 352 of the Constitution in 1978 by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act.
It is collectively responsible to the Lower House of the Parliament	It enforces the collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers to the Lower House of Parliament.

5. Consider the following:

Statement-I : The Constitution of India is a mix of flexible and rigid features.

Statement-II : Most provisions of the Indian Constitution can be amended by Parliament itself, whereas a few provisions of the Constitution require both the Parliament and the state legislature to act combinedly.

Statement-III : For amending certain provisions of the Constitution, ratification by three-fourths of the states is required.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

(a) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct, and both of them explain Statement-I

(b) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement-I

(c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct, and that explains Statement I

(d) Neither Statement-II nor Statement-III is correct

EXPLANATION:

Constitutions are also classified into rigid and flexible. A rigid Constitution is one that requires a special procedure for its amendment, as, for example, the American Constitution. A flexible constitution, on the other hand, is one that can be amended in the same manner as the ordinary laws are made, as for example, the British Constitution. The Constitution of India is neither rigid nor flexible, but a synthesis of both. **So, Statement I is correct.**

- According to the constitution of India, some provisions can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament, i.e., a two-thirds majority of the members of each House present and voting, and a majority of the total membership of each House, which shows the rigid aspect.
- At the same time, some provisions of the Constitution can be amended by a simple majority of the Parliament in the manner of an ordinary legislative process. Notably, these amendments do not come under Article 368. This explains the flexible part of the constitution. **So, Statement II is correct, and it explains Statement I.**

- Some other provisions can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and with the ratification by half of the total states (not three-fourths). **So, Statement III is not correct. Therefore, only one of Statements II and III is correct, and that explains Statement I.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Article 368 in Part XX of the Constitution deals with the powers of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure. It states that the Parliament may, in exercise of its constituent power, amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of the Constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down for the purpose. ➤ However, the Parliament cannot amend those provisions which form the 'basic structure' of the Constitution. The Supreme Court ruled this in the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973).
Provisions amended under a Simple Majority	<p>A number of provisions in the Constitution can be amended by a simple majority of the two Houses of Parliament outside the scope of Article 368. These provisions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Admission or establishment of new states. ➤ Formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states. ➤ Abolition or creation of legislative councils in states. ➤ Second Schedule—emoluments, allowances, privileges and so on of the president, the governors, the Speakers, judges, etc. ➤ Quorum in Parliament. ➤ Salaries and allowances of the members of Parliament. ➤ Rules of procedure in Parliament. ➤ Privileges of the Parliament, its members and its committees. ➤ Use of the English language in Parliament. ➤ Number of puisne judges in the Supreme Court. ➤ Conferment of more jurisdiction on the Supreme Court. ➤ Use of official language. ➤ Citizenship—acquisition and termination. ➤ Elections to Parliament and state legislatures. ➤ Delimitation of constituencies. ➤ Union territories. ➤ Fifth Schedule—administration of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes. ➤ Sixth Schedule—administration of tribal areas

6. Consider the following statements:

Statement I : Right to disconnect is recognised as a Fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

Statement II : It allows employees to disconnect from their employer outside of working hours. Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

- Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II explains Statement I
- Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- Statement I is correct, but Statement II is not correct
- Statement I is not correct, but Statement II is correct**

EXPLANATION:

The Right to Disconnect is a novel initiative aimed at alleviating the pressures of work after official hours. Right to disconnect laws allow employees to disconnect from their employers outside of working hours. Employees can decline work-related communications outside of regular hours without facing negative consequences.

It includes not being obligated to monitor, read or respond to work emails, phone calls, text messages or other forms of communication once their workday has officially ended. **So, Statement II is correct.**

The Right to Disconnect is not recognised as a Fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. India does not have specific laws recognising the right to disconnect from work. However, the Constitution, the Directive Principles of State Policy, and various judicial pronouncements have spoken of the right to work in a conducive and healthy environment.

- Article 38 of the Constitution mandates that "the State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people".
- Article 39(e) of the Directive Principles of State Policy directs the state to direct its policy towards securing the strength and health of its workers. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

STATUS OF RIGHT TO DISCONNECT LAW IN INDIA & VARIOUS COUNTRIES	
Recently in the news	Australia's new right-to-disconnect law highlighted the need for better work-life balance in India, where workplace stress is high. The issue gained more attention after the death of a young EY employee in Pune, and mixed opinions from industry leaders on how much work is too much.
India's perspective	<p>India does not have a specific law on the right to disconnect. However, the Constitution and courts have recognised related rights about dignity, health, and a safe work environment.</p> <p>Judicial Aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Vishakha v. State of Rajasthan (1997) – Sexual harassment at the workplace violates fundamental rights. Recognised the right to dignity and safe working conditions. ➤ Ravindra Kumar Dhariwal v. Union of India (2021) – Equality includes accommodating employees' disabilities and individual differences (Justice D.Y. Chandrachud's view). ➤ Praveen Pradhan v. State of Uttaranchal (2012) – Superiors cannot humiliate or scold subordinates inhumanely in front of others.
France – 2017	Companies with 50 or more employees must negotiate guidelines allowing workers to disconnect from emails and other work-related communications after working hours.
Italy – 2017	Employees have a right to disconnect during rest periods, especially under remote working arrangements.
Spain – 2018	The law is enacted as a part of the Data Protection and Digital Rights Law, 2018, and it mandates employers to develop policies on the right to disconnect.
Ireland – 2021	Introduced a Code of Practice in 2021, which protects employees from penalisation for not being available after hours.
Belgium – 2022	It promotes mental well-being and work-life balance. Initially enforced for federal civil servants, with a similar push for private-sector employees.
Australia – 2024	The law allows employees to ignore communications after hours if they choose to, without fear of being punished.

7. In the Preamble of the Constitution of India, Liberty is provided for how many of the following?

1. Thought
2. Expression
3. Belief
4. Faith
5. Worship

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

The term 'Preamble' refers to the introduction or preface to the Constitution. It contains the summary or essence of the Constitution. The Preamble to the Indian Constitution is based on the 'Objectives Resolution', drafted and moved by Pandit Nehru, and adopted by the Constituent Assembly. It has been amended by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act (1976), which added three new words—Socialist, Secular and Integrity.

Key terms in the preamble are Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic, Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

- The term 'liberty' means the absence of restraints on the activities of individuals, and at the same time, providing opportunities for the development of individual personalities.
- The Preamble secures to all citizens of India liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith, and worship through their Fundamental Rights, enforceable in the court of law, in case of violation.
- Liberty, as elaborated in the Preamble, is essential for the successful functioning of the Indian democratic system. However, liberty does not mean 'license' to do what one likes, and has to be enjoyed within the limitations mentioned in the Constitution itself.

In brief, the liberty conceived by the Preamble or Fundamental Rights is not absolute but qualified. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PREAMBLE OF THE CONSTITUTION	
About	<p>The Preamble of the Indian Constitution highlights four key aspects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It states that the source of authority of the Constitution lies with the people of India. ➤ It declares the nature of the Indian State as sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic, and republican. ➤ It outlines the objectives of the Constitution, namely justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. ➤ It specifies the date of adoption as November 26, 1949.
Key features	<p>The Preamble of the Indian Constitution describes India as a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic, and republican state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sovereign means India is fully independent. It has supreme power, with no authority above it, and its sovereignty is expressed through Parliament, which represents the will of the people. ➤ Socialist was added in 1976 by the 42nd Amendment. It reflects the aim of reducing inequality and working for the welfare of all citizens. ➤ Secular means the state does not favour any religion. Instead, it treats all religions equally to maintain peace and harmony in a diverse society. ➤ Democratic means people rule through elected representatives. In India, democracy is not just political but also includes social and economic aspects, ensuring equality and justice.

	➤ Republic means India has an elected head of state (the President) chosen for five years, not a hereditary ruler. It also ensures that sovereignty rests with the people and that no special privileges exist—everyone is equal before the law and eligible for public office.
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8. Which of the following is/are correct regarding the bill introduced for the purpose of altering the boundaries of any State?

1. It can be introduced only in the House of the People.
2. It requires prior recommendation of the President.
3. It should be passed by a special majority in the Parliament.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 3 of the Constitution of India gives Parliament the power to form new states or change the area, boundary, or name of existing states.

- A bill for this purpose can be introduced in either House of Parliament, but only with the President's recommendation.
- If the bill affects a state, the President must send it to that state's legislature for its opinion within a fixed time.
- The views of the state legislature are not binding—Parliament may accept or reject them.
- If the bill is amended in Parliament, it is not necessary to send it back to the state legislature.
- For Union Territories, no reference to their legislature is required; Parliament can decide directly.

So, Statement 1 is not correct, and Statement 2 is correct.

The Constitution of India (under Article 4) declares that laws made for admission or establishment of new states (under Article 2) and formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states (under Articles 3) are not to be considered as amendments of the Constitution under Article 368. This means that such laws can be passed by a simple majority and by the ordinary legislative process. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ARTICLES RELATED TO THE UNION AND ITS TERRITORY	
Article 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States. ➤ The States and the territories thereof shall be as specified in the First Schedule. ➤ The territory of India shall comprise — <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the territories of the States; (b) the Union territories specified in the First Schedule; and (c) such other territories as may be acquired.
Article 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parliament may by law admit into the Union, or establish, new States on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
Article 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Any law referred to in article 2 or article 3 shall contain such provisions for the amendment of the First Schedule and the Fourth Schedule as may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of the law and may also contain such supplemental, incidental and consequential provisions (including provisions as to representation in Parliament and in the Legislature or Legislatures of the State or States affected by such law) as Parliament may deem necessary. ➤ No such law as aforesaid shall be deemed to be an amendment of this Constitution for the purposes of Article 368.

9. Consider the following countries:

1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Pakistan
4. Sri Lanka

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 provides citizenship to people from which of the above countries?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 1, 2 and 4 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1,2,3 and 4

EXPLANATION:

The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 amends the Citizenship Act, 1955 so as to grant a certain class of illegal migrants a path to Indian citizenship. The CAA makes illegal migrants eligible for citizenship if they,

- Belong to the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian community
- Are from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan. (It does not include Sri Lanka) **So, Option (a) is correct.**

Originally, the CAA applied only to migrants who entered India on or before 31 December 2014, with certain areas in the North-East exempted.

Under the Ministry of Home Affairs order (Immigration & Foreigners Act, 2025), eligible migrants who entered on or before 31 December 2024 can legally stay in India without passports or visas. Exemptions exist for registered Sri Lankan Tamils (by 9 Jan 2015), Nepalese and Bhutanese citizens, armed forces personnel and families, and registered Tibetans. This provides particular relief for Hindus from Pakistan who migrated after 2014.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

THE CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT (CAA), 2019	
Recently in the news	Recently, the Home Ministry has amended a provision of the Rules of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 that required applicants seeking citizenship to submit a document by any government authority in Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan establishing their roots in these countries.
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The CAA, 2019, amends the Citizenship Act, 1955, by excluding these groups from being treated as illegal migrants and reducing the residency requirement for citizenship from 11 years to 5 years. ➤ The law exempts the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura, as included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, including the tribal areas of Karbi Anglong in Assam, Garo Hills in Meghalaya, Chakma district in Mizoram, and the Tribal areas district in Tripura.
Recent Amendment	<p>The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has amended the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) Rules relating to the documents required to prove ancestral roots in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, or Pakistan.</p> <p>Earlier Requirement: Applicants had to furnish one of nine documents issued by government authorities in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, or Pakistan. These documents were necessary to establish that the applicant, or their ancestors, were nationals of those countries.</p> <p>New Relaxations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wider Document Scope: Applicants can now submit any document issued by the Indian State/Central Government or a judicial/quasi-judicial authority (e.g., land records, judicial orders) as proof of roots.

	<p>➤ Flexibility: The inclusion of “etc.” gives officials discretion to accept other relevant documents if necessary.</p> <p>➤ Religious Certification: Certificates verifying the applicant’s faith can also be issued by local priests or recognised community institutions.</p> <p>The Ministry of Home Affairs clarified that the CAA is intended to be a “facilitative law”, designed to ease the process of granting citizenship. Officials have been instructed to interpret the rules in the spirit of the law, rather than enforcing them rigidly.</p> <p>The amendment makes it easier for CAA applicants to prove ancestry by allowing Indian government documents (not just foreign ones), mainly benefiting migrants from Bangladesh in states like West Bengal.</p>
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10. Consider the following :

1. Protection of life and personal liberty
2. Freedom of speech and expression
3. Equality before the law
4. Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion

Which of the above fundamental rights are available to both citizens and foreigners?

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 21 asserts that no person shall be deprived of their life except according to the procedure established by law.

- This means that every individual has the right to live, and their life cannot be taken away except in accordance with the prescribed legal procedures.
- The right to life encompasses various aspects, including the right to live with dignity, the right to livelihood, and the right to a healthy environment.

Article 21 also protects the personal liberty of individuals.

- It states that no person shall be deprived of their personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law.
- Personal liberty includes the freedom to move freely, the freedom to choose one's place of residence, and the freedom to engage in any lawful occupation or profession.

This right is available to both citizens and non-citizens (foreigners). **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Freedom of Speech and Expression is from Article 19. It implies that every citizen has the right to express his/her views, opinions, beliefs and convictions freely by word of mouth, writing, printing, picturing or in any other manner.

- The State can impose reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the freedom of speech and expression on the grounds of sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, contempt of court, defamation, and incitement to an offence.
- Protection of six rights regarding freedom of: (I) speech and expression, (ii) assembly, (Iii) association, (iv) movement, (v) residence, and (vi) profession (Article 19) available only to citizens and not to foreigners. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Article 14 says that the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. This provision confers rights on all persons, whether citizens or foreigners. Moreover, the word 'person' includes legal persons, viz, statutory corporations, companies, registered societies or any other type of legal person. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

Article 15 protects the citizens against various forms of discrimination based on religion and gender. The Constitution of India guarantees various rights to its citizens, including no discrimination on account of religion, race, caste, or place of birth.

Religion – It means that no person should be discriminated against on the basis of religion from accessing any public place or policy by the state or any group. These fundamental Rights are available only to citizens and not to foreigners. **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS AND FOREIGNERS	
Recently in the news	Recently, the Supreme Court declined to halt the deportation of illegal Rohingya Muslim migrants from Delhi, emphasising that the right to reside in India is exclusive to citizens. The court acknowledged security concerns raised by the government, referencing a prior ruling on deportations from Assam and Jammu & Kashmir.
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Fundamental Rights are enshrined in Part III of the Constitution from Articles 12 to 35. ➤ In this regard, the framers of the Constitution derived inspiration from the Constitution of the USA (i.e., Bill of Rights). ➤ The Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution. Some of them are available only to the citizens, while others are available to all persons, whether citizens, foreigners or legal persons like corporations or companies.
Fundamental Rights are available only to citizens and not to foreigners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ (Article 15) - Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. ➤ (Article 16) - Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment. ➤ (Article 19) - Protection of six rights regarding freedom of: (I) speech and expression, (ii) assembly, (Iii) association, (iv) movement, (v) residence, and (vi) profession. ➤ (Article 29) - Protection of language, script and culture of minorities. ➤ (Article 30) - Right of minorities to establish and administer educational Institutions.
Fundamental Rights available to both citizens and foreigners (except enemy aliens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ (Article 14) - Equality before law and equal protection of laws. ➤ (Article 20) - Protection in respect of conviction for offences. ➤ (Article 21) - Protection of life and personal liberty. ➤ (Article 21A) - Right to elementary education. ➤ (Article 22) - Protection against arrest and detention in certain cases. ➤ (Article 23) - Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour. ➤ (Article 24) - Prohibition of employment of children in factories etc. ➤ (Article 25) - Freedom of conscience and free profession. Practice and propagation of religion. ➤ (Article 26) - Freedom to manage religious affairs. ➤ (Article 27) - Freedom from payment of taxes for promotion of any religion. ➤ (Article 28) - Freedom from attending religious Instruction or worship in certain educational Institutions.

11. Consider the following statements regarding the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946:

1. It recommended the formation of a Constituent Assembly.
2. It supported the idea of two Constituent Assemblies.
3. It recommended the immediate transfer of power to the Indians.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1 and 3 only

EXPLANATION:

The Cabinet Mission Plan was a statement made by the Cabinet Mission and the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, on May 16, 1946, that contained proposals regarding the constitutional future of India in the wake of Indian political parties and representatives not coming to an agreement.

The Cabinet Mission members were:

- Lord Pethick-Lawrence – Secretary of State for India
- Sir Stafford Cripps – President of the Board of Trade
- A.V. Alexander – First Lord of the Admiralty.

Point 15 of the cabinet mission plan consists of six sub-points that proposed the basic form of the Constitution of India; strikingly, all relate to the federal structure of India.

- The Plan rejected the Muslim League's demand for a separate state of Pakistan and instead called for an Indian Union that consisted of British provinces and the Princely States.
- While the Plan rejected Pakistan, it proposed a unique federal set-up that it hoped would be acceptable to the Congress Party and the Muslim League: it introduced the concept of grouping/sections; provinces and princely states were free to form groups under the Union, having a legislature and executive, enjoying significant autonomy.

Therefore, the Cabinet Mission Plan, 1946, did not support the idea of a two constituent assembly. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

- It also provided for the formation of the constituent assembly on the democratic principle of population. A constituent assembly was to be elected by provincial assemblies by proportional representation (voting in three groups—General, Muslims, Sikhs). This constituent assembly would be a 389-member body with provincial assemblies sending 292, chief commissioner's provinces sending 4, and princely states sending 93 members. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

- The cabinet mission did not recommend immediate transfer of power; instead, it proposed an interim government with the formation of a constituent assembly with the goal of gradual transfer of power.

So, Statement 3 is not correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CABINET MISSION PLAN, 1946	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To formulate a constitution-making body (the Constituent Assembly of India). ➤ To establish an Executive Council with the support of the major Indian parties. ➤ It provided that all the members of the Interim cabinet would be Indians and there would be minimal interference by the Viceroy. ➤ It recognized Indian Right to cede from the Commonwealth. ➤ The Union Government and its legislature were to have limited powers, dealing with Finance, Foreign Affairs and Communications. ➤ The union would have the powers necessary to raise the finances to manage the subjects. Thus, the Cabinet Mission plan proposed a weak Centre. We can realise what would have been of the country if this plan had been approved and implemented. ➤ All subjects other than the Union Subjects and all the residuary powers would be vested in the provinces. ➤ The Princely states would retain all subjects and all residuary powers.

12. Consider the following features:

1. Parliamentary sovereignty
2. Republic polity
3. Collective responsibility of the executive to the legislature
4. Written Constitution

How many of the features mentioned above are common to both the Indian and British Constitutions?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four

EXPLANATION:

Parliamentary sovereignty in the UK makes Parliament the supreme legal authority, able to make or change any law. Courts cannot overrule their legislation, and no Parliament can bind future Parliaments.

In India, Parliament is not sovereign. It works within a written Constitution, which is the supreme law. Its powers are limited by the division of powers between the Union and States and by Fundamental Rights.

All laws passed by Parliament must follow the Constitution and are subject to judicial review by independent courts. This ensures a balance between parliamentary authority and constitutional supremacy, preventing unconstitutional laws.

Mechanisms like the Basic Structure doctrine (Kesavananda Bharati case) ensure that even constitutional amendments cannot violate fundamental principles. This upholds the Constitution's supremacy while allowing Parliament to legislate within limits.

Thus, unlike the UK, Parliamentary sovereignty does not exist in India in purist form and the Indian Constitution ensures a balance between Parliamentary sovereignty and constitutional supremacy. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

A democratic polity can be classified into two categories: Monarchy and Republic.

- In a monarchy, the head of the State (usually king or queen) enjoys a hereditary position, that is, he comes into office through succession, e.g., in Britain.
- In a republic, on the other hand, the head of the State is always elected directly or indirectly for a fixed period, e.g., India.
- Therefore, the term 'republic' in our Preamble indicates that India has an elected head called the president. He is elected indirectly for a fixed period of five years.
- A republic also means two more things:
 - Vesting of political sovereignty in the people and not in a single individual like a king
 - The absence of any privileged class and hence all public offices being opened to every citizen without any discrimination.

Therefore, the Republic polity is not common to India and the British Constitution. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

The collective responsibility of the executive to the legislature is common to both India and the British Constitution. It is the bedrock principle of parliamentary government.

- In Britain, the Cabinet is collectively responsible to the House of Commons. For example, if the House of Commons withdraws support, the government falls.
- In the case of India, the ministers are collectively responsible to the Parliament in general and to the Lok Sabha in particular (Article 75). They act as a team, and swim and sink together. The principle of collective responsibility implies that the Lok Sabha can remove the ministry (i.e., the council of ministers headed by the prime minister) from office by passing a vote of no confidence.

So, Statement 3 is correct.

The Indian Constitution is not only a written document but also the longest Constitution in the world. It specifies the structure, organisation, powers and functions of both the Central and State governments and prescribes the limits within which they must operate.

Unlike India, the British Constitution is not a single written document. Instead, it is a collection of various sources such as customs, traditions, judicial decisions, statutes (laws made by Parliament), and historical documents (like the Magna Carta, 1215). **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**

13. Article 20, clause (1) States that :

"No person shall be convicted of any offence except for violation of a law in force at the time of the commission of the act charged as an offence, nor be subjected to a penalty greater than that which might have been inflicted under the law in force at the time of the commission of the offence"

The above provision speaks about the

- (a) Prohibition against double jeopardy
- (b) Prohibition against Self-incriminating evidence
- (c) **Prohibition against ex-post facto legislation**

(d) Protection against arbitrary arrest and detention

EXPLANATION:

Clause (2) of Article 20 of the Indian Constitution deals with the Prohibition against Double jeopardy. The Doctrine of double jeopardy traces back its origin to American jurisprudence of punishment and means that "no person can be prosecuted and punished twice for the same offence".

Article 20(2) reads that no one could be convicted and punished more than once for the same offence involving the same set of facts.

In essence, it guarantees against the multiple convictions of a person for the same offence in the same set of facts. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**

Clause (3) of Article 20 of the Indian Constitution deals with the Prohibition against self-incrimination. It states that, "No person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself/herself".

The right against self-incrimination has existed since mediaeval times but gained importance in modern times as well since its development in common law countries. This right was started to be considered an essential right and one of the important facets of the principles of natural justice. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**

Clause (1) of Article 20 of the Indian Constitution deals with the Provision against ex post facto law. Basically, ex post facto laws are those laws which penalise individuals for acts that were lawful when committed but subsequently declared unlawful by a law enacted later on. Thus, legal actions done in the past cannot be retrospectively criminalised by a subsequent law; rather, new laws can only be applied prospectively.

Article 20(1) states that an individual cannot be prosecuted and convicted under those laws that were not in existence at the time the offence was committed, nor can he be given a punishment greater than that existed at the time of the commission of an offence. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

Article 22(1) and (2) of the Constitution of India provides protection against punitive arbitrary arrest and detention. No person who is arrested shall be detained in custody without being informed, as soon as may be, of the grounds for such arrest nor shall he be denied the right to consult, and to be defended by, a legal practitioner of his choice. **So, Option (d) is not correct.**

14. Consider the following:

1. The State Legislature prescribes residence as a criterion for appointment in employment under the State Government.
2. The State Legislature prescribes religion as a criterion for appointment in employment under a State Government in an office in connection with the affairs of any religious or denominational institution.

Which of the above-mentioned scenarios are violations of Article 16 of the Constitution?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

EXPLANATION:

Article 16(2) guarantees equality of opportunity in public employment and prohibits discrimination based on residence or place of birth. This means that, in general, no citizen can be denied a State job simply because they do not live in a particular area.

The only exception is under Article 16(3), which allows the State to prescribe residence for certain local posts where the duties are confined to a specific area. However, the Public Employment (Requirement as to Residence) Act, 1957, which allowed residence requirements, expired in 1974, except for some provisions in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Therefore, if a State imposes a residence requirement for general employment outside these local exceptions, it violates Article 16 because it constitutes arbitrary discrimination. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Article 16(4) explicitly allows the State to make special provisions for employment in offices connected with religious or denominational institutions, which can include requiring employees to belong to a particular religion or denomination.

This exception exists because certain offices, such as those managing temples, churches, mosques, or other religious institutions, may require employees to follow the faith of the institution to properly perform their duties. Since this is a constitutional exception, prescribing religion for such posts does not violate Article 16. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

EXCEPTIONS UNDER ARTICLE 16	
Exceptions	<p>Reservation for Backward Classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The State can reserve jobs for backward classes that are underrepresented in state services. ➤ Reservation can also apply in promotions, with seniority considered. ➤ Unfilled reserved vacancies in a year can be carried forward as a separate class of vacancies to the next year(s). ➤ These carried-forward vacancies do not count toward the 50% reservation ceiling for that year. <p>Religion-Based Appointments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A law can require that office bearers in religious or denominational institutions belong to that specific religion or denomination. ➤ In short, religious qualification can be prescribed by law for such positions. <p>Reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The State can reserve up to 10% of jobs for economically weaker sections. ➤ This 10% is in addition to existing reservations. ➤ The EWS groups are notified by the state based on family income and other indicators of economic disadvantage.

15. Consider the following government initiatives:

1. Depot Darpan Portal
2. Electronic National Agriculture Market
3. Anna Mitra App
4. Anna Sahayata Platform
5. Agristack portal

How many of the above digital initiatives are related to transforming the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs recently launched a set of digital initiatives to transform India's Public Distribution System (PDS), enhancing transparency, infrastructure, and empowerment for beneficiaries and frontline workers.

The three main platforms—Depot Darpan, Anna Mitra, and Anna Sahayata- aim to streamline the delivery of subsidised food grains to over 81 crore people under the National Food Security Act.

- **Depot Darpan** is a digital portal that helps food grain depot officials assess and improve their operations. It gives a Composite Rating based on infrastructure (safety, sustainability, compliance)

and operations (occupancy, profitability, storage efficiency). The platform uses IoT sensors, CCTV, and live video analytics for real-time monitoring and data-driven decision-making.

- **Anna Mitra** serves stakeholders in the Public Distribution System. FPS dealers can track stock, sales, and alerts; DFSO officers can monitor performance, manage grievances, and access beneficiary data; Food Inspectors can conduct geo-tagged inspections and review FPS ratings to ensure accountability and transparency.
- **Anna Sahayata** is a citizen-focused grievance platform for over 81 crore PMGKAY beneficiaries, using WhatsApp, IVRS, and Automatic Speech Recognition to make lodging grievances simple, accessible, and efficient. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

OTHER INITIATIVES	
e.NAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) is an online portal connecting Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis across India, promoting “One Nation One Market” for agricultural commodities. ➤ It is implemented by the Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) under the Ministry of Agriculture. ➤ It provides single-window services for farmers, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commodity arrivals • AI-based quality checks • E-bidding • Direct e-payment to farmers ➤ e.NAM aims to make agricultural trade more transparent, efficient, and competitive. ➤ It expands the market access for farmers and reduces information gaps. ➤ In Jammu & Kashmir, several mandis, including Narwal (Jammu) and Parimpora (Srinagar), have been integrated with e-NAM.
Agri Stack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Agri Stack is a digital framework by the government to connect stakeholders and improve agriculture in India. ➤ It uses data and digital services to achieve better outcomes for farmers. ➤ Helps farmers access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheaper credit • High-quality farm inputs • Localised and personalised advice • Easier and informed access to markets ➤ Agri Stack enables governments to plan and implement farmer-focused schemes more effectively.

16. Consider the following statements regarding Citizenship in India:

1. All matters relating to citizenship are regulated by the Parliament.
 2. The process of obtaining citizenship in India is dependent on the religion of the person.
- 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

EXPLANATION:

The Constitution deals with citizenship from Articles 5 to 11 under Part II. Article 11 in the Constitution of India provides the power to the Parliament to regulate the right of citizenship by law. It empowers the Parliament to enact a law to provide for such matters and any other matter relating to citizenship. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The process of obtaining citizenship in India is generally not dependent on a person's religion. It is governed by the Citizenship Act, 1955 and its amendments.

Under this law, a person can become an Indian citizen through birth, descent, registration, or naturalisation, with criteria based on legal status, residency, or Indian ancestry (not based on Religion). This ensures that India's citizenship laws remain secular and neutral, treating all individuals equally regardless of their religious background.

Exception: The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, is a special case which provides that Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, who entered India on or before December 31, 2014, will not be treated as illegal migrants. However, this is an exception and a one-time settlement, not the general rule for citizenship. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CITIZENSHIP	
About	<p>India has two kinds of people: citizens and aliens.</p> <p>Citizens are full members of the Indian State. They owe allegiance to it and enjoy all civil and political rights.</p> <p>Aliens are citizens of other countries. They do not enjoy all the civil and political rights of Indian citizens. Aliens are of two types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Friendly aliens – from countries having cordial relations with India- enjoy more rights. ➤ Enemy aliens – from countries at war with India; enjoy fewer rights, e.g., they do not have protection against arrest and detention (Article 22). <p>The Citizenship Act of 1955 prescribes five ways of acquiring citizenship, namely: by birth, by descent, by registration, by naturalisation, and by incorporation of territory.</p>
Rights of Indian Citizens (not available to aliens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Equality – Right against discrimination based on religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth (Article 15). ➤ Equal opportunity in public employment (Article 16). ➤ Freedom – Speech and expression, assembly, association, movement, residence, and profession (Article 19). ➤ Cultural and educational rights – Protects minority communities' culture and education (Articles 29 & 30). ➤ Political rights – Right to vote in Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections. ➤ Eligibility for Parliament and State Legislature – Right to contest elections. ➤ Eligibility for high offices – President, Vice-President, Supreme Court and High Court judges, Governor of states, Attorney General of India, and Advocate General of states.
Loss of citizenship	<p>The Citizenship Act of 1955 provides three ways of losing citizenship, whether it was acquired under the Act or earlier under the Constitution: renunciation, termination, and deprivation.</p> <p>Renunciation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Any adult citizen of India can voluntarily renounce their citizenship by making a declaration. ➤ Once the declaration is registered, the person ceases to be an Indian citizen. ➤ If the declaration is made during a war, the Central Government may withhold registration. ➤ When a person renounces citizenship, their minor children also lose citizenship, but the child can resume citizenship at 18. <p>Termination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If an Indian citizen voluntarily acquires citizenship of another country, their Indian citizenship automatically ends. ➤ This does not apply during a war.

	<p>Deprivation</p> <p>The Central Government can compulsorily revoke citizenship if a person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Obtained citizenship by fraud ➤ Showed disloyalty to the Constitution ➤ Communicated or traded with the enemy during a war ➤ Was imprisoned abroad for two years within five years of registration or naturalisation ➤ Lived outside India continuously for seven years
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17. How many of the following statements are correct with respect to Article 20 of the Constitution of India?

1. It prohibits the legislature from making retrospective civil and criminal laws.
2. It prevents a person from getting punished twice for the same offence by administrative authorities.
3. It prevents an accused person from being compelled to give his/her biological specimens.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 20, Part of the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution, embodies protections to ensure fair treatment of individuals accused of crimes. Three clauses in Article 20 deal with the arbitrary actions by the Legislature, Executive and implementing authorities.

- The first clause of Article 20 ensures that no person can be convicted or penalised for an act that was not considered an offence when it was committed. This provision prohibits ex-post-facto laws in criminal cases—laws that impose penalties retrospectively.
- The prohibition does not extend to civil or tax laws, allowing the state to impose retrospective taxation or civil liabilities. Therefore, only retrospective criminal laws are prohibited, whereas Civil laws are not included in it. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The second clause of Article 20 of the Constitution enshrines the principle of double jeopardy, ensuring that no individual is prosecuted or punished twice for the same offence. This protection applies exclusively to judicial proceedings before courts or tribunals and does not extend to administrative or departmental actions.

It safeguards a person against repeated prosecution for the same offence arising from identical facts, thereby preventing abuse of the legal process through multiple punishments for a single criminal act.

So, Statement 2 is not correct.

The third clause of Article 20 guarantees the right against self-incrimination, preventing individuals from being compelled to provide evidence against themselves. This principle aligns with due process and is integral to ensuring fairness in criminal trials.

Scope of Protection:

- Oral and Documentary Evidence: Protection extends to both oral testimony and documentary evidence that may incriminate the accused.
- Applicability to Criminal Proceedings: The clause applies exclusively to criminal cases and not civil disputes.
- Voluntary Statements: Evidence voluntarily provided by the accused is admissible and does not violate Article 20(3).

Exceptions:

- Material Evidence Collection (biological specimens): Compelled production of fingerprints, blood samples, or physical exhibits is permissible and does not breach Article 20(3). **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**
- Judicial Oversight: Evidence obtained with the accused's consent and under judicial supervision is admissible.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**NARCO-ANALYSIS TESTS & SUPREME COURT RULING**

Recently In news	Recently, the Supreme Court ruled that involuntary narco-analysis tests are unconstitutional, as they violate the right against self-incrimination (Article 20(3)) and the right to personal liberty (Article 21). Such tests require consent, and their results cannot alone justify a conviction.
Narco-analysis test	A narco-analysis test is a method where a suspect is injected with a drug, usually sodium pentothal, to lower their reasoning ability and make them more likely to reveal information. The drug is also used in higher doses as anaesthesia during surgeries.
Supreme Court ruling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Supreme Court has reaffirmed that narco-analysis tests cannot be conducted on an accused without their consent, as forced tests violate Articles 20(3) and 21, which protect the right against self-incrimination and personal liberty. ➤ The Court struck down a 2023 Patna High Court order that allowed such tests, emphasising that involuntary administration breaches privacy and constitutes a disproportionate exercise of police powers. ➤ While a voluntary test may be conducted at the proper stage of a trial with safeguards, its results cannot be the sole basis for conviction and can only provide supplementary evidence. ➤ This principle was first established in <i>Selvi vs State of Karnataka</i> (2010) and has since been reaffirmed in cases such as <i>Vinobhai v/s State of Kerala</i> and <i>Manoj Kumar Soni v/s State of M.P.</i>, highlighting the consistent protection of constitutional rights against coercive investigative methods.

18. Which of the following is **not** a Directive Principle of State Policy under Part IV of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Organisation of village panchayats
- (b) Prohibition of intoxicating drinks
- (c) Promotion of scientific temper**
- (d) Separation of the judiciary from the executive

EXPLANATION:

The Directive Principles of State Policy are enumerated in Part IV of the Constitution from Articles 36 to 51. The framers of the Constitution borrowed this idea from the Irish Constitution of 1937, which had copied it from the Spanish Constitution.

The Directive Principles, along with the Fundamental Rights, contain the philosophy of the Constitution and are the soul of the Constitution.

- Article 40 under the Directive principles directs the State to organise village panchayats and endow them with the necessary powers and authority to enable them to function as units of self-government. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**
- Article 47 under the Directive Principles mandates that the State shall endeavour to prohibit the consumption, except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drinks and of drugs that are injurious to health. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**
- Article 50 under Directive principles mandates the State shall take steps to separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State. **So, Option (d) is not correct.**

The Fundamental Duties in the Indian Constitution are inspired by the Constitution of the erstwhile USSR. The fundamental duties were added through the 42nd constitutional amendment act, 1976. This Amendment added a new part, namely, Part IVA, to the Constitution. This new Part consists of only one Article, namely Article 51A, which, for the first time, specifies a code of ten fundamental duties of citizens.

Article 51A(h) in the Constitution of India obliges every citizen to develop a scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry and reform.

Therefore, the Promotion of scientific temper is provided under Article 51A(h), Fundamental Duties of the Indian Constitution. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY	
About	<p>The phrase 'Directive Principles of State Policy' denotes the ideals that the State should keep in mind while formulating policies and enacting laws. These are the constitutional instructions or recommendations to the State in legislative, executive and administrative matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Directive Principles resemble the 'Instrument of Instructions' enumerated in the Government of India Act of 1935. ➤ They constitute a very comprehensive economic, social and political programme for a modern democratic State. ➤ They aim to realise the high ideals of justice, liberty, Equality, and fraternity as outlined in the Preamble to the Constitution. ➤ They embody the concept of a 'welfare state' and not that of a 'police state', which existed during the colonial era. In brief, they seek to establish economic and social democracy in the country. ➤ The Directive Principles are non-justiciable in nature, that is, they are not legally enforceable by the courts for their violation. ➤ Therefore, the Government (Central, State and local) cannot be compelled to implement them. ➤ The Directive Principles, although non-justiciable in nature, assist courts in examining and determining the constitutional validity of a law. <p>The Supreme Court has ruled many a times that in determining the constitutionality of any law, if a court finds that the law in question seeks to give effect to a Directive Principle, it may consider such law to be 'reasonable' in relation to Article 14 (Equality before law) or Article 19 (six freedoms) and thus save such law from unconstitutionality.</p>

19. Consider the following statements:

1. Parliament may by law empower any court to exercise the power to issue writs within the local limits of its jurisdiction.
2. The right to Constitutional remedies guaranteed by the Constitution of India cannot be suspended in any situation.

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

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

EXPLANATION:

According to Article 32, the Parliament can empower any other court to issue directions, orders and writs of all kinds. However, this can be done without prejudice to the above powers conferred on the

Supreme Court. Any other court here does not include high courts because Article 226 has already conferred these powers on the high courts.

Therefore, Parliament may by law empower any court to exercise the power to issue writs within its Jurisdiction. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Supreme Court has ruled that Article 32 is a basic feature of the Constitution. Hence, it cannot be abridged or taken away even by way of an amendment to the Constitution. As per Article 32, the right to move the Supreme Court shall not be suspended except as otherwise provided for by the Constitution.

However, Article 359 allows the President to suspend the right to approach any court for enforcing Fundamental Rights (except Articles 20 and 21) during a national emergency. Therefore, the right can be temporarily suspended in certain situations. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

WRITS	
Recently in news	Recently, A five-judge Bench began hearing the Presidential Reference on the powers of the President and Governors to grant assent to state assembly Bills. The reference follows a ruling that Governors cannot indefinitely delay Bills. The President has sought the Court's advisory opinion under Article 143 on several questions clarifying the scope of these powers.
Writ Jurisdictions of Supreme Court And High Courts	<p>Writs in India are borrowed from English law, where they were known as prerogative writs. They were originally issued in the name of the King, described as the "fountain of justice," to protect the rights and liberties of the people.</p> <p>The writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court differs from that of a High Court in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Supreme Court can issue writs only for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights, whereas High Courts can issue writs for both Fundamental Rights and other legal rights. Thus, the Supreme Court's jurisdiction is narrower in this respect. ➤ The Supreme Court can issue writs anywhere in India, while a High Court can issue writs only within its territorial jurisdiction, or outside it if the cause of action arises within its jurisdiction. This makes the Supreme Court's territorial reach wider. ➤ A writ under Article 32 is itself a Fundamental Right, so the Supreme Court cannot refuse to exercise this jurisdiction. Under Article 226, a High Court's writ jurisdiction is discretionary, and it may choose not to act. ➤ Article 32 not only empowers the Supreme Court to issue writs but also positions it as the defender and guarantor of Fundamental Rights, whereas Article 226 simply empowers High Courts to issue writs as part of their general jurisdiction.

20. Consider the following members:

1. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
2. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
3. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
4. C. Rajagopalachari

Who among the above-mentioned were members of both the Interim Government (1946) and the First Cabinet of Free India (1947)?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1, 2 and 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 4 only

(d) 2, 3 and 4 only

EXPLANATION:

In the Interim Government of 1946, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel held the portfolio of Home, Information & Broadcasting, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was in charge of Food & Agriculture, and C. Rajagopalachari handled Education & Arts. However, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was not a member of this government. When the First Cabinet of Independent India was formed in 1947, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel continued with Home, Information & Broadcasting and also took charge of States. Dr. Rajendra Prasad retained his role in Food & Agriculture. At this stage, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad joined the Cabinet as the Minister for Education, while C. Rajagopalachari did not continue. Thus, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Dr Rajendra Prasad were members of both the Interim Government (1946) and the First Cabinet of Free India (1947). **So, Option (a) is correct.**

21. Which Constitutional Amendment inserted Article 31C to give precedence to certain Directive Principles over Fundamental Rights under Articles 14 and 19?
- (a) 24th Amendment
(b) 25th Amendment
(c) 42nd Amendment
(d) 44th Amendment

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the Supreme Court's nine-judge bench upheld Article 31C of the Constitution, which provides legal protection to laws enacted to implement Directive Principles of State Policy. This decision reaffirms the Kesavananda Bharati judgment, while taking into account the limitations imposed by the Minerva Mills case. Article 31C was inserted by the 25th Amendment Act of 1971. It had two key provisions:

- Any law made to implement the socialist Directive Principles in Article 39(b) (equitable distribution of resources) or 39(c) (preventing concentration of wealth) cannot be declared invalid for violating Article 14 (equality) or Article 19 (freedoms).
- Any such law, if it declared that it was made to achieve these policies, could not be questioned in court.

In the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973), the Supreme Court upheld the first provision but struck down the second provision, ruling that judicial review is part of the basic structure of the Constitution and cannot be removed. Later, the 42nd Amendment Act (1976) tried to expand the scope of Article 31C to cover all Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV), not just Article 39(b) and (c). However, in the Minerva Mills case (1980), the Supreme Court declared this extension unconstitutional, restoring the original limited scope. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

22. **Assertion (A):** Secularism, as a basic feature of the Indian Constitution, means that the State remains neutral and does not favour or discriminate against any religion
- Reason (R):** One of the Directive Principles of State Policy states that it will be a part of the duty of the state to improve the breeds of cattle and prevent the slaughter of cows and calves.
- Which of the following is correct?
- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c) A is true, but R is false.
(d) A is false, but R is true.

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the Supreme Court of India reaffirmed that secularism is an indelible and core part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution. Back in 1973, in the largest Bench in its history, the Court delivered a landmark 7:6 decision that introduced the basic structure doctrine. It held that certain fundamental features—such as democracy, secularism, federalism, and the rule of law—form the core of the Constitution and cannot be amended or destroyed by Parliament.

The Constitution of India establishes a Secular State, meaning it does not recognise any religion as the official religion of the country.

The word 'secular' was added to the Preamble through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976. Indian secularism reflects a positive concept, giving equal respect and protection to all religions. As a result, the Constitution remains neutral, neither favouring nor discriminating against any religion. **So, A is true.**

According to Article 48 of the Indian Constitution, under the Directive Principles, the State shall endeavour to organize agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves, as well as other milch and draught cattle.

Therefore, Article 48 is related to the development of agriculture and animal husbandry, which is based on the Gandhian Principle of a self-sustained economy and village-centric development of the country. Article 48 is not related to Secularism. **Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.**

23. How many of the following provisions were present in the original Constitution of India?

1. Both men and women have the right to an adequate means of livelihood equally
2. Providing equal justice and free legal aid
3. Making provision for humane conditions of work
4. Uniform civil code for the citizens
5. Safeguarding of forests and wildlife

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

In the original constitution, Article 39 of the Directive Principles of State Policy, the State, in particular, directs its policy towards securing that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood.

Also, it ensures that there is equal pay for equal work for both men and women and that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Equal justice and free legal aid are not originally present in the Constitution. It was inserted as Article 39A through the (Forty-Second Amendment) Act, 1976.

This Article mainly secured the operation of the legal system promotes justice, on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall, in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

The Provision for just and humane conditions of work is present in the original Constitution in the Article 42.

- With a low-paying job comes a low-quality work environment. For example, construction workers had to work with no safety gear in the early days. Sanitation workers were not given the proper equipment to work with.
- These working conditions were not at all humane and led to many accidents. Earlier, female employees used to get fired from their jobs when they had to take maternity leave. Some even tried to work through those months to avoid losing their job.

So, Article 42 makes provisions for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is a legal framework which provides uniform personal laws across the country. It is a set of uniform laws regarding various matters like inheritance, marriage, adoption, succession, divorce, maintenance and inheritance applicable to all citizens irrespective of their religion, community, race, sex and caste.

This Provision of the Uniform Civil Code for the citizens is present in the original Constitution in Article 44 of the Directive Principles of State Policy. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

To safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country is not originally presented in the Indian Constitution.

- In the year 1976, the Constitution was amended. With this amendment, Article 48-A was inserted in the Constitution with the aim of affording better provisions to preserve and protect the environment. The Provision of this article imposes the duty on the State to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.
- The word "Environment" has been interpreted widely in this article. The State shall not only play a role of being protectionists but also enact adequate measures for the improvement of the environment. **So, Statement 5 is not correct.**

24. Consider the following:

"The 42nd Constitutional Amendment was made in the light of the recommendations of the ___(1)___ Committee Report. It suggested ___(2)___ items to be incorporated in the constitution as duties of the citizen. After the passage of the 42nd Constitutional Amendment, there were ___(3)___ Fundamental Duties of the citizens of India in 1977."

Select an option given below that correctly completes the passage:

- (a) Swaran Singh, Ten, Eleven
- (b) Swaran Singh, Eight, Ten**
- (c) Gadgil, Ten, Eleven
- (d) Swaran Singh, Eight, Eleven

EXPLANATION:

The 42nd Constitutional Amendment was made in light of the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee Report. The Swaran Singh Committee was set up in 1976 by the Indira Gandhi Government, with Swaran Singh as its Chairman. The Committee recommended the inclusion of a new part in the Constitution of India on the Fundamental Duties of citizens.

Based on these recommendations, the government introduced changes to the Constitution through the 42nd Amendment, which came into effect on 3 January 1977. The Committee suggested eight duties to be incorporated as Fundamental Duties of citizens, which are listed below:

- To respect and abide by the Constitution and the laws.
- To uphold the sovereignty of the nation and to function in a way that sustains and strengthens its unity and integrity.
- To respect the democratic institutions enshrined in the Constitution and not to do anything that may impair their dignity or authority.
- To defend the country and render national service, including military service, when called upon to do so.
- To abjure communalism in all forms.

- To assist and cooperate with the State in implementing the Directive Principles of State Policy and to promote the common good of the people, thereby serving the interests of social and economic justice.
- To abjure violence, to protect and safeguard public property, and not to engage in any act that may cause damage or destruction to such property.
- To pay taxes in accordance with the law.

Though the Swaran Singh Committee suggested the incorporation of eight Fundamental Duties in the Constitution, after the passage of the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, there were ten Fundamental Duties of the citizens of India in 1977. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

25. Which of the following federal principles are **not** found in the Indian federation?

1. Bifurcation of the judiciary between the Federal and State Governments.
2. The Federal and State Governments have their own officials to administer their respective laws and functions.
3. The Union cannot be destroyed by any state seceding from the Union at its will.
4. The Federal Government can redraw the map of the Indian Union by forming a new State.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 1 only

(c) 1 and 2 only

(d) 3 and 4 only

EXPLANATION:

In India, Judicial Independence is a non-federal feature of the constitution. India has a single & integrated judiciary, with the Supreme Court at the apex. Whenever any dispute arises between the centre and the states, the Supreme Court has the authority to resolve these disputes and ensure both levels of government function within their own constitutional boundaries.

Thus, in India, there is no bifurcation or division of the judiciary between the federal (central) and State governments. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

In India's federal system, powers and responsibilities are divided between the Central (Federal) Government and State Governments. Each level of government has its own officials and administrative machinery to implement and enforce its laws and policies.

Central Government Officials: They handle subjects under the Union List (e.g., defence, foreign affairs, currency).

State Government Officials: They manage subjects under the State List (e.g., police, public health, agriculture).

This separation ensures autonomy for both levels of government and avoids interference in each other's day-to-day administration. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Exception:

- Officers of the All India Services (IAS, IPS, IFoS) are recruited by the Centre but serve in States, helping coordinate between Central and State administrations.
- President's Rule (Art. 356) – Central officials may temporarily manage state administration.
- National Emergency (Art. 352) – The Union can assume greater control over the states.

These exceptions do not undermine the principle of separate administrative machinery.

Unlike in other federations, the states in India have no right to territorial integrity. The Parliament can, by unilateral action, change the area, boundaries or name of any state. Moreover, it requires only a simple majority and not a special majority. Hence, the Indian Federation is "an indestructible Union of destructible states". The American Federation, on the other hand, is described as "an indestructible Union of indestructible states".

Thus, the Union cannot be destroyed by any state seceding from the Union at its will, which is a federal principle in the Indian federation. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

The Supreme Court observed that India has adopted for itself a loose federal structure as it is an indestructible union of destructible units. This means that the federal Government can reshape the boundaries of a state, which is given under the State Reorganisation Act, 1956. Under Article 4(2) of the Indian Constitution, the Parliament has the power to reorganise the states in India (in order to create new States), and the consent of the state legislature is not compulsory for such laws.

Thus, the federal government redraws the map of the Indian Union by applying the federal principles in the Indian federation. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FEDERAL FEATURES OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rigidity: Making amendments to the Constitution is a very rigid process as compared to passing ordinary laws. ➤ Written Constitution: In India, we have a written Constitution, which is the supreme Law of the land. Both the Central and State governments derive their powers from it. It serves as a written contract between the two levels of government. ➤ Division of Powers: There seems to be a comprehensive attempt to define the limits of the Central and State governments in the Indian Constitution. The Constitution has three lists: List I, which is the Union List; List II, which is the State List; and List III, which is the Concurrent List. ➤ Independent Judiciary: The Indian Constitution provides a system of judicial review of governmental legislation by the Supreme Court and the High Courts. ➤ Bicameralism: The Indian Parliament is also bicameral. It has two houses, namely the lower house, that is, the Lok Sabha, and the upper house, namely the Council of States, that is, the Rajya Sabha.
Unitary Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Absence of the word 'Federation' in the Constitution: This can be considered a deliberate attempt on the Part of the constitution makers to keep India unitary in spirit. India has been described as a 'Union of States' in the Constitution. ➤ Single Constitution for the Union and States: States do not have their own constitutions. ➤ Single Citizenship: The Indian Constitution does not provide for dual citizenship. Every citizen of India is Indian by birth. There is only one nationality. ➤ Centre's Supremacy: Theoretically, in a federation, both governments should be independent of each other, and neither should be allowed to encroach upon the autonomy of the other. In our federation, we have a strong Centre, as compared to the states.

26. Which of the following statements about the changes made by the forty-second amendment to the Constitution relating to the Directive Principles of state policy are correct?

1. It enabled the state to provide free legal aid to its citizens.
2. It provided for the state to secure the participation of workers in the management of undertakings.
3. It made dowry-taking a culpable offence.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976, introduced significant changes to the Directive Principles of State Policy by amending and adding several Articles.

This amendment includes alterations made to the Preamble, 40 provisions, the Seventh Schedule, and 14 new Articles that were inducted into the Constitution.

In the Directive Principles of State Policy, the following Articles are amended or newly added in the Constitution.

- Amendment of article 39 (Added Clause-F): To secure opportunities for the healthy development of children and protection of childhood and youth against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.
- Insertion of new article 39A: To secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice, on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall, in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Insertion of new article 43A: To take steps, by suitable legislation or in any other way, to secure the participation of workers in the management of undertakings, establishments or other organisations engaged in any industry. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Insertion of new article 48A: To protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

According to section 2 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, the term "dowry" means any property or valuable security given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly. Section 3 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, makes it an offence to both take dowry and give dowry.

Thus, the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, dealt with dowry-related offences, not the Constitution. The 42nd Amendment did not make dowry-taking a culpable offence in the Constitution. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NOTABLE CHANGE BY THE FORTY-SECOND AMENDMENT	
Preamble	<p>The preamble is considered to be a reflection of the Constitution. Two additions were made in the preamble of the Constitution through the 42nd Amendment Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Firstly, the representation that India is a "Sovereign Democratic Republic" has been replaced by the expression "Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic". ➤ Secondly, the expression "unity of the nation" was replaced by the "unity and integrity of the nation".
Judicial Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This amendment restricted the power of the High Court. Under Article 226A and Article 228A, this amendment allowed High Courts only to adjudge the validity of State legislation. ➤ Similarly, Article 131A was added to empower the Supreme Court only to look into the validity of central legislation. ➤ The 42nd Amendment Act, 1976, significantly altered the realm of judicial power in India by introducing Articles 144A and 228A to regulate how the constitutional validity of laws could be adjudicated.
Delimitation of Parliamentary Seats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The 42nd amendment had frozen the reorganisation of boundaries of parliamentary constituencies till the first census after 2000, i.e. 2001, 26 years from the year of the amendment. It also stopped the reallocation of the reservation to the SC's, STs, and women till the same period. ➤ Before this amendment, Article 82 provided for the reorganisation of constituencies for parliament and state legislature after every census, i.e. every 10 years, as per the data collected.

27. Match List I with List II

Form Of Government

- (A) Parliamentary, Federal, Republican
- (B) Presidential, Federal, Republican
- (C) Parliamentary, Unitary, Monarchical
- (D) Parliamentary Cum-Presidential, Unitary, Republican

Countries

- 1. United Kingdom
- 2. France
- 3. United States of America
- 4. India
- 5. Nigeria

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	4	3	1	2
(b)	4	3	2	1
(c)	3	4	1	5
(d)	3	5	4	1

EXPLANATION:

The form of Government refers to how state power is organised and exercised. It is closely tied to the nature of the State. Around the world, different systems exist, such as parliamentary, presidential, republican, federal, unitary, and monarchical forms.

- **India:** India has a parliamentary, federal, and republican system of Government. It is a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic with a parliamentary structure. The President is the constitutional head, while real executive power rests with the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. At the state level, the Governor is the constitutional head, advised by the Council of Ministers led by the Chief Minister.
- **United States:** The U.S. is a constitutional federal republic with a presidential system. The President is both the head of State and head of Government. Executive power lies in the President, supported by the Cabinet and federal agencies. Power is divided between the national government and the 50 states, each with constitutionally reserved powers.
- **United Kingdom:** The UK is a constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy. The monarch (currently the King/Queen) is the head of State, while the Prime Minister leads the Government. Parliament is bicameral, consisting of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The UK is a unitary state with devolved governments in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
- **France:** France is a unitary, republican State with a semi-presidential system under the 1958 Constitution. The President, directly elected by the people, is the head of State with strong powers, especially in foreign policy and defence. The Prime Minister, supported by Parliament, handles domestic governance. Parliament is bicameral, composed of the National Assembly and the Senate, with the Senate indirectly representing sub-national authorities.

Therefore, the correct match with respect to List I with List II is (A4-B3-C1-D2).

- Parliamentary, Federal, Republican – India),
- Presidential, Federal, Republican – the United States,
- Parliamentary, Unitary, Monarchical – United Kingdom,
- Parliamentary Cum-Presidential, Unitary, Republican – France

So, Option (a) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

- **Democracy:** A system where supreme power rests with the people, exercised directly or indirectly through elected representatives.
- **Democratic Republic:** A democracy in which the head of state is elected (not hereditary). Example: India.

- **Parliamentary Government:** The executive (Prime Minister and Cabinet) is drawn from and accountable to the legislature; it can be dissolved by a no-confidence vote.
- **Presidential Government:** The executive (President) is independent of the legislature, with a strict separation of powers. Example: USA.
- **Republic:** A state with an elected head of state, not a hereditary monarch.
- **Federal Government (Federation):** Power is constitutionally divided between a central authority and state governments, with both directly governing individuals. Example: USA, India.
- **Monarchy:** A government headed by a monarch (king/queen), usually hereditary; may be absolute (Saudi Arabia) or constitutional (UK).
- **Unitary Government:** A state governed by a single central authority; local governments function only as delegated by the centre. Example: UK, France
- **Parliamentary Monarchy:** A monarchy where the monarch is ceremonial, and real power lies with an elected parliament and the Prime Minister. Example: UK, Japan.

28. Consider the following statements:

1. The right to collective bargaining is protected under Article 19 of the Indian Constitution.
2. The State can restrict the right to move freely throughout the territory of India on the grounds of protecting the interests of the general public.

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 19(1)(c) guarantees the right to form associations or unions. However, the right to collective bargaining and the right to strike are not explicitly protected as fundamental rights under Article 19. The courts have interpreted Article 19(1)(c) in a positivist manner, focusing on the right to form associations and unions rather than broader labour rights.

In the case of All India Bank Employees Association v. National Industrial Tribunal, the Supreme Court clarified that the right to collective bargaining is not a constitutional or legal right under Article 19(1)(c). The Court emphasised that while individuals have the freedom to form unions, this does not extend to a guaranteed right to engage in collective bargaining. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

Article 19(1)(d) of the Indian Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to move freely throughout the territory of India. This encompasses the freedom to travel from one state to another or within a state, emphasising the idea of India as a unified nation for its citizens.

The primary purpose of this provision is to promote national integration and unity, countering regionalism and parochialism. However, this right is not absolute.

Article 19(5) allows the state to impose reasonable restrictions on this freedom in the following circumstances:

- In the interests of the general public.
- For the protection of the interests of any Scheduled Tribe.

These restrictions are particularly pertinent in tribal areas, where the entry of outsiders is regulated to protect the distinctive culture, language, customs, and manners of Scheduled Tribes. Such measures aim to safeguard their traditional vocations and properties against exploitation and ensure their social and economic well-being. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ARTICLE 19	
About	<p>Part III of the Indian Constitution (Article 19) grants citizens six key freedoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Right to freedom of speech and expression (b) Right to assemble peacefully without arms (c) Right to form associations, unions, or co-operative societies (d) Right to move freely throughout India (e) Right to reside and settle in any part of India (g) Right to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade, or business <p>However, these rights are not absolute. The government can impose reasonable restrictions in the interests of public order, morality, security, or the general public.</p>
Key Judicial Rulings on Right to Strike, Hartal and Bandh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kameshwar Prasad v. State of Bihar (1962) – The Supreme Court held that even with a liberal interpretation of Article 19(1)(c), the right to strike is not included within the right to form associations. This case became the foundation for later rulings restricting the right to strike. ➤ All India Bank Employees' Association v. National Industrial Tribunal (1962) – The Court explicitly rejected the idea that the right to form associations under Article 19(1)(c) also includes a right to strike. ➤ T. K. Rangarajan v. Government of Tamil Nadu (2003) – In a case involving a mass strike by government employees, the Court held that government employees have no fundamental right to strike, and the state can regulate or restrict strikes. ➤ Bharat Kumar K. Palicha v. State of Kerala (1997) – The Kerala High Court declared bandhs unconstitutional, and the Supreme Court later upheld this view. The reasoning was that bandhs impose coercion and violate the fundamental rights of others, especially freedom of movement and the right to carry on business. ➤ James Martin v. State of Kerala (2004) – The Supreme Court reiterated that the state must curb bandhs and maintain public order. It also ruled that organisers of bandhs can be held liable for damages caused to public or private property.

29. "The Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy," is said by :

- (a) M.K. Gandhi
- (b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (c) Dr Radhakrishnan
- (d) **Dr. Ambedkar**

EXPLANATION:

Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, in his speech during the final reading of the Constitution in November 1949, stressed that "Political democracy cannot last unless it is built on the foundation of social democracy."

For Dr Ambedkar, democracy was not just about political institutions but about the overall development of human beings. He wanted India to build a social democracy along with political democracy.

- Social democracy, according to him, is a way of life based on the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity. These three are inseparable and must function together. Without this trinity, democracy becomes meaningless.
- Democracy is not just a form of government or parliament; it is a form of "associated living"—people living together with shared experiences, aspirations, and values, without coercion.

- If only a small group in society controls culture or symbols of progress, it destroys democracy. True democracy lies in social relationships and collective life among all people.
- Ambedkar also supported state socialism within parliamentary democracy, as it could prevent dictatorship and ensure justice. For him, democracy represented an ideal social order that promotes the growth of socially conscious and responsible individuals. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

DEMOCRACY BASED ON THE NATURE OF AUTHORITY	
Political Democracy	People choose representatives through elections to run the government. Example: India, USA
Social Democracy	Focuses on liberty, equality, and fraternity in society; prevents exploitation. Example: Ambedkar's vision
Economic Democracy	Ensures fair distribution of resources and reduces economic inequality. Example: Welfare states (Nordic countries)
DEMOCRACY BASED ON VALUES & IDEOLOGIES	
Liberal Democracy	Protects individual rights, freedoms, the rule of law, and free elections. Example: USA, UK
Socialist Democracy	Democracy with strong welfare policies and a state role in the economy. Example: Sweden, Norway
Religious Democracy	Functions democratically but is guided by religious values. Example: Islamic Democracy (Indonesia), Christian Democracy (Germany),
DEMOCRACY BASED ON INSTITUTIONAL SETUP	
Parliamentary Democracy	The Executive (Prime Minister & Council of Ministers) is accountable to the legislature. Example: India, UK
Presidential Democracy	The President is directly elected; there is a separation of powers between the executive & legislature. Example: USA
Semi-Presidential Democracy	Combines parliamentary & presidential features; both the President and the PM share power. Example: France
DEMOCRACY BASED ON PARTICIPATION	
Direct Democracy	Citizens themselves take decisions through referendums or assemblies. Example: Switzerland
Representative Democracy	People elect representatives who make laws and policies on their behalf. Example: India, UK
Participatory Democracy	Citizens actively participate in governance beyond voting (local decision-making, public consultations). Example: India's gram sabhas
Deliberative Democracy	Decisions are made after open discussion, debate, and reasoning. Example : Policy consultations, public hearings

30. The Indian Citizenship can be deprived of a person under which of the following conditions?

1. When the citizen has shown disloyalty to the Constitution of India
2. When the citizen has unlawfully communicated with the enemy during a war
3. When a registered citizen has been imprisoned in any country for two years within five years of registration

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

The Citizenship Act (1955) prescribes three ways of losing citizenship, whether acquired under the Act or prior to it under the Constitution, namely, renunciation, termination, and deprivation. The Central Government may, by order, deprive any such citizen of Indian citizenship, if it is satisfied that:

- The registration or certificate of naturalisation was obtained by means of fraud, false representation or the concealment of any material fact.
- That citizen has shown himself by act or speech to be disloyal or disaffected towards the Constitution of India as by law established. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- That citizen has, during any war in which India may be engaged, unlawfully traded or communicated with an enemy or been involved in, or associated with, any business that was to his knowledge carried on in such manner as to assist an enemy in that war. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- That citizen has, within five years after registration or naturalisation, been sentenced in any country to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**
- They have been ordinarily resident outside India for a continuous period of seven years, and during that period:
 - They have not been a student at any educational institution outside India
 - They have not been in the service of the Government of India or an international organisation of which India is a member, and
 - They have not registered annually at an Indian consulate their intention to retain Indian citizenship.
- The Central Government shall not deprive a person of citizenship unless it is satisfied that it is not conducive to the public good that the person should continue to be a citizen of India.

31. Which of the following statements regarding Article 22 of the Constitution of India are correct?

1. The fundamental right conferred by this article protects persons against detention in some instances.
2. This fundamental right is guaranteed both to citizens and non-citizens.
3. The rights guaranteed under this provision are applicable to those arrested under laws providing for preventive detentions.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

- Article 22 of the Indian Constitution protects against cases of arrest and detention. It ensures that no person can be arrested without being informed of the reason and has the right to consult a lawyer of their choice. Article 22 is available to both citizens and foreigners. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Anyone arrested must be produced before a Magistrate within twenty-four hours, excluding travel time, and cannot be kept in custody beyond this period without the Magistrate's permission. However, these safeguards do not apply to enemy aliens or to those detained under preventive detention laws. **So, Statements 1 and 2 are correct, but Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ARTICLE 22	
About	Article 22 grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained. Its purpose is not to punish a person for a past offence but to prevent him/ her from committing an offence in the near future. Thus, preventive detention is only a precautionary measure and is based on suspicion.

Under Ordinary Law	<p>The first part of Article 22 confers the following rights on a person who is arrested or detained under an ordinary law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Right to be informed of the grounds of arrest. ➤ Right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner. ➤ Right to be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours, excluding the journey time. ➤ Right to be released after 24 hours unless the magistrate authorises further detention.
Under the Preventive Detention Law	<p>The second part of Article 22 grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained under a preventive detention law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The detention of a person cannot exceed three months unless an advisory board reports sufficient cause for extended detention. The board is to consist of judges of a high court. ➤ The grounds of detention should be communicated to the detenu. ➤ The detenu should be afforded an opportunity to make a representation against the detention order. ➤ However, the facts considered to be against the public interest need not be disclosed. ➤ The Parliament has also been given powers to extend detention beyond three months without Advisory Board approval, decide the maximum period of preventive detention, and lay down the procedure for Advisory Board inquiries.

32. "The _____ provided a separate electorate for the _____." Which of the following options fills the above statement?

- (a) **Government of India Act 1909, Muslim Community**
 (b) Government of India Act 1909, Depressed Class
 (c) Government of India Act 1919, Muslim Community
 (d) Government of India Act 1919, Depressed Class

EXPLANATION:

The Indian Councils Act of 1909, also called the Morley–Minto Reforms, was introduced to give limited participation to Indians in governance. It was named after Lord Minto (Viceroy) and Lord Morley (Secretary of State for India), who introduced it to satisfy both the Moderates and the Muslims. The Act's most important feature was the introduction of separate electorates for Muslims, where only Muslim voters could elect Muslim members to the councils. This marked the beginning of communal politics in India. Because of this, Lord Minto came to be known as the "Father of the Communal Electorate." **So, Option (a) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SEPARATE ELECTORATE	
About	<p>The Indian Councils Act of 1909 introduced a system of communal representation for Muslims by accepting the concept of 'separate electorate'.</p> <p>Separate Electorate is a system of election to legislatures which divides voters along the lines of their religion, ethnicity, or any other factor to ensure that members of the community can elect their own representatives.</p>

Communal Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Communal Award was announced by British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald on August 16, 1932, based on the findings of the Indian Franchise Committee (Lothian Committee). ➤ It introduced separate electorates and reserved seats for various communities, including Muslims, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, Europeans, Depressed Classes, and even Marathas in Bombay. ➤ The Award was criticised by Indian national leaders, especially the Congress, as another example of the British divide and rule policy.
Key Features of Government of India Act of 1935	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Government of India Act, 1935, was passed by the British Parliament and came into effect in 1937. ➤ It was based on the report of a Joint Select Committee headed by Lord Linlithgow. ➤ The Government of India Act, 1935, introduced a Federation of India with two levels – a central government and provincial/princely state governments. ➤ It ended dyarchy in provinces and gave them elected legislatures, but introduced dyarchy at the Centre, where subjects like defence and foreign affairs were controlled by the Governor-General. ➤ A Federal Court was set up. ➤ Voting rights were expanded to about 14% of the population (from 3%). ➤ It continued separate electorates for Muslims, Sikhs, and others, but not for the Depressed Classes. ➤ The Governors still held wide emergency powers.

33. How many of the following constitutional provisions are considered violations of the Right to Equality?

1. The President / Governor is not subject to any kind of criminal proceeding during their tenure.
2. A Member of Parliament is not obliged to attend any proceedings on civil matters during the session of the Parliament.
3. Establishment of Special Courts that deal with a specific area of law.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 14 of the Indian Constitution guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of laws within India. However, this principle is not absolute, and the Constitution itself provides certain exceptions which do not amount to a violation of the Right to Equality. These exceptions exist to ensure smooth governance, independence of institutions, and equitable treatment in special circumstances.

The following are certain key exceptions:

Immunities of the President and Governors (Article 361):

- Not answerable to any court for official acts.
- No criminal proceedings can be initiated or continued during their term of office.
- This is a constitutional safeguard, not a violation of Article 14.

Privileges of MPs and MLAs (Articles 105 & 194):

- Complete freedom of speech in the House.
- No civil or criminal action for anything said, voted, or done in the legislature.
- Protection for true publication of parliamentary proceedings (Article 361A).
- Exemption from court attendance during sessions.
- Immunity from court questioning regarding legislative conduct.

Special Courts (Special Courts Bill, 1978):

- In In Re: Special Courts Bill (1979), the Supreme Court upheld their validity.
- Justice Chandrachud clarified that Article 14 allows reasonable classification.
- Special Courts aimed at speedy trials of cases of public importance.
- Hence, their creation was rational and did not violate equality before the law.

These exceptions, whether immunities of high offices, legislative privileges, or reasonable classification through Special Courts, are constitutionally valid and consistent with Article 14. They ensure independence, efficiency, and justice without infringing the Right to Equality. Therefore, none of the above violates the right to equality under Article 14. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ARTICLE 14	
About	<p>The State shall not deny to any person Equality before the law or the equal Protection of the laws within the territory of India.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The concept of 'equality before law' is of British origin, while the concept of 'equal protection of laws' has been taken from the American Constitution. ➤ The first concept connotes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the absence of any special privileges in favour of any person, (b) the equal subjection of all persons to the ordinary law of the land administered by ordinary law courts, and (c) No person (whether rich or poor, high or low, official or non-official) is above the law. ➤ The second concept, on the other hand, connotes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The equality of treatment under equal circumstances, both in the privileges conferred and liabilities imposed by the laws, (b) the similar application of the same laws to all persons who are similarly situated, and (c) The like should be treated alike without any discrimination. <p>Thus, the former is a negative concept while the latter is a positive concept. However, both of them aim at establishing Equality of legal status, opportunity and justice.</p>
Rule of Law	<p>The concept of 'equality before law' is an element of the concept of 'Rule of Law', propounded by A.V. Dicey, the British jurist.</p> <p>His concept has the following three elements or aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Absence of arbitrary power, that is, no man can be punished except for a breach of law. ➤ Equality before the law, that is, equal subjection of all citizens (rich or poor, high or low, official or non-official) to the ordinary law of the land administered by the ordinary law courts. ➤ The primacy of the rights of the individual, that is, the Constitution is the result of the rights of the individual as defined and enforced by the courts of law, rather than the Constitution being the source of individual rights. <p>The first and the second elements are applicable to the Indian System and not the third one. In the Indian System, the Constitution is the source of individual rights.</p> <p>The Supreme Court held that the 'Rule of Law' as embodied in Article 14 is a 'Basic Feature' of the Constitution. Hence, it cannot be destroyed even by an amendment.</p>

34. Which of the persons are eligible to be members of the Advisory Board constituted for dealing with matters related to Preventive Detention?

1. A Serving Judge of a High Court
2. A Retired Judge of a High Court
3. Any person qualified to be appointed as a Judge of a High Court

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 22 of the Constitution requires preventive detention statutes to establish advisory bodies made up of individuals eligible to serve as High Court judges.

Different laws require review boards to evaluate detention orders every three months to determine whether there is a sufficient reason for preventative custody.

- Under the National Security Act, 1980, the Central Government and each State Government shall, whenever necessary, constitute one or more Advisory Boards for the purposes of this Act.
- Every such Board shall consist of three persons who are (serving judge), or have been (retired judge), or are qualified to be appointed as Judges of a High Court, and such persons shall be appointed by the appropriate Government.
- The appropriate Government shall appoint one of the members of the Advisory Board who is, or has been, a Judge of a High Court (A Serving Judge of a High Court or A Retired Judge of a High Court) to be its Chairman, and in the case of a Union territory, the appointment to the Advisory Board of any person who is a Judge of the High Court of a State shall be with the previous approval of the State Government concerned. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PREVENTIVE DETENTION	
About	<p>The second part of Article 22 grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained under a preventive detention law. This protection is available to both citizens and non-citizens (aliens) and includes the following provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The detention of a person cannot exceed three months unless an Advisory Board, consisting of judges of a High Court, reports sufficient cause for extended detention. ➤ The grounds of detention must be communicated to the detenu, although facts considered to be against public interest need not be disclosed. ➤ The detenu should be given an opportunity to make a representation against the detention order.
Legislative power of Parliament and the state legislatures	<p>The Constitution has divided the legislative power with regard to preventive detention between the Parliament and the state legislatures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parliament has exclusive authority to make preventive detention laws for reasons connected with defence, foreign affairs, and the security of India. ➤ Both Parliament and State Legislatures can concurrently make preventive detention laws for reasons related to the security of a state, the maintenance of public order, and the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community.

35. In India, every religious denomination has the right to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes, subject to which of the following conditions?

1. Public order
2. Morality
3. Health

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

Recently, Article 26 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees the rights of religious denominations to manage their own affairs, came under sharp focus in the Supreme Court during hearings on petitions challenging the Waqf Amendment Act.

According to Article 26, every religious denomination or any of its sections has the following rights:

- Right to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes (e.g., schools, hospitals, or temples);
- Right to manage its own affairs in matters of religion (e.g., regulating rituals, selecting religious leaders);
- Right to own and acquire movable and immovable property (e.g., land for building a place of worship); and
- Right to administer such property in accordance with the law.

While Article 25 guarantees the rights of individuals to practice religion, Article 26 protects the collective freedom of religion of religious denominations or their sections.

The rights under Article 26 are subject only to public order, morality, and health, and are not restricted by other provisions relating to Fundamental Rights. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF RELIGION	
Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion	<p>Article 25(1) in the Constitution of India states that “Subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion.” As per Article 25(2), Nothing in this Article shall affect the operation of any existing law or prevent the State from making any law—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity which may be associated with religious practice; ➤ Providing for social welfare and reform, or the throwing open of Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes and sections of Hindus.
Freedom from Taxation for Promotion of a Religion	<p>Article 27 lays down that no person shall be compelled to pay any taxes for the Promotion or maintenance of any particular religion or religious denomination. In other words, the State should not spend the public money collected by way of tax for the Promotion or maintenance of any particular religion. This Provision prohibits the State from favouring, patronising and supporting one religion over the other. This means that the taxes can be used for the Promotion or maintenance of all religions.</p>
Freedom from Attending Religious Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Under Article 28(1), no religious instruction shall be provided in any educational institution wholly maintained out of State funds. ➤ Under Article 28(2), Nothing in clause (1) shall apply to an educational institution which is administered by the State but has been established under any endowment or trust which requires that religious instruction shall be imparted in such institution. ➤ Under Article 28(3), No person attending any educational institution recognised by the State or receiving aid out of State funds shall be required to take Part in any religious instruction that may be imparted in such institution or to attend any religious worship that may be conducted in such institution or in any premises attached thereto unless such person or, if such person is a minor, his guardian has given his consent thereto.

36. The State Government does **not** have the power to make laws with respect to which of the following conditions?

1. Abrogation of certain fundamental rights to police forces.
2. Enabling subordinate courts to issue writs.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 33 empowers the Parliament to restrict or abrogate the fundamental rights of the members of armed forces, para-military forces, police forces, intelligence agencies and analogous forces.

The objective of this Provision is to ensure the proper discharge of their duties and the maintenance of discipline among them.

The power to make laws under Article 33 is conferred only on Parliament and not on state legislatures. Therefore, the state government does not have the power to make laws with respect to the abrogation of the fundamental rights of police forces. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Supreme Court (under Article 32) and the high courts (under Article 226) can issue the writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, Prohibition, certiorari and quo-warranto.

Further, the Parliament (under Article 32) can empower any other court to issue these writs. Since no such provision has been made so far, only the Supreme Court and the high courts can issue the writs and not any other court.

The Supreme Court can issue writs only for the enforcement of fundamental rights, whereas a high court can issue writs not only for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights but also for any other purpose. The expression 'for any other purpose' refers to the enforcement of an ordinary legal right.

Therefore, the State Government cannot authorise subordinate courts to issue writs. Only the Parliament can empower any other court to issue writs of mandamus. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

WRITS—TYPES AND SCOPE	
Habeas Corpus	<p>It is a Latin term which literally means 'to have the body of'. It is an order issued by the court to a person who has detained another person to produce the body of the latter before it. The court then examines the cause and legality of detention. It would set the detained person free if the detention is found to be illegal. Thus, this writ is a bulwark of individual liberty against arbitrary detention. The writ of habeas corpus can be issued against both public authorities and private individuals.</p> <p>The writ, on the other hand, is not issued where the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ detention is lawful, ➤ the proceeding is for contempt of a legislature or a court, ➤ detention is by a competent court, and ➤ detention is outside the Jurisdiction of the court.
Mandamus	<p>It literally means 'we command'. It is a command issued by the court to a public official asking him/her to perform his/her official duties that he/she has failed or refused to perform. It can also be issued against any public body, a corporation, an inferior court, a tribunal or the Government for the same purpose.</p> <p>The writ of mandamus cannot be issued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ against a private individual or body; ➤ to enforce departmental instruction that does not possess statutory force; ➤ when the duty is discretionary and not mandatory; ➤ to enforce a contractual obligation; and ➤ against the President of India or the state governors.
Prohibition	<p>Literally, it means 'to forbid'. It is issued by a higher court to a lower court or tribunal to prevent the latter from exceeding its Jurisdiction or usurping a jurisdiction that it does not possess.</p>

	Thus, unlike mandamus, which directs activity, the Prohibition directs inactivity. The writ of Prohibition can be issued only against judicial and quasi-judicial authorities. It is not available against administrative authorities.
Certiorari	In the literal sense, it means 'to be certified' or 'to be informed'. It is issued by a higher court to a lower court or tribunal to quash the order passed by the latter in a case. It is issued on the grounds of excess of Jurisdiction or lack of Jurisdiction. Thus, like the writ of Prohibition, the writ of certiorari is also a jurisdictional writ. The Prohibition is issued before the final order is passed for stopping the further continuance of the proceedings, whereas the certiorari is issued after the final order is passed for quashing the same.
Quo-Warranto	It means 'by what authority or warrant'. It is issued by the court to enquire into the legality of a person's claim to a public office. Hence, it prevents illegal usurpation of public office by a person. This writ can be issued only in case of a substantive public office of a permanent character created by a statute or by the Constitution. It cannot be issued in cases of ministerial office or private office. This writ can be sought by any public-minded person and not necessarily by the aggrieved person.

37. Which of the following Articles of the Indian Constitution directly govern the filing of a mercy petition in matters concerning the Right to Life under Article 21?

1. Article 21
2. Article 72
3. Article 161
4. Article 134

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

The idea of Mercy Petition is followed in many countries, such as the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada, and India. The hope of being pardoned one day compels the prisoner to behave within the norms and discipline of prison institutions. Everyone has the basic right to live. It is also mentioned as a fundamental right mentioned under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

- Article 72 of the Constitution empowers the President to grant pardons to persons who have been tried and convicted of any offence in all cases where the:
 - Punishment or sentence is for an offence against a Union Law.
 - Punishment or sentence is by a court-martial (military court), and
 - The sentence is a sentence of death.
- Under Article 161 of the Constitution, the governor of a state also possesses the pardoning power. Hence, the governor can also grant pardons, reprieves, respites and remissions of punishment or suspend, remit and commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against a state law.
- But, the pardoning power of the governor differs from that of the President in the following two respects:
 - The President can pardon sentences inflicted by court-martial (military courts) while the governor cannot.

- The President can pardon a death sentence while a governor cannot. Even if a state law prescribes a death sentence, the power to grant a pardon lies with the President and not the governor. However, the governor can suspend, remit or commute a death sentence.
 - The power given under these sections can be exercised by the central and State governments, respectively. The Head of State is bound by the advice of the government.
- Articles 72 and 161 of the Indian Constitution directly govern the filing of a mercy petition in matters concerning the Right to Life under Article 21. Therefore, Articles 72 and 161 of the Indian Constitution directly govern the filing of a mercy petition in matters concerning the Right to Life under Article 21, while Articles 21 and 134 don't govern the direct filing of a mercy petition. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ARTICLE 134	
About	<p>Article 134 provides for the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in criminal cases. According to Article 134, "any judgment, final order, or punishment" issued by a high court in a criminal case taking place on Indian soil, there is a right of appeal to the Supreme Court:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If a high court overturns an accused person's acquittal following an appeal from the accused and sentences him to death, i.e., if the high court reverses his decision of acquittal of the accused person upon filing an appeal and sentences that person to death, then in that case an appeal can be made to the Supreme Court. ➤ If the high court withdraws any case for trial before itself, from any court subordinate to its authority, and if in such a trial, the high court sentences an accused person to death after convicting him, then, in that case, an appeal can be made to the Supreme Court and the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court will come into effect; or ➤ If the High Court certifies that the case is a fit case pursuant to Article 134A (Certificate for appeal to the Supreme Court) for making an appeal to the Supreme Court, provided that high court will have to establish such conditions where an appeal is allowed, it is subject to such provisions which may be made in that behalf under Article 145 clause 1 (Rules of court, etc).

38. Consider the following:

1. A foreigner from UNICEF working and getting remuneration from the Government of India.
2. An Indian from UNICEF working and getting remuneration from a foreign nation.

Who among the persons mentioned above can receive a title from a foreign state without the consent of the President of India?

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 18 of the Indian Constitution talks about the abolition of titles. This Article prohibits title recognition and conferment in our country.

As a provision of Article 18 of the Indian Constitution:

- A Foreigner from UNICEF working and getting remuneration from the Government of India cannot autonomously receive a title from a foreign state without government consent because in Article 18(3) prevents an individual who is not an Indian citizen but holds any office of profit or trust post under the Government of India, from taking any title from any foreign nation without the President's assent.
- So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

- An Indian from UNICEF working and getting remuneration from a Foreign Nation cannot receive a title from a foreign state because Article 18(2) of the Indian Constitution forbids an Indian national from taking any title from a foreign nation. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ARTICLE 18	
About	<p>Article 18 of the Indian Constitution consists of four clauses that deal with the abolition of titles and related restrictions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Article 18(1): It imposes a prohibition on the State from conferring any titles, whether on citizens or non-citizens. Exceptions are allowed only for military and academic distinctions such as "Param Vir Chakra" or "Doctor." Thus, universities and professional institutions may award academic titles and degrees to deserving individuals. ➤ Article 18(2): It prohibits an Indian citizen from accepting any title from a foreign State. ➤ Article 18(3): It prohibits a foreigner holding any office of profit or trust under the State from accepting any title from a foreign State without the consent of the President of India. ➤ Article 18(4): It bars any person—citizen or non-citizen—holding an office of profit or trust under the State from accepting any present, emolument, or office of any kind from or under a foreign State without the President's consent. <p>The conferment of civilian awards such as Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri (instituted in 1954) is considered valid under Article 18. This is because these awards are seen as recognitions of merit and service in various fields, not as titles that confer any hereditary or noble status.</p>

39. Consider the following pairs that are related to the term 'Digital Colonism' that was recently in the news:

Term	Meaning
I. Inclusive Digital Future	– Data kept within the country
II. Digital Sovereignty	– Managing global data exchange
III. Data Localisation	– Equal digital access for all
IV. Cross-Border Data Flows	– Nations' control over digital space

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) All four
(d) **None**

EXPLANATION:

Digital colonisation occurs when there is total dependence on other countries for digital technologies and or the data. It is perpetuated further when the data infrastructure is controlled by foreign countries as a result of a lack of data protection laws or ineffective implementation of such laws.

- **Inclusive Digital Future (Equal digital access for all):** Digital inclusion is the access and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)—like the internet and its infrastructure,

hardware, software and digital literacy training—by all people, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, nationality, mobility, physical and cognitive abilities, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds.

- **Digital sovereignty (Nations' control over digital space):** Cyber sovereignty, technological sovereignty, and data sovereignty refer to the ability to have control over a nation's own digital destiny – the data, hardware and software that we rely on and create.
- **Data localisation or data residency (Data kept within the country):** It requires that data about citizens or residents of a certain country should be collected, processed, or stored within that country, before being transferred overseas. It requires that the initial collection, processing and storage of those users first occur within their country's borders.
- **Cross-border data flows (Managing global data exchange):** It refers to the movement or transfer of information between servers across country borders. Data needs to be able to move freely so that no matter where you are, you have access to the information and services you need. Everyone, from individuals to large corporations, relies on transferring data. However, cross-border data flows also pose challenges, amplifying concerns about privacy and data protection, intellectual property, digital security, national security, regulatory reach and trade.

Therefore, none of the pairs given above are correctly matched. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

DIGITAL COLONIALISM	
About	India is tackling digital colonialism by building data sovereignty, promoting local AI, and launching initiatives like ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) and India Stack. Efforts include chip manufacturing, multilingual large language models, and ethical AI, ensuring digital independence and national security in the AI era.
ONDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ India is one of the few developing countries that has outlined a coherent strategy for resisting digital colonisation. The data protection laws underscore the importance of storing the data within the boundaries of the country. ➤ ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) is a pioneering initiative that is being touted as an alternative to the e-commerce monopolies and is aimed at democratising e-commerce. ➤ The India stack is the first of its kind in the world in the digital public infrastructure model, consisting of a collection of APIs and digital systems that enable managing identity, payments, data and consent management.
Make in India Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Make in India initiative is encouraging chip designers and manufacturers to consider setting up their manufacturing units in India, thus enabling India to build its own ecosystem required for defence, science and space-related advancements. ➤ Another major focus has been to develop our own large language model (LML) that can support multiple local languages, taking into account the country's linguistic diversity. This would make AI truly broad, making it relevant for a 1.4 billion population instead of just the privileged few.

40. Article 13 of the Constitution deals with “Laws inconsistent with the fundamental rights”. How many of the following fall under the definition of “Laws” under this article?

1. Permanent laws
2. Temporary laws
3. Statutory instruments in delegated legislation
4. Non-legislative sources of law
5. Constitutional Amendments

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 13 declares that all laws that are inconsistent with or in derogation of any of the fundamental rights shall be void. In other words, it expressly provides for the doctrine of judicial review. This power has been conferred on the Supreme Court (Article 32) and the High Courts (Article 226) can declare a law unconstitutional and invalid on the ground of contravention of any of the Fundamental Rights.

The term 'law' in Article 13 has been given a wide connotation so as to include the following:

- Permanent laws are enacted by the Parliament or the state legislatures.
- Temporary laws like ordinances issued by the President or the state governors;
- Statutory instruments in the nature of delegated legislation (executive legislation) like order, bye-law, rule, regulation or notification; and
- Non-legislative sources of law, that is, custom or usage having the force of law.

Thus, not only legislation but also any of the above can be challenged in the courts as violating a Fundamental Right. **So, Statements 1, 2, 3 and 4 are correct.**

A Constitutional Amendment is not considered "law" under Article 13 of the Indian Constitution. Initially, in the Shankari Prasad case (1951), the Supreme Court held that amendments made under Article 368 are not "law" under Article 13, so Parliament could amend Fundamental Rights.

This was reversed in the Golak Nath case (1967), where the Court said amendments are "law" and Parliament cannot curtail Fundamental Rights.

To undo this, the 24th Amendment (1971) clarified that amendments are not "law" under Article 13.

In the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973), the Supreme Court upheld this position but introduced the Basic Structure Doctrine, ruling that while Parliament can amend any part of the Constitution (including Fundamental Rights), it cannot damage its "basic structure."

Later cases like Indira Gandhi (1975), Minerva Mills (1980), and Waman Rao (1981) reaffirmed this. Thus, it can be said that a Constitutional Amendment is not "law" under Article 13, but it can be struck down if it violates the Basic Structure of the Constitution. **So, Statement 5 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

LAWS INCONSISTENT WITH OR IN DEROGATION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Any law in force before the Constitution came into effect will become void if it conflicts with the Fundamental Rights. ➤ The State cannot make any law that takes away or reduces Fundamental Rights. If it does, that law will be invalid to the extent of the violation. ➤ The term "law" includes ordinances, orders, bye-laws, rules, regulations, notifications, customs, or usages that have the force of law in India. ➤ "Laws in force" include all laws made before the Constitution, as long as they weren't repealed, even if they were not in operation everywhere. ➤ This provision does not apply to Constitutional Amendments made under Article 368 (added by the 24th Amendment Act, 1971).
Four principles of Article 13	<p>Article 13 ensures that Fundamental Rights are protected from arbitrary state action. Since 26 January 1950, any law that violates these rights is invalid to that extent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For pre-Constitutional laws, Article 13(1) declares that only those provisions inconsistent with Fundamental Rights will become void, while the rest remain valid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is explained through the Doctrine of Severability, where only the offending portion of a law is struck down. • Another principle is the Doctrine of Eclipse, where inconsistent laws do not vanish but merely become inoperative, and can revive if later made consistent with Fundamental Rights, as seen in the Bhikaji Narain case. ➤ For post-Constitutional laws, Article 13(2) prohibits the State from making any law that violates Fundamental Rights. If such a law is made, it is automatically void. However, as clarified in the Ambica Mills case, this protection extends only to citizens, not to entities like companies or non-citizens.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Article 13(3) gives a broad definition of “law,” covering ordinances, orders, rules, regulations, and even customs and usages with the force of law. Yet, personal laws and mere administrative directions are excluded. ➤ Finally, Article 13(4) makes it clear that constitutional amendments under Article 368 are not considered as “laws” under Article 13. This provision was added by the 24th Amendment in 1971 after debates on whether Parliament’s amending power could be curtailed by Fundamental Rights.
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41. Which of the following articles have been used to support the nationalisation of mineral resources as well as public utilities?

(a) Article 39

(b) Article 42

(c) Article 46

(d) Article 48A

EXPLANATION:

Article 39 of the Indian Constitution directs the State to ensure that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are distributed in a manner that serves the common good. In this sense, it aims at preventing the concentration of wealth and ensuring equitable distribution. Therefore, Article 39 has been widely used to justify the nationalisation of mineral resources and public utilities, as such measures help in achieving the broader goal of social and economic justice. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ARTICLES	
Article 39	<p>This Article is a certain principle of policy to be followed by the State to secure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The right to adequate means of livelihood for all citizens. ➤ The equitable distribution of material resources of the community for the common good. ➤ Prevention of concentration of wealth and means of production; ➤ Equal pay for equal work for men and women; ➤ Preservation of the health and strength of workers and children against forcible abuse; ➤ Opportunities for healthy development of children and protection of childhood and youth against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.
Article 42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It directs the state to make laws that ensure just and humane conditions at work and provide for maternity benefits. ➤ This principle, like the others, is non-justiciable. It means this principle cannot be enforced in a court of law. ➤ It imposes a duty on the Central as well as the state governments to apply this principle in making laws relating to maternity benefits and working conditions in factories, etc. ➤ Its aim is to create such working conditions that each and every employee will be motivated to work efficiently. It also aims to ensure maternity benefits for female workers so that they can take leave from work while in labour, without worrying about losing their jobs. ➤ Acts as a yardstick for the public to measure government actions related to working conditions and maternity relief. ➤ It can be used by the courts to help them in making decisions when the executive or the administration has taken questionable actions against what is stated by this principle.

Article 46	The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.
Article 48A	It directs the State to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the country's forests and wildlife. Added by the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976, it is part of the Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV). This article reflects India's commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development.

42. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Supreme Court has ruled that denying preferred food to prisoners with disabilities violates their fundamental rights.

Statement-II: Article 21 of the Indian Constitution extends the right to life to all prisoners.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

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

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the Supreme Court of India ruled that denying prisoners, including those with disabilities, access to preferred or costly food items does not constitute a violation of their fundamental rights. The Court emphasised that while prisoners are entitled to adequate, nutritious, and medically appropriate food, they do not have a constitutional right to demand personalised or luxurious food choices. **So, Statement I is not correct.**

Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the fundamental right to the protection of life and personal liberty. It ensures certain safeguards against arbitrary deprivation of life and liberty. The Supreme Court states that while Article 21 of the Constitution extends the right to life to all prisoners, it does not grant them the right to demand personalised or luxurious food choices. **So, Statement II is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ARTICLE 21	
Recently in the News	The Supreme Court stated that prisoners, including disabled ones, not being provided "preferred or costly food items" in jails was not a violation of fundamental rights.
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A bench of the Supreme Court stated that the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution extends to all prisoners. However, it did not confer a right to demand personalised or luxurious food choices. ➤ "Mere non-supply of preferred or costly food items cannot ipso facto be treated as a violation of fundamental rights. ➤ The State's obligation is to ensure that every inmate, including those with disabilities, receives adequate, nutritious, and medically appropriate food, subject to medical certification. ➤ The top Court called prisons correctional institutions and not extensions of civil society's comforts. ➤ The Court highlighted the need for prison reforms, especially concerning disability-sensitive infrastructure and healthcare, while acknowledging outdated prison manuals and the State's obligation to protect disabled prisoners' rights.

43. Consider the following statements:

1. Maternity leave is a constitutional right, even for the birth of the third child.
2. The Maternity Benefit Act allows 26 weeks of paid leave for every child.
3. There is no mandatory rest period for the woman after her miscarriage.

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the Supreme Court has affirmed that maternity leave is available even for the birth of a third child. The Court observed that the leave is not just about fairness or social justice, but also a constitutional guarantee.

The Supreme Court's judgment in *K. Umadevi v. Government of Tamil Nadu* elevates maternity leave to a constitutional entitlement under Article 21. It reaffirms that the right to life includes the right to reproductive health, bodily autonomy, and maternal dignity. By harmonising service rules with fundamental rights and international standards, the Court has ensured that rigid policy frameworks do not defeat constitutional values. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Maternity leave is a paid leave provided to women who are expecting or pregnant, allowing them to utilise it before and after the delivery of their child. All employers or organisations in India are required to provide maternity leave to pregnant women. It is essential to ensure the overall well-being of both the newborn child and the mother.

In 2017, the Maternity Benefit Act 1961 was amended to include various aspects, such as an increase in the maternity leave period, the Option to work from home and maternity leave for mothers adopting a child.

- The Act provided for a maternity leave of 12 weeks. This duration was increased in the Amendment to the Act in 2017, and all women are eligible to take a 26-week maternity leave. They can take maternity leave from 8 weeks before the delivery date and take the remaining 18 weeks after delivery.
- When a woman already has two children, the maternity leave is only 12 weeks for the third child.

Therefore, the Maternity Benefit Act allows 26 weeks of paid leave for the first two children and 12 weeks for subsequent children. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

In case of miscarriage or medical termination of pregnancy, a woman shall be entitled to leave with wages at the rate of maternity benefit for a period of six weeks immediately following the day of her miscarriage. Therefore, there are six-week rest periods for the woman after her miscarriage. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

MATERNITY BENEFIT ACT 1961	
About	<p>The Act regulates the employment of women in certain establishments for a certain period before and after childbirth and provides for maternity and other benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Act applies to mines, factories, circuses, industry, plantations and shops and establishments employing ten or more persons, except employees covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948. ➤ It can be extended to other establishments by the state governments. ➤ There is no wage limit for coverage under the Act.
Employment of, or work by, women is Prohibited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No employer shall knowingly employ a woman in any establishment during the six weeks immediately following the day of her delivery or her miscarriage. During the period of one month immediately preceding the period of six weeks, before the date of her expected delivery.

During Certain Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A pregnant woman cannot be forced by her employer to do strenuous or prolonged standing work or any task that might harm her pregnancy, fetal development, or overall health.
Right to Payment of Maternity Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Every woman is entitled to get maternity benefits, and employers must pay them at the average daily wage for the period of her actual absence immediately preceding and including the day of her delivery. ➤ A woman who legally adopts a child below the age of three months or a commissioning mother shall be entitled to maternity benefit for a period of twelve weeks from the date the child is handed over to the adopting mother or the commissioning mother.
Maternity Benefit in Case of the Death of a Woman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If a woman entitled to maternity benefits dies before receiving the benefit, the employer must pay the benefits to the person nominated by the woman. ➤ If there is no nominee, the benefits should be paid to her legal representative.
Crèche Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Every establishment with fifty or more employees must provide a crèche facility, either separately or alongside other common facilities. ➤ The employer must permit the woman to make four visits to the crèche each day, which also includes her designated rest intervals. ➤ Additionally, every establishment must inform women in writing and electronically about all the benefits available under this Act at the time of their initial appointment.
Dismissal During Absence or Pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ When a woman is on maternity leave in accordance with this Act, the employer cannot discharge, dismiss, or give notice of discharge or dismissal. The employer also cannot change any of her service conditions. ➤ On the other hand, if a woman is discharged or dismissed during her pregnancy when she would have been eligible for maternity benefits or medical bonuses, she cannot be deprived of these benefits due to the discharge or dismissal. ➤ However, suppose the dismissal is due to severe misconduct as defined by regulations. In that case, the employer can withhold the maternity benefits or medical bonuses or both by informing the woman in writing.

44. With reference to the fundamental right of Freedom of Speech and Expression, consider the following statements:

1. It is only available against the State and not against private individuals.
2. It is only available to citizens.
3. The State can impose reasonable restrictions on this right if it affects friendly relations with a foreign state.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 19 guarantees to all citizens the six rights under right to freedom. These are:

- Right to Freedom of speech and expression.
- Right to assemble peaceably and without arms.
- Right to form associations, unions or co-operative societies.
- Right to move freely throughout the territory of India.

- Right to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India.
- Right to practice any profession or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.

The Supreme Court Kaushal in the Kishore v. State of Uttar Pradesh (2023) case held that Articles 19 and 21 can be enforced not only against the State but also against private individuals. This gives these rights a horizontal application, allowing them to regulate relationships between private parties. The judgment marks a major expansion of constitutional law, strengthening protections of free speech and personal liberty even in the private sphere.

While the judgment strengthens the citizen-to-citizen enforcement of Article 19, it still does not extend it to foreigners or corporations.

Therefore, Freedom of Speech and Expression is available against the State and also private individuals, and the right is available only for citizens. **So, Statement 1 is not correct, and Statement 2 is correct.**

Freedom of Speech and Expression implies that every citizen has the right to express their views, opinions, beliefs and convictions freely by word of mouth, writing, printing, picturing or in any other manner.

The State can impose reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the Freedom of speech and expression on the grounds of sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, contempt of Court, defamation, and incitement to an offence.

So, Statement 3 is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Every citizen has the right to assemble peaceably and without arms. It includes the right to hold public meetings, demonstrations, and take out processions. ➤ This Freedom can be exercised only on public land, and the assembly must be peaceful and unarmed. ➤ This provision does not protect violent, disorderly, or riotous assemblies, or those that cause a breach of public peace, or those that involve the use of arms. ➤ This right does not include the right to strike. ➤ The State can impose reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the right of assembly on two grounds, namely, sovereignty and integrity of India and public order, including the maintenance of traffic in the area concerned. ➤ Under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (1973) (Now under Section 163 of the BNSS), a magistrate can restrain an assembly, meeting or procession if there is a risk of obstruction, annoyance or danger to human life, health or safety or a disturbance of the public tranquillity or a riot or any affray. ➤ Under Section 141 of the Indian Penal Code (Section 181 of BNSS), an assembly of five or more persons becomes unlawful if the object is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To resist the execution of any law or legal process; • To forcibly occupy the property of some person; • To commit any mischief or criminal trespass; • To force a person to do an illegal act, and • To threaten the government or its officials with the exercise of lawful powers.
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45. Consider the following statements regarding 'Socialist' and 'Secular' in the Indian Constitution:

1. Only after the 42nd Amendment did Socialist content become present in the constitution.
2. Only the country of India has both Socialist and Secular principles in its constitution.

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

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

EXPLANATION:

The words "Socialist," "Secular," and "Integrity" were incorporated into the Constitution through the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976. Even before the term 'socialist' was added by the 42nd Amendment in 1976, the Constitution had a socialist content in the form of certain Directive Principles of State Policy. The Indian brand of socialism is democratic socialism and not communist socialism (also known as 'state socialism'), which involves the nationalisation of all means of production and distribution and the abolition of private property. Democratic socialism, on the other hand, holds faith in a 'mixed economy' where both public and private sectors co-exist side-by-side. As the Supreme Court says, 'Democratic socialism aims to end poverty, ignorance, disease and inequality of opportunity. Indian socialism is a blend of Marxism and Gandhism, leaning heavily towards Gandhian socialism.

Thus, even prior to the 42nd Amendment Act, the concept of socialism was already reflected in the Directive Principles of State Policy. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

Several countries, apart from India, explicitly enshrine socialist and/or secular principles within their constitutions. Some of them are Nepal, Bangladesh, Tanzania, etc..

Thus, India is not the only country that has both Socialist and Secular principles in its Constitution.

So, Statement 2 is not correct.

46. The distinction between the commercial and political functions of the East India Company was made by which of the following Acts?

(a) Regulating Act, 1773

(b) Pitt's India Act, 1784

(c) Charter Act, 1813

(d) Government of India Act, 1858

EXPLANATION:

The Pitt's India Act of 1784 was a landmark law that brought the East India Company's rule in India under direct oversight of the British Government.

- It made a clear distinction between the Company's commercial and political functions.
- The Court of Directors continued to manage commercial affairs (trade).
- A new Board of Control was set up to manage political affairs, thereby creating a system of dual Government.
- The Board of Control was empowered to supervise and direct civil, military, and revenue matters of all Company territories in India.

For the first time, the Company's territories were officially termed as "British possessions in India."

The Act marked the beginning of supreme British Government control over the Company's administration in India. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

THE COMPANY RULE 1773-1858

Regulating Act of 1773	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is the first step by the British Parliament to regulate the East India Company's affairs in India. ➤ It acknowledged for the first time the political and administrative functions of the Company. ➤ It laid the foundation of central administration in India. ➤ It made the Governor of Bengal the Governor-General of Bengal, assisted by a four-member Executive Council. ➤ It made the Governors of Bombay and Madras subordinate to the Governor-General of Bengal. ➤ It established a Supreme Court at Calcutta (1774) with one Chief Justice and three judges.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It prohibited Company servants from engaging in private trade or accepting gifts and bribes. ➤ It strengthened the British Parliament's control by requiring the Company's Court of Directors to report revenue, civil, and military affairs in India.
Charter Act of 1813	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It abolished the trade monopoly of the Company in India, i.e., the Indian trade was thrown open to all British merchants. However, it continued the monopoly of the Company over trade in tea and trade with China. ➤ It asserted the sovereignty of the British Crown over the Company's territories in India. ➤ It was owed to the Christian missionaries to come to India for the purpose of enlightening the people. ➤ It provided for the spread of Western education among the inhabitants of the British territories in India. ➤ It authorised the Local Governments in India to impose taxes on persons. They could also punish the people for not paying taxes.
Government of India Act of 1858	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It was passed after the Revolt of 1857. ➤ It abolished the East India Company and transferred its powers, territories, and revenues to the British Crown. ➤ It established the office of the Secretary of State for India in London, assisted by a 15-member Council of India. ➤ The Governor-General of India was now called the Viceroy of India, representing the Crown (first Viceroy: Lord Canning). ➤ Signified the beginning of the direct rule of the British Crown in India.

47. Consider the following statements:

1. Marriage & Divorce
2. Inheritance
3. Property dispute
4. Reservation
5. Succession

How many of the above aspects are dealt with by the Uniform Civil Code?

- (a) Only two
 (b) Only three
(c) Only four
 (d) None

EXPLANATION:

Article 44 of the Indian Constitution provides for a Uniform Civil Code for all citizens. The Indian Constitution, in its Directive Principles, lays down that the State shall endeavour to provide a Uniform Civil Code for its citizens. Since Directive Principles are non-justiciable, courts cannot enforce UCC implementation.

Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is a legal framework which provides uniform personal laws across the country. It is a set of uniform laws that deals with various aspects, including inheritance, marriage, adoption, succession, divorce, maintenance, and property disputes, applicable to all citizens irrespective of their religion, community, race, sex, and caste. It does not include the Reservation. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

- The Uttarakhand Government passed the Uniform Civil Code of Uttarakhand Act, 2024, and the Uniform Civil Code Rules of Uttarakhand, 2025, making it the first State in India to implement and enforce the Uniform Civil Code applicable to all residents of the State.
- Goa follows a uniform civil code for common family laws in the form of the Portuguese Civil Code.

48. Under Article 19(2) of the Constitution, the freedom of speech and expression is not absolute. Restrictions can be imposed on which of the following grounds?

1. Sovereignty and integrity of India
2. Security of the State
3. Friendly relations with foreign States
4. Public order, decency or morality
5. Contempt of court
6. Defamation
7. Incitement to an offence

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
 (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
 (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

EXPLANATION:

Freedom of Speech and Expression - Article 19(1)(a) grants citizens the right to freely express their thoughts, opinions, and ideas. This includes the Freedom to express oneself through speech, writing, printing, visual representations, or any other means.

- But this right is not absolute; the State can impose reasonable restrictions on the exercise of the Freedom of speech and expression on the grounds of sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, contempt of Court, defamation, and incitement to an offence.
 - The first set of grounds, namely, the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States and public order, are all grounds referable to national interest.
 - Whereas the second set of grounds, namely, decency or morality, contempt of Court, defamation and incitement to an offence are all concerned with the interest of society.

All seven statements are reasonable restrictions that the State can impose on the exercise of Freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(2) of the Constitution. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

RIGHT TO FREEDOM	
About	<p>Article 19 in the Constitution of India protects certain rights: All citizens shall have the right</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To Freedom of speech and expression; ➤ To assemble peaceably and without arms; ➤ To form associations or unions, or co-operative societies; ➤ To move freely throughout the territory of India; ➤ To reside and settle in any part of the territory of India; and ➤ To practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.
Freedom of Speech and Expression	<p>The Supreme Court held that the Freedom of speech and expression includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Right to propagate one's views (Freedom of circulation). ➤ Freedom of the press ➤ Freedom of commercial advertisements. ➤ Right against tapping of telephonic conversation. ➤ Right to telecast, that is, the government has no monopoly on electronic media. ➤ Right against the bandh called by a political party or organisation. ➤ Right to know about government activities. ➤ Freedom of silence.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Right against the imposition of pre-censorship on a newspaper. ➤ Right to demonstration or picketing, but not the right to strike. ➤ Right to fly the national flag. ➤ Right of voters to know the antecedents of the candidates contesting elections ➤ Right to choose the medium of instruction at the stage of primary school. ➤ Right to express gender identity ➤ Right to reply (Right to answer the criticism) ➤ Right to post information/videos on the internet/social media ➤ The right of filmmakers to exhibit their films ➤ Right to access to the internet (Right to access to information via the internet)
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49. With reference to preventive detention, consider the following:

1. An enemy alien can be detained in custody without informing them of the grounds for arrest.
2. The power of preventive detention is an exception to Article 21.
3. Both the Parliament and the State Legislature have the power to enact a law for preventive detention.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 22 grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained. Detention is of two types, namely, punitive and preventive.

- Punitive detention is to punish a person for an offence committed by him/ her after trial and conviction in a court.
- Preventive detention, on the other hand, means detention of a person without trial and conviction by a court.

By Article 22, Protection against arrest and detention in certain cases, no person who is arrested shall be detained in custody without being informed, as soon as may be, of the grounds for such arrest, nor shall he be denied the right to consult, and to be defended by, a legal practitioner of his choice.

But this protection shall not apply to any person who, for the time being, is an enemy alien or to any person who is arrested or detained under any law providing for preventive detention. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The provision for preventive detention is an extraordinary power in the hands of the State that must be used sparingly. It curtails the liberty of an individual in anticipation of the Commission of further offence(s), and therefore, must not be used in the ordinary course of nature.

- Preventive detention is recognised in the Constitution under Article 22(3)(b).
- However, the Supreme Court has emphasised in *Rekha v. State of Tamil Nadu* that the power of preventive detention is an exception to the right to personal liberty under Article 21 and, therefore, must be applied as such, as an exception to the main rule and only in rare cases. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The Constitution has divided the legislative power with regard to preventive detention between the Parliament and the state legislatures. The Parliament has exclusive authority to make a law of preventive detention for reasons connected with defence, foreign affairs and the security of India.

Both the Parliament and the state legislatures can concurrently make a law of preventive detention for reasons connected with the security of a state, the maintenance of public order and the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ARTICLE 22	
About	<p>Article 22 has two parts: the first part deals with the cases of ordinary law, and the second part deals with the cases of preventive detention law.</p> <p>The first part of Article 22 confers the following rights on a person who is arrested or detained under an ordinary law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to be informed of the grounds of arrest • Right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner • Right to be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours, excluding the journey time. • Right to be released after 24 hours unless the magistrate authorises further detention. <p>These safeguards are not available to an enemy alien or a person arrested or detained under a preventive detention law.</p> <p>The Supreme Court also ruled that the arrest and detention in the first part of Article 22 do not cover arrest under the orders of a court, civil arrest, arrest on failure to pay the income tax, and deportation of an alien. They apply only to an act of a criminal or quasi-criminal nature or some activity prejudicial to public interest.</p>
Preventive Detention	<p>The second part of Article 22 grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained under a preventive detention law. This protection is available to both citizens and aliens and includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The detention of a person cannot exceed three months unless an advisory board reports sufficient cause for extended detention. The board is to consist of judges of a high court. ➤ The grounds of detention should be communicated to the detenu. However, the facts considered to be against the public interest need not be disclosed. ➤ The detenu should be afforded an opportunity to make a representation against the detention order.

50. Consider the following pairs:

Article in the Constitution of India	Description
1. Article 31	The original Article 31 dealt with the right to property, but it was repealed and replaced by Article 300A.
2. Article 33	Restriction on rights conferred by this Part III while martial law is in force in any area.
3. Article 34	Power of Parliament to modify the rights conferred by this Part in their application to Forces, etc.
4. Article 35	It grants Parliament exclusive power to create laws that implement specific fundamental rights.

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

- Article 31 of the Indian Constitution was repealed and replaced by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act in 1978. The original Article 31, which dealt with the right to property, was one of the seven fundamental rights under Part III of the Constitution, but it was repealed and replaced by Article 300A. Article 300A states that no person shall be deprived of his or her property except by the authority of Law. Thus, the right to property remains a legal right or a constitutional right, although it is no longer considered a fundamental right. It is not a part of the basic structure of the Constitution. **So, Pair (1) is correct.**
- Article 33 states that the Parliament can make laws to limit or even take away certain fundamental rights of people serving in:
 - The Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force),
 - Forces maintaining public order (like police, paramilitary forces),
 - Intelligence and counter-intelligence organisations,
 - Telecommunication staff connected to the above forces/organisations (Armed forces, Intelligence), to ensure the proper discharge of their duties and the maintenance of discipline among them. **So, Pair (2) is not correct.**
- Article 34 in the Constitution of India provides restrictions on fundamental rights while Martial Law is in force in any area within the territory of India. It empowers the Parliament to indemnify any person in the service of the Union, a State, or any other person in respect of any act done by them in connection with the maintenance or restoration of order in any area within the territory of India where Martial Law was in force. The Parliament can also validate any sentence passed, punishment inflicted, forfeiture ordered or other Act done under martial Law in such an area. **So, Pair (3) is not correct.**
- Article 35 lays down that the power to make laws, to give effect to certain specified fundamental rights, shall vest only in the Parliament and not in the state legislatures. This provision ensures that there is uniformity throughout India with regard to the nature of those fundamental rights and punishment for their infringement. The Parliament shall have the power to make laws with respect to Articles 16, 32, 33, and 34, and to make laws for prescribing punishment for acts declared to be offences under the fundamental rights, such as Article 17 and 23. **So, Pair (4) is correct.**

51. Consider the following with respect to the reservation in promotion for the government servants:

1. Article 16(4A) of the Indian Constitution permits states to provide reservations in promotion in favour of the depressed class who are not adequately represented.
2. It is neither a statutory right nor a fundamental right.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Supreme Court recently clarified that government servants in India cannot claim promotion as a matter of right, because the Constitution does not prescribe fixed criteria for filling promotional posts. It is up to the Legislature or executive to decide the method of filling such vacancies, based on the nature of the job and the functions expected from the candidate.

However, Article 16(4A) of the Constitution, inserted by the 77th Amendment Act, 1995, allows the State to make provisions for reservation in promotions for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). This ensures that groups underrepresented in government services are given opportunities for career advancement, including promotion with consequential seniority.

In short, while promotions are not an automatic right for all employees, the Constitution provides for affirmative action for SCs and STs to promote equality in higher-level government positions.

So, Statement 1 is correct.

In the case of "Mukesh Kumar v. State of Uttarakhand", in accordance with Articles 16(4) and 16(4A) of the Constitution, the Supreme Court has decided that there is no fundamental right to have a reservation in "appointments and promotions" in public services. The Supreme Court states that Article 16(4) is only enabling, and states may or may not make a reservation.

Reservation in promotion for government servants is not a statutory right, as it does not emanate from any Act of Parliament or State Legislature; rather, it is granted at the discretion of the State. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ARTICLE 16 OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION	
Features	<p>There are some essential features of Article 16 that need to be kept in mind while reading this Article, which are as follows-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Equality of opportunities is guaranteed to all: As per the provisions of this Article, all the citizens of India are given equal opportunities in the field of employment. ➤ State's Role in Providing Equal Opportunity: It means that the State is responsible for creating job opportunities for all citizens, regardless of their background, who shall have an equal chance to compete for public employment. ➤ Prohibiting unnecessary discrimination in employment: This Article also prevents all kinds of unnecessary discrimination by the State in public employment jobs and appointments on the basis of caste, race, region, place of birth and residency. ➤ Exceptions to equality: The State is allowed to create provisions for the reservation of appointments or postings for any underprivileged classes or groups of citizens who are insufficiently represented in the State's services. ➤ Not applicable to non-citizens: This provision regarding reservation is applicable to the citizens of India only. Non-citizens who come from other countries will not get this reservation benefit under Article 16. This Article explicitly states that "every citizen" of the country can only get benefits as per the provisions of this Article. ➤ Power of Parliament: The Indian Parliament has the authority to pass legislation to make the provisions of Article 16 legally binding.
The 103rd constitutional amendment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The 103rd Constitutional Amendment (2019) inserted Clause (6) in Articles 15 and 16, which came into effect on January 14, 2019. ➤ Article 15(6) and Article 16(6) empower the State to provide 10% reservation in education and government jobs for economically weaker sections (EWS) of society. ➤ This reservation is in addition to existing reservations for SCs, STs, and non-creamy layer OBCs. ➤ The term "economically weaker sections" refers to citizens identified by the State based on family income and other indicators of economic disadvantage, which the State will update regularly. ➤ Importantly, this reservation does not apply to classes already covered under existing quotas (SC, ST, OBC).

52. Consider the following statements with respect to Civil and Criminal Law:

1. Both law considers offences against the State or society as a whole.
2. If found guilty, the accused can face penalties ranging from fines to imprisonment in both the Law.
3. In both cases, the prosecution must establish the accused's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

Civil Law is primarily concerned with resolving disputes between individuals, organisations, or institutions. It deals with cases where one party claims to have suffered a loss or injury because of another party's actions or negligence. The Law aims to restore rights and provide compensation to the aggrieved party rather than punish the wrongdoer.

Criminal Law, on the other hand, deals with acts that are considered offences against society or the State. When a person commits a crime, they harm society at large, and it is the State's responsibility to prosecute the offender. The primary purpose of criminal Law is to maintain public order and safety by punishing offenders.

Therefore, Civil laws govern disputes between individuals, organisations, or institutions, while criminal laws address offences committed against society or the State. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

Civil Law aims to resolve disputes and correct wrongs in a fair and peaceful manner. In the case of civil Law, when an individual suffers a loss or injury, they can file a complaint against the person responsible. The court usually awards compensation or fines to the injured party. Civil Law focuses on helping the victim and does not involve imprisonment.

Criminal Law, on the other hand, aims to punish the wrongdoer and prevent them from committing the offence again. A crime is any act that harms society or breaks the Law. Punishments under criminal Law can include imprisonment, fines, or other penalties such as community service. The focus of criminal Law is on protecting society and ensuring offenders face consequences.

Thus, civil Law primarily provides compensation or fines without imprisonment, while criminal Law can impose imprisonment, fines, or other penalties, reflecting the difference in their purposes and approach. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Beyond a reasonable doubt is the legal burden of proof required for a criminal conviction.

- In criminal Law, the burden of proof primarily lies on the prosecution. The accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty. This principle is enshrined in Section 101 of the Indian Evidence Act, which places the duty on the prosecution to prove the guilt of the accused beyond a reasonable doubt. For example, if a person is accused of theft, the prosecution must provide evidence like fingerprints, CCTV footage, or testimony from an eyewitness before a conviction can be secured.
- Unlike criminal cases, civil Law follows a different standard for the burden of proof. The plaintiff must establish their case based on a preponderance of probabilities rather than beyond a reasonable doubt. In civil cases, the party with the stronger evidence and higher probability of truth prevails.

Thus, in a criminal case, conviction requires "proof beyond a reasonable doubt." In a civil case, liability must be proven by a preponderance of the evidence. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA NEW CRIMINAL LAWS	
Recently in the news	The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which came into effect on July 1, 2024, was hailed as a major step towards decolonising India's criminal justice system.
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, is India's new criminal code that officially replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, on July 1, 2024. ➤ It was enacted to modernise the country's criminal laws, replacing colonial-era legislation with a simpler, more accessible code written in Hindi.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The BNS is structured into 20 chapters and 358 sections, consolidating various provisions and introducing new crimes, while also focusing on victim rights and addressing modern issues like digital-era crimes.
Key provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report Incidents Online: Individuals can now report crimes electronically without visiting a police station. ➤ Zero FIR: FIR can be filed at any police station regardless of jurisdiction. ➤ Free Copy of FIR: Victims receive a free copy to ensure participation in the legal process. ➤ Right to Inform Upon Arrest: Arrested individuals can inform a person of their choice. ➤ Fast-Track Investigations: Offences against women and children are investigated within two months. ➤ Progress Updates to Victims: Victims are entitled to updates within 90 days. ➤ Free Medical Treatment: Victims of crimes against women and children get free first-aid or medical care at all hospitals. ➤ Electronic Summons: Summons can be served electronically for faster communication. ➤ Statements by Woman Magistrate: Statements of female victims are recorded by a woman Magistrate, or in her absence, by a male Magistrate in the presence of a woman. ➤ Supply of Police Report and Documents: Both the accused and the victims can receive copies of the FIR, the charge sheet, statements, and other documents within 14 days. ➤ Limited Adjournments: Courts allow a maximum of two adjournments to prevent delays. ➤ Gender Inclusivity: The definition of “gender” includes transgender individuals. ➤ All Proceedings in Electronic Mode: Legal proceedings can be conducted electronically for convenience and speed. ➤ Exemption from Police Station Visits: Women, persons below 15, above 60, and those with disabilities or acute illness are exempt. ➤ Offences Against Women and Children: A new chapter specifically addresses these offences. ➤ Gender-Neutral Offences: Many offences against women and children are now gender-neutral. ➤ Community Service: Introduced for minor offences to promote social responsibility. ➤ Aligned Fines for Offences: Fines are now proportional to the severity of the crime. ➤ Simplified Legal Processes: Procedures have been made easier to understand and follow. ➤ Faster and Fairer Resolution: Cases are resolved more quickly and fairly, increasing trust in the justice system.

53. Which of the following situations abridges the provisions of the Protection of the interests of minorities provided in the Constitution of India?

1. Setting up a university for the promotion of the majority language.
2. Refusal to admit a child to an educational institution on the grounds of the place of birth.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 29 of the Indian Constitution grants protection to both religious and linguistic minorities. However, the Supreme Court has clarified that the scope of this Article is not limited to minorities alone. The use of the term “section of citizens” includes both majority and minority groups. Therefore, setting up a university for the promotion of the majority language does not violate or abridge the provisions protecting the interests of minorities. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

Article 29 provides that any section of citizens residing in any part of India, having a distinct language, script, or culture of its own, shall have the right to conserve it, thereby protecting the cultural and linguistic rights of groups, including minorities. It further states that no citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State or receiving State aid on grounds only of religion, race, caste, or language, though admission may be restricted on other grounds such as place of birth. This does not infringe upon the protection of minority interests, as the first provision safeguards group rights while the second guarantees individual rights irrespective of community. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

RIGHT OF MINORITIES TO ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	
About	<p>Article 30 grants the following rights to minorities, whether religious or linguistic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. ➤ The compensation amount fixed by the State for the compulsory acquisition of any property of a minority educational institution shall not restrict or abrogate the right guaranteed to them. This Provision was added by the 44th Amendment Act of 1978 to protect the rights of minorities in this regard. ➤ In granting aid, the State shall not discriminate against any educational institution managed by a minority. ➤ Thus, the Protection under Article 30 is confined only to minorities (religious or linguistic) and does not extend to any section of citizens (as under Article 29). ➤ However, the term ‘minority’ has not been defined anywhere in the Constitution. ➤ The right under Article 30 also includes the right of a minority to impart education to its children in its own language. Minority educational institutions are of three types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutions that seek recognition as well as aid from the State; • Institutions that seek only recognition from the State and not aid, and • Institutions that neither seek recognition nor aid from the State. <p>The institutions of the first and second type are subject to the regulatory power of the State with regard to syllabus prescription, academic standards, discipline, sanitation, employment of teaching staff and so on.</p> <p>The institutions of the third type are free to administer their affairs but subject to the operation of general laws like contract law, labour law, industrial law, tax law, economic regulations, and so on.</p>

54. “Where an appeal or revision is provided against an order passed by a court, tribunal or any other authority before superior forum and such superior forum modifies, reverses or affirms the decision put in issue before it, the decision by the subordinate forum merges in the decision by the superior forum and it is the latter which subsists, remains operative and is capable of enforcement in the eye of the law.”

Which one of the following judicial doctrines is mentioned in the above passage?

- (a) Doctrine of Pith and Substance
- (b) **Doctrine of Merger**
- (c) Doctrine of Eclipse
- (d) Doctrine of Harmonious Construction

EXPLANATION:

The doctrine of Merger, or the Merger doctrine in civil proceedings, is a common law doctrine that stems from the idea of maintaining the decorum of the hierarchy of courts and tribunals.

The superior jurisdiction should be capable of reversing, modifying or affirming the order put in issue before it. Under Article 136 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court may reverse, modify or affirm the judgment-decree or order appealed against while exercising its appellate jurisdiction and not while exercising the discretionary jurisdiction disposing of a petition for special leave to appeal.

The Supreme Court summed up the meaning of the Doctrine of Merger was in the case of Kunhayammed v. the State of Kerala, wherein the Court in the judgment held that- "Where an appeal or revision is provided against an order passed by a court, tribunal or any other authority before the superior forum and such superior forum modifies, reverses or affirms the decision put in issue before it, the decision by the subordinate forum merges in the decision by the superior forum and it is the latter which subsists, remains operative and is capable of enforcement in the eye of the law." **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

JUDICIAL DOCTRINES	
Doctrine of Pith and Substance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Doctrine of Pith and Substance states that if the substance of legislation falls within a legislature's lawful power, the legislation does not become unconstitutional just because it impacts an issue beyond its area of authority. ➤ "True nature and character" is what the phrase "pith and substance" signifies. The infringement of the constitutional delimitation of legislative powers in a Federal State is the subject of this concept. ➤ The Court uses it to determine whether the claimed intrusion is just incidental or significant. ➤ Thus, the 'pith and substance' concept holds that the challenged statute is fundamentally within the legislative competence of the legislature that enacted it, but only incidentally encroaches on the legislative field of another legislature.
Doctrine of Eclipse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The doctrine of eclipse is significant in Indian constitutional law that deals with the relationship between pre-constitutional laws and the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of India. ➤ This doctrine provides a framework to address inconsistencies between pre-existing laws and constitutional mandates, ensuring that such laws are not rendered entirely void but are temporarily inoperative until the inconsistency is resolved.
Doctrine of Harmonious Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The doctrine of harmonious construction means that when a conflict arises between different statutes or between statutes, in such circumstances, courts try to interpret them in a way that makes them work together smoothly instead of declaring other statutes void. ➤ The main aim of this doctrine is to give effect to all the provisions while maintaining the overall coherence and purpose of the law.

55. Under Article 341 of the Indian Constitution, which among the following authorities are empowered to recognise a caste, race or tribe as a Scheduled Caste?

- (a) Chief Minister of a State
- (b) Prime Minister of India
- (c) **The President of India**
- (d) All the above

EXPLANATION:

As per Article 341(1) of the Indian Constitution, the President may with respect to any State or Union territory, and where it is a State after consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the castes, races or tribes or parts of or group within castes, races or tribes which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to that State or Union territory, as the case may be.

As per the Article 341(2) of the Indian Constitution, Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Castes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any caste, race or tribe or part of or group within any caste, race or tribe, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification.

Thus, the President of India and the Parliament are empowered to recognise a caste, race or tribe as a scheduled caste. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ARTICLES 341 & 342 OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Indian Constitution provides for the recognition and protection of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. ➤ Article 341 of the Indian Constitution deals with the Scheduled Castes, while Article 342 deals with the Scheduled Tribes. ➤ Based on the advice and recommendations of the Governor of a state, the President of India has the power to notify particular castes or tribes as Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.
Article 342	<p>Provision in Article 342 deals with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The President may, with respect to any State [or Union territory], and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State or Union territory, as the case may be. ➤ Parliament may, by law, include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any tribe or tribal community or part of or group within any tribe or tribal community, but save as aforesaid, a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification.

56. With reference to the devolution of resources to Panchayats, consider the following statements:

1. States are not mandated to grant the financial power to collect taxes to Panchayats.
2. Panchayats may receive grants from the Union Government as per the recommendations of the Central Finance Commission.
3. Karnataka ranks first in the Panchayat Devolution Index, 2024.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Panchayat, being "Local Government", is a state subject and part of the State list of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Mandate for setting up of Panchayats is provided by Article 243 in Part IX of the Constitution of India.

- For financial empowerment of Panchayats, provisions have been made in terms of Article 243H, Article 280(3)(bb) and Article 243-I of the Constitution.

- In terms of Article 243H, the state legislatures may, by law, authorise, the panchayats to levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees; assign to the panchayats such taxes, duties, tolls and fees subject to conditions and limits; provide for grants-in-aid to the panchayats from the consolidated fund of the State, and create its own fund to credit its money. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Article 280 provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi-judicial body. It is constituted by the President every fifth year or even earlier.

The Funds recommended by the Union Finance Commissions are transferred to the States to augment their finances in order to supplement the resources of the Rural local bodies(Panchayats). These funds are transferred from the Union Government to State Governments. From the States, they are then transferred to individual RLBs. These transfers are governed by stipulations and conditions that may be imposed by the Union Government, which in turn may or may not be based on the recommendations of the Union Finance Commission.

Thus, Panchayats may receive grants from the Union Government as per the recommendations of the Central Finance Commission. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Devolution Index presents the overall scores and ranks for States/UTs on six identified dimensions. Framework, Functions, Finances, Functionaries, Capacity Enhancement and Accountability. Based on the weighted aggregation of six-dimensional sub-indices of the recent Panchayat Devolution Index, 2024, the State of Karnataka ranks first in the present ranking with an index score of 72.23, followed by Kerala (70.59), Tamil Nadu (68.38), Maharashtra (61.44) and fifth, the State of Uttar Pradesh (60.07). **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

DEVOLUTION OF POWERS AND RESOURCES	
About	<p>➤ The Government of India introduced the Panchayats Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS) with the objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivise states to empower the Panchayats, and • Incentivise Panchayats to put in place accountability systems to make their functioning transparent and efficient. <p>➤ In 2012, the study went beyond the dimension of "4Fs" (Framework, Functions, Finances and Functionaries) and two new dimensions were added, viz. 'Capacity Building' and 'Accountability'.</p>
Rankings	<p>➤ States, namely Tripura, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha, are above 50.</p> <p>➤ State of Bihar, along with the Northeastern and Hilly States of Assam, Sikkim, and Uttarakhand, emerged as moderate scorers but with values above the national average, i.e. 43.89.</p> <p>➤ States/UTs which have scored low are Goa, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Punjab, along with the Northeastern and Hilly states of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur and the UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry.</p>

57. Which of the following best describes the “horizontal application” of fundamental rights?

- (a) It applies only to actions of the state and its instrumentalities.
(b) It can be enforced against other citizens.
 (c) It refers to the enforcement of rights through ordinary civil laws only
 (d) It is the power of parliament to amend fundamental rights.

EXPLANATION:

The doctrines of horizontal and vertical application of rights delineate the scope and enforcement of fundamental rights within a legal system.

In India, these doctrines determine whether individuals can invoke constitutional rights solely against the state (vertical application) or also against other private individuals and entities (horizontal application).

➤ Vertical Application of Rights

- This traditional approach allows individuals to enforce fundamental rights against the state or its instrumentalities.
- The Indian Constitution primarily envisages this model, where citizens seek protection from state actions that infringe upon their rights.
- For instance, Article 12 defines “the State,” encompassing government bodies against which fundamental rights can be claimed.

➤ Horizontal Application of Rights (enforced against other citizens, non-State, private actors as well)

- This concept extends the enforcement of fundamental rights to disputes between private individuals or entities. It posits that certain rights should be upheld not only in the public sphere but also in private interactions.
- In the Indian context, while the Constitution predominantly supports vertical application, certain provisions imply horizontal applicability. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

HORIZONTAL APPLICATION	
Legal Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Article 15(2): Prohibits discrimination by the state and private individuals concerning access to shops, public restaurants, hotels, and places of public entertainment. This article explicitly extends fundamental rights into the private domain, preventing discriminatory practices by private entities. ➤ Article 17: Abolishes “untouchability” and forbids its practice in any form. This provision applies horizontally, ensuring that private individuals do not engage in discriminatory practices based on untouchability. ➤ Articles 23 and 24: Prohibit human trafficking, forced labour, and child labour, respectively. These articles are enforceable against both the state and private individuals, highlighting their horizontal applicability.
Elements of Horizontal Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Constitutional Provision: The Constitution must explicitly or implicitly allow for rights to be enforced against private individuals. ➤ Judicial Interpretation: Courts play a pivotal role in interpreting the extent to which rights apply horizontally. ➤ Legislative Framework: Laws enacted by the legislature can facilitate the horizontal application of rights, such as anti-discrimination statutes.

58. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Parliament has enacted the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956, for dispute resolution relating to waters of inter-State rivers.

Statement II: Water is under the Union List subject of the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Which of the following statements is correct in relation to the above statements?

- Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct Explanation for Statement I.
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct Explanation for Statement-I
- Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect**
- Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

EXPLANATION:

Article 262 of the Constitution provides for the adjudication of inter-state water disputes. It makes two provisions:

- Parliament may, by law, provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley.
- Parliament may also provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint.
- Under this provision, the Parliament has enacted two laws
 - The River Boards Act (1956) and
 - The Inter-State Water Disputes Act (1956).
- The River Boards Act provides for the establishment of river boards for the regulation and development of inter-state rivers and river valleys. A river board is established by the Central government on the request of the state governments concerned to advise them.
- The Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, empowers the Central government to set up an ad hoc tribunal for the adjudication of a dispute between two or more states in relation to the waters of an inter-state river or river valley.
- The decision of the tribunal would be final and binding on the parties to the dispute. Neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to have jurisdiction in respect of any water dispute which may be referred to such a tribunal under this Act. **So, Statement I is correct.**

Water is a subject under the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Water, that is to say, water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power, subject to the provisions of Entry 56 of List I (Union List), comes under the State subject.

This means that states generally have the power to make laws about water supply, irrigation, canals, drainage, embankments, storage, and water power.

However, this is subject to Entry 56 of the Union List, meaning the Union Parliament can step in for inter-state matters. **So, Statement II is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

INTER-STATE TRADE AND COMMERCE	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Articles 301–307 of the Constitution deal with trade, commerce, and intercourse within India. ➤ Article 301 guarantees freedom of trade, commerce, and intercourse throughout India, both interstate and intrastate, aiming to remove barriers between states. This freedom is subject only to restrictions provided in Articles 302–305: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliament can impose restrictions in the public interest but cannot discriminate between states, except in the case of scarcity. • State legislatures can impose reasonable restrictions in the public interest, but only with the President's prior sanction, and cannot favour one state over another. • States may levy taxes on imported goods equal to local goods, preventing discriminatory taxation.

59. Consider the following statements:

1. Census is a part of the concurrent list under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
2. The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner is empowered to implement the census in India.
3. The 16th census will be India's first digital census, and it will enable self-enumeration by the public.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) **Only two**

- (c) All three
(d) None

EXPLANATION:

The Population Census is a Union List, and the Ministry of Home Affairs is in charge of this subject. It is listed at serial No. 69 in the seventh schedule of Article 256 of the Constitution of India.

- The Population Census is taken as per the provisions of the Census Act, 1948, which empowers the Central Government to conduct a Census of the population of the country after duly notifying it.
- Though the Census is a Union subject, the actual conduct of the Indian census has always been the joint endeavor of both Central and State Governments.
- The entire field operation, which includes house listing and population enumeration are organized through the general administrative machinery of the States at various levels. At the State and Union Territory level, the Director of Census Operations appointed under the Census Act is responsible for organizing and supervising the census operation within his State and UT.

Hence, the Census is in a Union list not listed on the Concurrent List under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The responsibility to conduct the decennial Population Census under the Census Act lies with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India.

It is responsible for the following:

Housing & Population Census, National Population Register (NPR), Civil Registration System (CRS), Sample Registration System (SRS), Mother Tongue Survey and Linguistic Survey. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The government has formally announced that the 16th Census of India will take place in two phases, with the reference dates set as March 1, 2027, for most of the country. The process is carried out in two broad phases: the House-listing and Housing Census, followed by the Population Enumeration.

The 2027 Census will be the first digital census in India's history, with the use of mobile apps, online self-enumeration, and near-real-time monitoring. It is also the first since 1931 that will collect caste data for all communities. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CENSUS 2027	
Recently in the News	➤ Population Census-2027 to be conducted in two phases along with the enumeration of castes.
About	<p>The Census serves multiple critical functions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is the basis on which electoral constituencies are drawn and seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Central grants to states and districts are often population-based, as are subsidies and ration allocations. Ministries ranging from Education to Rural Development use Census data to locate schools, primary health centers, and infrastructure projects. ➤ It helps the judiciary, planners, and scholars alike understand trends in migration, urbanization, employment, and fertility. ➤ The Census is also crucial to the implementation of constitutional provisions. ➤ Article 82 of the Constitution mandates delimitation of constituencies based on the most recent Census. ➤ Articles 330 and 332 reserve seats for SCs and STs in legislatures based on their population proportions.
Process and Technology	Apart from the process being digital and allowing self-enumeration, Census 2027 will include:

	<p>➤ GPS integration: While 2011 used physical maps and area lists, 2027 introduces GPS tagging of households and geofencing to avoid coverage gaps.</p> <p>➤ Mobile tracking and validation: Enumerators in 2027 will receive alerts for errors like inconsistent age or unrealistic household size, enabling real-time corrections. Such checks did not exist in 2011.</p> <p>Coding System: For the 2027 Census, the Registrar General of India has introduced a new coding system to make data collection more accurate and efficient. Earlier, in the 2011 Census, information like caste, occupation, or mother tongue was written by hand, often leading to spelling mistakes and confusion during data processing.</p>
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60. With reference to judges of the Supreme Court of India, consider the following statements:

1. They can hold office until they attain the age of sixty years.
2. The President can issue a removal of a judge if the Parliamentary address regarding the issue obtains a special majority support in both Houses.
3. In India, Supreme Court judges have not been impeached yet.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 124 in the Constitution of India states:

- There shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India and, until Parliament by law prescribes a larger number, of not more than seven other Judges.
- Every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the states as the President may deem necessary for that purpose, and shall hold office until he attains the age of sixty-five years: Provided that—
- A Judge may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office.
- A Judge may be removed from his office in the manner provided in clause (4).
- Clause 4: A Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be removed from his office except by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-third of the members of the House present and voting has been presented to the President in the same session for such removal on the ground of proved misbehavior or incapacity. **So, Statement 1 is not correct, and Statement 2 is correct.**

No judge of the Supreme Court has been impeached so far. The first case of impeachment is that of Justice V. Ramaswami of the Supreme Court (1991–1993). Though the Enquiry Committee found him guilty of misbehaviour, he could not be removed as the impeachment motion was defeated in the Lok Sabha. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SUPREME COURT	
Recently in News	➤ The Union Government is likely to bring in an impeachment motion against an Allahabad High Court judge.
About	➤ The Supreme Court of India was inaugurated on 28 January 1950. It succeeded the Federal Court of India, established under the Government of India Act of 1935.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ However, the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is greater than that of its predecessor. This is because the Supreme Court has replaced the British Privy Council as the highest Court of appeal. ➤ Articles 124 to 147 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the organisation, Independence, jurisdiction, powers, procedures and so on of the Supreme Court. ➤ The Parliament is also authorised to regulate them.
Procedure for the Removal of Supreme Court Judges	<p>The Judges Enquiry Act (1968) regulates the procedure relating to the removal of a judge of the Supreme Court by the process of impeachment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A removal motion signed by 100 members (in the case of Lok Sabha) or 50 members (in the case of Rajya Sabha) is to be given to the Speaker/ Chairman. ➤ The Speaker/Chairman may admit the motion or refuse to admit it. ➤ If it is admitted, then the Speaker/ Chairman is to constitute a three-member committee to investigate the charges. ➤ The Committee should consist of (a) the chief justice or a judge of the Supreme Court, (b) a chief justice of a high court, and (c) a distinguished jurist. ➤ If the Committee finds the judge to be guilty of misbehaviour or suffering from an incapacity, the House can take up the consideration of the motion. ➤ After the motion is passed by each House of Parliament by a special majority, an address is presented to the President for the removal of the judge. ➤ Finally, the President passes an order removing the judge.

61. Consider the following statements:

1. Any law passed by the State Legislature providing for the taking over of the management of any property by the State for a limited period in the public interest should receive the assent of the President.
2. Any law passed by the State Legislature that abridges any of the rights conferred by Article 19 for securing any of the principles laid down in Part IV of the Constitution should receive the assent of the President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

As per article 31(A), Notwithstanding anything contained in article 13, no law providing for taking over of the management of any property by the State for a limited period either in the public interest or in order to secure the proper management of the property, shall be deemed to be void on the ground that it is inconsistent with, or takes away or abridges any of the rights conferred by article 14 or article 19. Provided that where such law is a law made by the Legislature of a State, the provisions of this article shall not apply thereto unless such law, having been reserved for the consideration of the President, has received his assent. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Article 31C of the Indian constitution was introduced to protect the laws implementing Articles 39(b) and 39(c), of DPSP which aim at equitable distribution of resources and preventing concentration of wealth, from being challenged under Articles 14 or 19, though State laws still require Presidential assent.

The 42nd Amendment (1976) tried to extend this protection to all Directive Principles, making them superior to Fundamental Rights, but the Supreme Court in *Minerva Mills* (1980) struck this down as unconstitutional, holding that it destroyed the balance between Part III and Part IV, which is part of the basic structure.

Currently, only laws implementing Articles 39(b) & (c) enjoy protection under Article 31C with Presidential assent if passed by a State Legislature; laws implementing other DPSPs do not automatically require assent to abridge Article 19 rights.

Thus, law passed by the State Legislature restricting Article 19 for only certain sections of Part IV of DPSP requires Presidential assent. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

62. Consider the following:

1. President
2. Governor
3. State government

Which among the above authorities has the power to remit sentences of convicts?

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 72 of the Constitution empowers the President to grant pardon, reprieve, respite and remission of punishment, or suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence:

- In all cases where the punishment or sentence is by a court-martial;
- In all cases where the punishment or sentence is for an offence against a Union law, and
- In all cases where the sentence is a sentence of death.

Remission implies reducing the period of the sentence without changing its character. For example, a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for two years may be remitted to rigorous imprisonment for one year. Therefore, the President has the power to remit sentences of convicts. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Article 161 of the Constitution empowers the Governor to pardon, reprieve, remit, respite, suspend, or commute the punishment or sentence of any person convicted of an offence against a state law.

The Governor cannot pardon a death sentence. Even if a state law prescribes a death sentence, the power to grant a pardon lies with the President and not the Governor. But the Governor can suspend, remit or commute a death sentence. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The power of remission refers to the power to reduce the period of a sentence for a person who has been found guilty of a crime. Section 473 of the BNSS (and Section 432 of the CrPC) grants state governments the power to remit sentences "at any time".

States can also choose whether to impose conditions that the convict must meet for her sentence to be remitted, such as agreeing to report to a police officer at regular intervals. If any of these conditions are not fulfilled, the provision states that the states may cancel the remission granted and arrest the convict again without a warrant.

This is separate from the power of the President and the Governor to remit sentences under Articles 72 and 161 of the Constitution, respectively. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

TYPES OF PARDONS	
Recently in the news	The Supreme Court ruled that states with remission policies must consider releasing prisoners early, even if they don't apply for it. Certain convicts are excluded. Early release is allowed under the Bharatiya Nyaya Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC).
Pardon	It removes both the sentence and the conviction, completely absolving the convict from all sentences, punishments, and disqualifications.

Commutation	It denotes the substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form. For example, a death sentence may be commuted to rigorous imprisonment, which in turn may be commuted to simple imprisonment.
Remission	It implies reducing the period of the sentence without changing its character. For example, a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for two years may be remitted to rigorous imprisonment for one year.
Respite	It denotes awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded due to some special fact, such as the physical disability of a convict or the pregnancy of a woman offender.
Reprieve	It implies a stay of the execution of a sentence (especially that of death) for a temporary period. Its purpose is to enable the convict to have time to seek a pardon or commutation from the President.

63. Consider the following:

	Writ	Meaning	Scope
1.	Habeas Corpus	"To have the body of"	Can be issued by the High Court irrespective of the Jurisdiction
2.	Prohibition	"To forbid"	Directs inactivity on the part of lower judicial courts.
3.	Quo Warranto	"By what authority or warrant?"	Can be invoked by anyone, not necessarily the aggrieved person

How many of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 32 confers the right to remedies for the enforcement of the fundamental rights of an aggrieved citizen. Therefore, the right to get the Fundamental Rights protected is in itself a fundamental right. The Supreme Court (under Article 32) and the high courts (under Article 226) can issue writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, Prohibition, certiorari, and quo warranto. Further, the Parliament (under Article 32) can empower any other court to issue these writs. Since no such provision has been made so far, only the Supreme Court and the high courts can issue the writs and not any other court.

Habeas Corpus is a Latin term which literally means 'to have the body of'. It is an order issued by the court to a person who has detained another person to produce the body of the latter before it. The court then examines the cause and legality of detention. It would set the detained person free if the detention is found to be illegal. Thus, this writ is a bulwark of individual liberty against arbitrary detention. The writ of habeas corpus can be issued against both public authorities and private individuals. The writ, on the other hand, is not issued where the

- Detention is lawful,
- The proceeding is for contempt of a legislature or a court,
- Detention is by a competent court, and
- Detention is outside the Jurisdiction of the court.

Therefore, Habeas Corpus can be issued by the High Court within its Jurisdiction. **So, Pair (1) is not correct.**

Prohibition literally means 'to forbid'. It is issued by a higher court to a lower court or tribunal to prevent the latter from exceeding its Jurisdiction or usurping a jurisdiction that it does not possess.

Thus, unlike mandamus, which directs activity, the Prohibition directs inactivity. The writ of Prohibition can be issued only against judicial and quasi-judicial authorities. It is not available against administrative authorities, legislative bodies, or private individuals or bodies.

Therefore, Prohibition directs inactivity on the Part of lower judicial courts by the higher court. **So, Pair (2) is correct.**

Quo-Warranto means 'by what authority or warrant'. It is issued by the court to inquire into the legality of a person holding a public office. Hence, it prevents illegal usurpation of public office by a person.

The writ can be issued only in case of a substantive public office of a permanent character created by a statute or by the Constitution. It cannot be issued in cases involving a ministerial or private office.

Unlike the other four writs, any interested person can seek this and not necessarily by the aggrieved person. Therefore, Quo Warranto can be invoked by anyone, not necessarily by the aggrieved person.

So, Pair (3) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

OTHER WRITS	
Mandamus (We Command)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A command issued by the court to a public official asking him to perform his official duties that he has failed or refused to perform. ➤ Can also be issued against a public body, corporation, inferior court, tribunal, or the Government. ➤ Cannot be issued: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Against a private individual or body. • To enforce departmental instructions without statutory force. • When the duty is discretionary and not mandatory. • To enforce a contractual obligation. • Against the President of India or the State Governors. • Against the Chief Justice of a High Court when acting in judicial capacity.
Certiorari (To be Certified / To be Informed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Issued by a higher court to a lower court or tribunal. ➤ Can be used to transfer a case pending with the lower court or to quash its order. ➤ Issued on grounds of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excess of jurisdiction. • Lack of jurisdiction. • Error of law. ➤ Unlike Prohibition (which is preventive), Certiorari is both preventive and curative. ➤ Earlier, it applied only to judicial and quasi-judicial authorities. ➤ In 1991, the Supreme Court held that it can also be issued against administrative authorities affecting the rights of individuals. ➤ Cannot be issued against legislative bodies or private individuals/bodies.

64. With reference to the Meri Panchayat Application, consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the National Informatics Centre under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
2. It provides panchayat-specific weather forecasts.
3. It gives access to Panchayat budgets and development plans.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

“Meri Panchayat App – The m-Governance Platform for Panchayats of India” empowers over 25 lakh elected representatives and approximately 950 million rural residents across India’s 2.65 lakh Gram Panchayats, transforming rural governance through digital inclusion and transparency.

- It aims to create a unified mobile governance platform for rural areas, including residents, functionaries, and Panchayati Raj Institution System stakeholders.
- It seeks to streamline and consolidate various functions and information scattered across different portals into one cohesive mobile platform, thus serving the varied needs of Gram Panchayats. Additionally, the mobile app encourages collaboration among stakeholders, cultivating an environment that supports efficient and transparent governance.
- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Meri Panchayat app provides real-time access to panchayat budgets, receipts, payments, and development plans, along with details of elected representatives, public infrastructure, and civic services.

The app also offers access to Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs), project tracking, weather forecasts at the Gram Panchayat level, social audit tools, fund utilisation data, and grievance redressal with geo-tagged and geo-fenced features. **So, Statements 2 and 3 are correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

MERI PANCHAYAT APPLICATION	
Recently in the News	The transformative mobile application “Meri Panchayat” has been internationally recognised with the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2025 Champion Award under the Action Line Category: Cultural Diversity and Identity, Linguistic Diversity and Local Content. Meri Panchayat, as a WSIS Prizes 2025 Champion Project, symbolises the global excellence of India’s digital governance model.
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supporting over 12 Indian languages, the app ensures inclusivity through its multilingual interface. ➤ Citizens can propose new projects, review and rate implemented works, and access Gram Sabha agendas and decisions, fostering greater civic engagement and transparency in rural governance.
Feature	<p>Through the Meri Panchayat App, citizens can effortlessly access, on their mobile devices:</p> 

65. Timely justice is essential to build public trust in the legal system. Prolonged delays may deter people from approaching courts. This hesitation to approach courts due to the high stress levels ordinary citizens experience in courtrooms is termed as:

- (a) **Black coat syndrome**
- (b) White coat hypertension
- (c) Red tapism
- (d) White coat syndrome

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the President of India coined the phrase 'black coat syndrome' for the high stress levels ordinary citizens experience in courtrooms. Timely justice is a cornerstone of public trust in the legal system, as captured by the classic maxim 'justice delayed is justice denied'. Prolonged delays often deter people from approaching courts.

Although this has been a perpetual issue in India, the scale is now striking. Over 86,700 cases are pending in the Supreme Court (SC), over 63.3 lakh cases in High Courts (HCs), and 4.6 crore cases in district and subordinate courts. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

JUSTICE DELIVERY TIMELINE																												
About	<p>An analysis of the justice delivery timeline in Indian courts reveals stark disparities across court levels and case types, as shown in the chart below.</p> <div><div><div>Civil</div><div>Criminal</div></div><div><div>Within 1 year</div><div>1-5 years</div><div>More than 5 years</div></div><table><tr><td>Supreme Court</td><td>Supreme Court</td><td>Supreme Court</td></tr><tr><td><div><div>67.7%</div></div></td><td><div><div>19.6%</div></div></td><td><div><div>12.7%</div></div></td></tr><tr><td><div><div>79.5%</div></div></td><td><div><div>13.2%</div></div></td><td><div><div>7.3%</div></div></td></tr><tr><td>High Courts</td><td>High Courts</td><td>High Courts</td></tr><tr><td><div><div>64.4%</div></div></td><td><div><div>17.9%</div></div></td><td><div><div>17.6%</div></div></td></tr><tr><td><div><div>85.3%</div></div></td><td><div><div>8.9%</div></div></td><td><div><div>5.8%</div></div></td></tr><tr><td>District and Subordinate Court</td><td>District and Subordinate Court</td><td>District and Subordinate Court</td></tr><tr><td><div><div>38.8%</div></div></td><td><div><div>40.9%</div></div></td><td><div><div>20.3%</div></div></td></tr><tr><td><div><div>70.6%</div></div></td><td><div><div>19.9%</div></div></td><td><div><div>9.5%</div></div></td></tr></table></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Criminal cases, generally considered offences against the State, are resolved faster than civil ones, such as property, family, or contractual disputes, at every tier.➤ HCs lead the way in disposing of 85.3% of criminal cases within a year, followed by the SC at 79.5%, and district courts at 70.6%.➤ The real concern lies in civil litigation at the district level, which handles the bulk of India’s pending cases, where only 38.7% civil cases are resolved within a year, and nearly 20% stretch beyond five years. This means that courts serving the most litigants are the least equipped to ensure timely justice.	Supreme Court	Supreme Court	Supreme Court	<div><div>67.7%</div></div>	<div><div>19.6%</div></div>	<div><div>12.7%</div></div>	<div><div>79.5%</div></div>	<div><div>13.2%</div></div>	<div><div>7.3%</div></div>	High Courts	High Courts	High Courts	<div><div>64.4%</div></div>	<div><div>17.9%</div></div>	<div><div>17.6%</div></div>	<div><div>85.3%</div></div>	<div><div>8.9%</div></div>	<div><div>5.8%</div></div>	District and Subordinate Court	District and Subordinate Court	District and Subordinate Court	<div><div>38.8%</div></div>	<div><div>40.9%</div></div>	<div><div>20.3%</div></div>	<div><div>70.6%</div></div>	<div><div>19.9%</div></div>	<div><div>9.5%</div></div>
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Various Reforms	<p>The judiciary and the government consistently introduce various reforms; a major systemic cause of judicial delay is the persistent gap between the sanctioned and actual strength of judges across courts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ India’s judiciary functions at just 79% of its capacity. Out of 26,927 sanctioned posts, 5,665 are vacant, resulting in overwhelming workloads.➤ District and subordinate courts, which handle the bulk of litigation, have a sanctioned strength of only 25,771 judges, averaging 18 judges per 10 lakh population.➤ India operates with just 15 judges per 10 lakh population.➤ Even at full sanctioned strength across all courts, it would reach only 19 judges per 10 lakh population, far below the 1987 Law Commission’s recommendation of 50.																											

66. With reference to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. The Speaker acts like a tribunal while deciding a question on the defection of a member of parliament.
2. The Speaker's decision on defection is subject to judicial review.

3. The Speaker may disqualify a member of the Parliament for disobeying his political party's directions.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the Supreme Court clarified that it is not powerless even if a speaker delays or remains indecisive on petitions seeking the disqualification of legislators under the Tenth Schedule (the anti-defection law).

India follows the Westminster model of government, where the Speaker serves as the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha. The Constitution under Article 93 provides for the offices of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

The Speaker, as the constitutional and ceremonial head of the House, is responsible for maintaining order and discipline in its proceedings.

Under the Tenth Schedule, the Speaker also plays a quasi-judicial role in deciding matters of the disqualification of members due to defection.

Originally, the law stated that the Speaker's decision was final and beyond judicial scrutiny. However, in *Kihoto Hollohan vs. Zachillhu* (1992), the Supreme Court ruled that while the Speaker acts as a tribunal in defection cases, his decisions are subject to judicial review on limited grounds, such as mala fides, perversity, or violation of constitutional principles. **So, Statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution in 1985. It lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection by the Presiding Officer of a legislature (Chairman in the case of Rajya Sabha and Speaker in the case of Lok Sabha) 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. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ANTI-DEFECTION LAW	
About	<p>The 52nd Amendment Act, 1985 introduced the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution, laying down provisions for disqualification of MPs and MLAs on the ground of defection. This act is often referred to as the 'anti-defection law'.</p> <p>Grounds of Disqualification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A member is disqualified if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He voluntarily gives up membership of his party. • He votes or abstains from voting against the party whip without prior permission, and the party does not condone it within 15 days. ➤ An independent member is disqualified if he joins any political party after being elected. ➤ A nominated member may join a political party within 6 months of entering the House. Joining any party after 6 months attracts disqualification.
Exceptions	<p>Disqualification does not apply in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ When at least two-thirds of a legislature party agrees to merge with another party.

	➤ If a member is elected Speaker/Chairman and voluntarily gives up party membership during tenure, or rejoins after leaving office.
91st Amendment (2003)	<p>The 91st Amendment Act, 2003, strengthened the anti-defection law by removing the protection available in cases of split.</p> <p>➤ Earlier, a split by one-third of the members of a legislative party was a valid defence against disqualification.</p> <p>➤ The amendment removed this exception, ensuring defectors no longer enjoy protection on the grounds of a split.</p>

67. With reference to the Indian Polity, consider the following information:

Provision	Stated under
1. Rights of detenu	Fundamental rights
2. Defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so	Fundamental duties
3. Uniform Civil Code	Directive Principles of State Policy

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the Supreme Court of India intervened in a case where a person was detained under the anti-smuggling law, but the jail authorities delayed sending his representation (a petition challenging the detention) for nine months.

When a person is kept in custody and their freedom is taken away, but not because they have been convicted of a crime, they are said to be in detention, and such a person is called a detenu. To protect their rights and prevent misuse of power by the police, the Constitution of India provides important safeguards.

- **Article 21** says that no person can be deprived of their life or personal freedom except according to the law. This means any arrest or detention must follow proper legal procedures.
- **Article 22** gives special protection to people who are arrested or detained. It ensures that detenus are informed of the reasons for their arrest, have the right to consult a lawyer, and are treated fairly. These constitutional provisions make sure that detention is lawful and that the personal liberty of a person is protected. **So, Pair 1 is correct.**

The 42nd Amendment of the Constitution (1976) introduced Fundamental Duties of citizens, which are listed under Article 51A in Part IV-A of the Constitution. These duties remind every citizen of their responsibility towards the nation.

They include abiding by the Constitution, respecting its ideals, cherishing the noble values of India's freedom struggle, promoting harmony and brotherhood beyond religious, linguistic, regional, or sectional differences, and defending the country.

Defending the nation and performing national service when required is recognised as a fundamental duty of every citizen under Article 51A. **So, Pair 2 is correct.**

In a historic move, Uttarakhand has become the first state in India to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) comes under Article 44 of the Indian Constitution, which refers to directive principles of state policy.

Article 44 provides that the state shall undertake to offer a unified set of laws to its citizens within the Indian boundaries.

The Constitution of India provides that the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) are not enforceable in legal terms but can always be considered a guiding principle for the government. Thus, although the Constitution provides that a Uniform Civil Code should be implemented, it does not make its implementation mandatory. **So, Pair 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

RIGHTS OF DETENU	
About	<p>The term detenus under Article 22 refers to two main categories of people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Those kept in police custody while waiting to be brought before a magistrate on formal charges, or those awaiting trial but unable to get bail. ➤ Those held under special preventive detention laws.
Rights of Detenus in India	<p>Rights of Pre-trial / Under-trial Detenus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to know the reason for arrest – informed in a language understood. • Right to a lawyer – can consult one of choice; free legal aid if unable to afford. • Right to be produced before a magistrate – within 24 hours of arrest. • Right to medical examination – female detainees examined by female doctors. • Right to bail – informed and allowed for bailable offences. • Right to speedy trial – cases should be disposed of quickly. • Right against self-incrimination – cannot be forced to testify against oneself. <p>Rights of Detenus under Preventive Detentions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review by Advisory Board – detention beyond 3 months must be reviewed by a board of judges. • Right to know grounds of detention – informed with supporting documents in a known language. • Right to make representation – can challenge detention; authorities must consider it promptly.

68. With reference to the Standing Committee on Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, consider the following statements:

1. It has members from both the Houses of Parliament.
2. The Chairperson of the committee is elected by its members.
3. It cannot recommend cut motions on demands for grants by concerned ministries.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

A full-fledged system of Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRCs), covering all ministries/Departments of the Government of India under their jurisdiction, was formally created in 1993.

The Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development was one of the 17 Departmentally related Standing Committees. The Standing Committee system was restructured in July 2004, whereby the number of DRSCs was increased from 17 to 24.

The Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development was bifurcated into two Committees:

- Standing Committee on Urban Development,
- Standing Committee on Rural Development.

The Standing Committee on Rural Development & Panchayati Raj consists of 31 members: 21 members from Lok Sabha, nominated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha, nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha. A Minister is not nominated as a member of the Committee. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Chairman of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Committee from the Lok Sabha. The term of office of the members of the Committee does not exceed one year. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Standing Committee on Rural Development & Panchayati Raj transacts the following functions with respect to the aforesaid Ministries/Departments under its jurisdiction: -

- To consider the Demands for Grants and make Reports on the same to the Houses;
- To examine such Bills as are referred to the Committee by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, as the case may be, and make Reports thereon;
- To consider Annual Reports of the concerned Ministries/Departments and make Reports thereon; and
- To consider national basic long-term policy documents presented to the Houses, if referred to the Committee by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, as the case may be, and make Reports thereon.
- This Committee examines Demands for Grants but cannot suggest cut motions. Cut motions can only be moved in the Lok Sabha by Members of Parliament, not by Committees.
- The Standing Committee on Rural Development & Panchayati Raj cannot recommend cut motions on demands for grants by concerned ministries. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs has been specifically mandated with the task of scrutiny and oversight of the working of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. ➤ The Committee consists of 31 Members: 21 Members from Lok Sabha, nominated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha, nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha. ➤ The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the Members of the Committee from the Lok Sabha. ➤ The term of office of the Members of the Committee does not exceed one year.
Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries and make a Report thereon; ➤ To examine such Bills pertaining to the concerned Ministries as are referred to the Committee by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, as the case may be, and make Reports thereon; ➤ To consider the Annual Reports of Ministries and make reports thereon; and ➤ To consider national basic long-term policy documents presented to the Houses, if referred to the Committee by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, as the case may be, and make Reports thereon.

69. With reference to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. It mandates the inclusion of women and non-Muslims in the Central Waqf Council.

2. Appeals on orders of Tribunals for Waqf disputes lie exclusively with the Supreme Court.
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

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the Rajya Sabha has passed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which aims to update the Waqf Act, 1995, to fix issues in the management of Waqf properties.

Under the Act, the Union Minister in charge of waqf is the ex officio chairperson of the Council. Members of the Council include Members of Parliament, persons of national eminence, retired Supreme Court or High Court judges, and eminent scholars in Muslim law.

The Act requires that all Council members, barring the Minister, must be Muslims, and at least two must be women.

The Bill removes the requirement for the MPs, former judges, and eminent persons appointed to the Council to be Muslim. It further mandates that two members must be non-Muslims. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Originally, under the 1995 Waqf Act, the decisions of the Tribunal were given finality, and no appeals could be made in regular Courts. However, the High Court retained limited powers of review either on its own, or on an application made by the Board or any aggrieved party.

The 2025 Waqf Amendment Bill seeks to change this framework. It removes the provision that gave Tribunal decisions absolute finality. Instead, it provides that orders of the Tribunal can now be appealed before the High Court within a period of 90 days.

This expands judicial oversight and ensures that parties dissatisfied with the Tribunal's decision have a statutory right to appeal, rather than relying solely on discretionary review by the High Court. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

THE WAQF (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2025	
About	The Amendment Bill seeks to improve the administration and management of waqf properties in India. It aims to overcome the shortcomings of the previous act and enhance the efficiency of Waqf boards by introducing changes such as renaming the Act, updating the definitions of waqf, improving the registration process, and increasing the role of technology in managing waqf records.
What is Waqf?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Waqf refers to property dedicated solely for religious or charitable purposes under Islamic law. Such property cannot be sold or used for any other purpose. ➤ When a person creates a Waqf, they are called a waqif, and the ownership of the property is considered transferred to Allah, making it irrevocable. <p>Since Allah is not a physical entity, a mutawalli is appointed either by the waqif or a competent authority to manage and administer the Waqf property.</p>
Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Formation of Waqf: <p>Under the original Waqf Act, a Waqf could be created in three ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration – A person formally dedicates property for religious or charitable purposes. • Waqf by user – Property automatically became a Waqf if it had been used for religious or charitable purposes for a long period. • Waqf-alal-aulad – Endowment created when the line of succession ended. <p>The 2025 Amendment Bill modifies these rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only a Muslim practising Islam for at least five years can declare a Waqf. • The person must own the property they declare as Waqf.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waqf by the user is removed, so long-term use alone cannot create a Waqf. • Waqf-alal-aulad is preserved, but it cannot disinherit heirs, including female heirs, ensuring equitable inheritance. ➤ Survey of Waqf Properties: • Under the Act, a Survey Commissioner was responsible for conducting preliminary surveys of Waqf properties. • The Bill transfers this responsibility to the District Collector, streamlining administration and tying it to the revenue system. ➤ Government Property as Waqf: • The Bill clarifies that any government property incorrectly identified as Waqf will cease to be so. • In case of ownership uncertainty, the District Collector determines ownership and submits a report to the State Government. • If confirmed as government property, the revenue records are updated, preventing misuse or misclassification of public assets. ➤ Composition of Tribunals: <p>Under the Act, Waqf Tribunals included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A judge (Chairman) of the District/Sessions/Civil Court rank, • A state officer of Additional District Magistrate rank, • An expert in Muslim law. <p>The 2025 Bill changes this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribunal will now have a current or former District Court judge as Chairman, • A current or former officer at the Joint Secretary level in the state government, ➤ The Muslim law expert is removed, centralising legal and administrative control in government-appointed officials.
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70. Consider the following statements:

1. India has conducted simultaneous elections only three times since its independence.
2. The Joint Parliamentary Committee on One Nation One Election has a majority of its members from the Lok 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

EXPLANATION:

Simultaneous elections, popularly referred to as “One Nation, One Election”, mean holding elections to the Lok Sabha, all state Legislative Assemblies, and urban and rural local bodies (municipalities and panchayats) at the same time.

- From 1951 to 1967, Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections were held simultaneously: in 1951-52, 1957, 1962, and 1967.
- This cycle was broken in 1968-69 due to the premature dissolution of some State Assemblies.
- The Fourth Lok Sabha was dissolved early in 1970, leading to fresh elections in 1971.
- The Fifth Lok Sabha completed an extended term until 1977 due to the Emergency.

Therefore, India has conducted simultaneous elections four times (1951, 1957, 1962 and 1967) since its Independence. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The Joint Parliamentary Committee on 'One Nation, One Election', chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind, was established in September 2023 to examine and make recommendations for holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state Assemblies, and local bodies.

A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) is formed by Parliament for a specific purpose, such as detailed scrutiny of a subject or a Bill, and includes members from both Houses and from both ruling and opposition parties.

The 39-member Committee had a majority of its members from the Lok Sabha, with 27 members from the Lok Sabha and 12 from the Rajya Sabha. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ONE NATION ONE ELECTION	
Recently in the News	The Union Cabinet had recently approved the 'One Nation, One Election' proposal, which aims to conduct simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, followed by urban body and panchayat polls within 100 days.
About	<p>The proposal is based on the recommendations of a high-level committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind, which submitted a detailed report on the subject. The report from the Kovind-led Committee highlighted the drawbacks of frequent elections,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Stating that they often create an atmosphere of uncertainty, which impacts policy decisions. The Committee's findings suggest that simultaneous elections would enhance policy stability, reduce voter fatigue, and improve voter turnout. ➤ The comprehensive report, spanning 18,626 pages, is the result of extensive consultations with various stakeholders, experts, and research conducted over 191 days, following the Committee's establishment in September 2023. ➤ The Committee has recommended a two-step approach, suggesting that elections for Lok Sabha and state assemblies be conducted initially, followed by elections to municipalities and panchayats within 100 days thereafter. ➤ The Committee has recommended that if a state assembly is dissolved due to a no-confidence motion or in the case of a hung House, fresh elections may be held for the remaining term, aligning with that of the Lok Sabha. ➤ The panel has also recommended the preparation of a single electoral roll and electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) by the Election Commission of India, in consultation with the State Election Commissions.

71. With reference to the Delimitation Commission, consider the following statements:

1. The President constitutes a Delimitation Commission every 10 years.
2. The Commission falls under the purview of the Ministry of Law and Justice in India.
3. Orders of the Delimitation Commission cannot be questioned in courts of law.
4. Only Parliament has the authority to modify orders of the Commission.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Delimitation literally means the Act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body. The job of delimitation is assigned to a high-power body. Such a body is known as the Delimitation Commission or the Boundary Commission.

- The Delimitation Commission of India is a statutory (and not a constitutional) body. It is established by the Central Government under the provisions of a law enacted by the Parliament. It is not constituted every 10 years. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- In India, such Delimitation Commissions have been constituted 4 times – in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, in 1963 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1962, in 1973 under the Delimitation Act, 1972 and in 2002 under the Delimitation Act, 2002. Delimited now shall remain frozen till the first census to be taken after the year 2026.
- The Commission falls under the purview of the Ministry of Law and Justice in India. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The Commission is a powerful body; its orders have the force of law and cannot be challenged in any court. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**
- The orders come into force on a date specified by the President of India. They are laid before the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assembly concerned. But modifications are not permissible therein by them. Parliament has no authority to modify orders of the Commission. **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

DELIMITATION COMMISSION OF INDIA	
About	<p>Articles 81, 82, 170, 330 and 332 of the Constitution of India deal with the delimitation of the Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies.</p> <p>These Articles were amended by the 84th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2001 and the 87th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2003. The cumulative effect of these two amendments to the Constitution is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The total number of existing seats as allocated to various states in the Lok Sabha on the basis of 1971 census shall remain unaltered till the first census to be taken after the year 2026. ➤ The total number of existing seats in the Legislative Assemblies of all states as fixed on the basis of 1971 census shall also remain unaltered till the first census to be taken after the year 2026 ➤ The number of seats to be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies shall be re-worked out on the basis of 2001 census ➤ Each State shall be re-delimited into territorial parliamentary and assembly constituencies on the basis of 2001 census and the extent of such constituencies as delimited now shall remain frozen till the first census to be taken after the year 2026 ➤ The constituencies shall be so re-delimited that population (on the basis of 2001 census) of each parliamentary and assembly constituency in a state shall, so far as practicable, be the same throughout the State

72. Which of the following Acts mandated obtaining the Governor-General's prior approval before introducing certain types of Bills in the Legislative Council?

- (a) Charter Act of 1853
- (b) Indian Councils Act of 1861**
- (c) Indian Councils Act of 1892
- (d) Government of India Act 1919

EXPLANATION:

The Indian Councils Act of 1861 was a significant step in India's constitutional and political development. It introduced limited reforms by including non-official members, both Europeans and Indians, in the Governor-General's Legislative Council. However, real power continued to remain with the Governor-General and the executive.

Main Features of the Act are as follows:

- Allowed the inclusion of non-official members (Europeans and Indians) in the Governor-General's Legislative Council.
- Strengthened the legislative powers of the Governor-General, who presided over the Council.
- His prior approval was necessary for introducing bills on matters such as public finance, religion, discipline, the military and navy, and foreign relations.
- Any Act passed by the legislature required his consent, and his Ordinances carried the same authority as an Act.
- The legislature was to function more like a 'Committee' or 'Commission,' with publicity limited only to official reports.
- According to Sir Charles Wood, Secretary of State for India, the purpose of the Act was to prevent the legislature from interfering with executive functions.
- In his despatch, he avoided using the term 'legislative council,' and there was no mention of sessions in the rules of business. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

OTHER IMPORTANT ACTS	
Charter Act of 1853	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For the first time, it separated the law-making (legislative) work from the executive (administrative) work of the Governor-General's Council. ➤ To do this, six new members called legislative councillors were added, creating a separate Legislative Council. ➤ This council functioned like a mini-Parliament, following similar procedures as the British Parliament. ➤ It introduced the system of open competition for recruitment to the civil services. ➤ This allowed Indians to compete for government jobs which were earlier reserved only for the British. ➤ To implement this, the Macaulay Committee on Indian Civil Services was set up in 1854. ➤ The Act extended the rule of the East India Company, but unlike earlier Charters, it did not fix any time limit. ➤ This meant that the Company's rule could now be ended whenever the British Parliament decided. ➤ It introduced, for the first time, local representation in the Legislative Council. ➤ Out of the six legislative members, four were to be nominated by the provincial governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, and Agra.
Indian Councils Act of 1892	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It increased the number of non-official members in the Central and provincial legislative councils. But the majority of members were still government officials. ➤ It gave councils limited powers such as the right to discuss the budget and to ask questions to the government. However, they could not vote on the budget or demand detailed answers. ➤ It allowed non-official members to be nominated from different representative bodies. ➤ At the central level, the Viceroy nominated some members on the recommendation of the provincial councils and the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. ➤ At the provincial level, Governors nominated members recommended by district boards, municipalities, universities, trade associations, zamindars, and chambers of commerce. ➤ For the first time, it indirectly introduced election. Although the word "election" was not used, the nomination of members based on recommendations by local bodies worked like an early form of elections.
Government of India Act of 1919	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Government of India Act, 1919, was passed by the British Parliament to address growing demands for self-rule in India. ➤ It was based on the Montagu-Chelmsford Report, prepared by Edwin Montagu (Secretary of State for India) and Lord Chelmsford (Viceroy of India). ➤ It aimed to bring constitutional reforms and gradually transfer some power to Indians. ➤ It extended the principle of communal representation by providing separate electorates for Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans.

	➤ The Act came in response to rising nationalism and the political changes after World War I, and it introduced a more representative form of government, though the British still kept ultimate control.
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73. With reference to the ECINET Application, consider the following statements:

1. It helps to file election disputes.
2. It provides access to election data from authorised sources.
3. It will integrate multiple applications of the Election Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the Election Commission of India has operationalised the new digital platform ECINET in the recently concluded bye-elections in the five Assembly Constituencies in the states of Kerala, Gujarat, Punjab and West Bengal.

The ECINET single-point app is a new one-stop platform that will integrate and reorient over 40 of the Election Commission's existing mobile and web applications.

Legal Framework for Election disputes in India is primarily governed by the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RPA). Election Petitions are filed in the High Court of the respective State where the election was conducted. The High Court has the jurisdiction to hear and adjudicate election disputes for both parliamentary and State legislative assembly elections.

Hence, election disputes are not filed through the ECINET application; they are filed in the High Court of the respective State. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

ECINET will also enable users to access relevant electoral data on their desktops or smartphones. To ensure that data is as accurate as possible, the data on ECINET will be entered solely by the authorised ECI official. Entry by the concerned official would ensure that the data made available to the stakeholders is as accurate as possible. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ECINET will have an aesthetic User Interface (UI) and a simplified User Experience (UX) by providing a singular platform for all electoral-related activities. This move is also designed to alleviate the burden of the users for downloading and navigating multiple Apps and remembering different logins.

ECINET will subsume existing Apps like the Voter Helpline App, Voter Turnout App, eVIGIL, Suvidha 2.0, ESMS, Saksham and KYC App, which together have clocked over 5.5 crore downloads (complete list of Apps enclosed). ECINET is expected to benefit nearly 100 crore electors and the entire electoral machinery across the country.

Thus, ECINET will integrate multiple applications of the Election Commission into one platform. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

74. With reference to the office of the Vice-President of India, consider the following statements:

1. She/He can resign from the office by submitting a resignation letter to the Prime Minister of India.
2. The resolution for her/his removal can only be introduced in the Rajya Sabha and not the Lok Sabha.
3. She/He can be removed from office through a resolution passed by both houses of the Parliament with a special majority.
4. If the office falls vacant due to resignation, the newly elected Vice President remains in the office for a five-year term.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 63 of the Constitution states that "there shall be a Vice-President of India". Under Article 64, the Vice-President "shall be ex officio Chairman of the Council of the States" (Rajya Sabha).

The Term of office of the Vice-President, given under Article 67, the Vice-President shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office. However, he can resign from his office at any time by addressing the resignation letter to the President (not the Prime Minister). **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The Vice-President of India can be removed from office before the completion of his term. Unlike the President, a formal impeachment is not required for his removal. He can be removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the Rajya Sabha (i.e., an effective majority) and agreed to by the Lok Sabha by a simple majority.

It must be noted that an effective majority is a type of special majority (i.e., majority of the total membership of the House minus vacancies), and not a separate category. Hence, any statement calling it a separate majority is incorrect.

Further, such a resolution can only be introduced in the Rajya Sabha and not in the Lok Sabha. At least 14 days' advance notice must be given before moving the resolution. Importantly, the Constitution does not specify any ground for the removal of the Vice-President. **So, Statement 2 is correct and Statement 3 is not correct.**

The Vice-President can hold office beyond his term of five years until his successor assumes charge. He is also eligible for re-election to that office. He may be elected for any number of terms. If the office falls vacant by resignation, removal, death or otherwise, then an election to fill the vacancy should be held as soon as possible after the occurrence of the vacancy. The newly elected vice-president remains in office for a full term of five years from the date he assumes charge of his office. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ARTICLES RELATED TO VICE-PRESIDENT AT A GLANCE

About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Article 63. The Vice-President of India ➤ Article 64. The Vice-President to be ex officio Chairman of the Council of States ➤ Article 65. The Vice-President to act as President or to discharge his functions during casual vacancies in the office, or during the absence of the President ➤ Article 66. Election of Vice-President ➤ Article 67. Term of office of Vice-President ➤ Article 68. Time of holding the election to fill the vacancy in the office of Vice-President and the term of office of the person elected to fill the casual vacancy ➤ Article 69. Oath or affirmation by the Vice-President ➤ Article 70. Discharge of the President's functions in other contingencies
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75. Consider the following statements:

1. A private member in the Parliament can introduce a Constitutional Amendment Bill, while a money bill can only be introduced by a minister.
2. Private members' bills have never been passed in the Indian 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

EXPLANATION:

According to Article 368, an amendment of the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament. The bill can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member and does not require prior permission from the President.

Article 110 of the Constitution deals with the money bills. The Constitution lays down a special procedure for the passing of money bills in the Parliament. A money bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha, and that too on the recommendation of the President. Every such bill is considered to be a government bill and can be introduced only by a minister.

So, Statement 1 is correct.

Private Member's Bills (PMBs) are a mechanism through which Members of Parliament (MPs), who are not Ministers, can propose their own legislation. In India's parliamentary system, most laws are introduced by the government, drafted by Ministries and tabled by Ministers. In contrast, Private Member's Bills come from individual MPs, either from the ruling party or the opposition.

- Since Independence, only 14 Private Members' Bills have been passed and received presidential assent.
- Since 1970, no Private Member's Bills have cleared both Houses.

So, Statement 2 is not correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**PRIVATE MEMBER BILL**

About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The legislative procedure is identical in both Houses of Parliament. Every bill has to pass through the same stages in each House. A bill is a proposal for legislation, and it becomes an act or law when duly enacted. ➤ The bills introduced in the Parliament are of two kinds: public bills and private bills (also known as government bills and private members' bills, respectively). 														
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="344 1160 865 1205">Public Bill</th><th data-bbox="874 1160 1394 1205">Private Bill</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1205 865 1272">1. It is introduced in the Parliament by a minister.</td><td data-bbox="874 1205 1394 1272">It is introduced by any member of Parliament other than a minister.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1272 865 1339">2. It reflects the policies of the government.</td><td data-bbox="874 1272 1394 1339">It does not reflect the stance of the government on public matters</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1339 865 1406">3. It has a greater chance of being approved by the Parliament</td><td data-bbox="874 1339 1394 1406">It has a lower chance of being approved by the Parliament.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1406 865 1608">4. Its rejection by the house amounts to the expression of want of parliamentary confidence in the government and may lead to its resignation.</td><td data-bbox="874 1406 1394 1608">Its rejection by the House has no Implication on the parliamentary confidence in the government or its resignation.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1608 865 1675">5. Its introduction in the House requires seven days' notice</td><td data-bbox="874 1608 1394 1675">Its introduction in the House requires one month's notice.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1675 865 1787">6. It is drafted by the concerned department in consultation with the law department.</td><td data-bbox="874 1675 1394 1787">Its drafting is the responsibility of the member concerned.</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Public Bill	Private Bill	1. It is introduced in the Parliament by a minister.	It is introduced by any member of Parliament other than a minister.	2. It reflects the policies of the government.	It does not reflect the stance of the government on public matters	3. It has a greater chance of being approved by the Parliament	It has a lower chance of being approved by the Parliament.	4. Its rejection by the house amounts to the expression of want of parliamentary confidence in the government and may lead to its resignation.	Its rejection by the House has no Implication on the parliamentary confidence in the government or its resignation.	5. Its introduction in the House requires seven days' notice	Its introduction in the House requires one month's notice.	6. It is drafted by the concerned department in consultation with the law department.	Its drafting is the responsibility of the member concerned.
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Recent Private Member Bills	<p>In the 17th Lok Sabha (2019-24), 729 PMBs were introduced in the Lok Sabha and 705 in the Rajya Sabha. However, only two in the Lok Sabha and 14 in the Rajya Sabha were ever discussed.</p> <p>In the 18th Lok Sabha, only 20 MPs have introduced PMBs so far. During the inaugural and Budget Sessions of 2024, 64 PMBs were introduced in the Lok Sabha, but not even one was discussed.</p>														

76. Which of the following given below fall under the definition of State under Article 12 and are explicitly mentioned in the Constitution?

1. Government of India
2. Parliament of India
3. Local authorities
4. Statutory authorities
5. Private body working an instrument of State

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

(b) 1, 2 and 3 only

(c) 3, 4 and 5 only

(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

EXPLANATION:

The term 'State' is used in various provisions concerning Fundamental Rights, so Article 12 defines it specifically for the purposes of Part III of the Constitution. According to Article 12, the State includes:

- Government and Parliament of India, that is, the executive and legislative organs of the Union government.
- Government and legislature of states, that is, executive and legislative organs of state government.
- All local authorities, that is, municipalities, panchayats, district boards, improvement trusts, etc.

So, Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

- All other authorities, that is, statutory or non-statutory authorities like LIC, ONGC, SAIL, etc. But, it should be noted that the concept of statutory authorities is not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution; their inclusion under "State" is judicially inferred based on their control by the government and the public nature of their functions.

Key Judicial Interpretations:

- Sukhdev Singh v. Union of India (1976): The Supreme Court held that statutory authorities performing public functions fall under the definition of "State" for enforcing Fundamental Rights.
- Ajay Hasia v. Khalid Mujib (1981): The Court expanded the scope, stating that any institution substantially financed, controlled, or established by the government and performing public functions can be treated as a "State."
- Rathinam v. Union of India (1994): Reinforced that statutory bodies exercising governmental functions are covered under Article 12. **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**

According to the Supreme Court of India, even a private body or an agency functioning as an instrument of the State can be treated as a 'State' under Article 12, which is not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution. **So, Statement 5 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CONCEPT OF STATE	
About	<p>Under the Constitution of India, the purpose of the state is to establish a welfare society. The framers of the Constitution were inspired by the idea of a welfare state. The concept of the welfare state was developed in Germany, and it envisages the creation of a state which ensures basic economic security to all its citizens. The Indian Constitution, inspired by the idea of a welfare state, imposes both negative and positive duties on the State.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On one hand, the State must not infringe upon citizens' Fundamental Rights (Part III). ➤ On the other hand, it is obliged to implement the Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV) to ensure socio-economic justice. <p>Most of the Constitutions around the world guarantee fundamental rights only against the state; that is, the citizens can approach the courts if their rights are infringed by the state, but they may not be able to seek a remedy in court if their fundamental rights are violated by private individuals.</p>

Violation of rights	<p>While defining the term State, it is important to recognise that fundamental rights can be violated in two ways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Direct violation occurs when the government itself, through laws or executive powers, infringes rights. ➤ Indirect violation happens when agencies, institutions, or officials functioning under the State curtail citizens' rights. <p>Hence, the term State must be understood in a broad and inclusive manner to ensure protection of citizens against any arbitrary action by the government or its bodies.</p>
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77. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Central Information Commission (CIC) can call for any public record from any court or office in India.

Statement II: The CIC is vested with powers similar to those of a civil court when trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

Statement III: The CIC is constituted under the Right to Information Act, 2005

Which of the following statements is correct in relation to the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct, and both of them explain Statement I.
- (b) **Both Statement II and Statement III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement I.**
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct, and that explains Statement I.
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct.

EXPLANATION:

The Central Information Commission, as the case may be, shall, while inquiring into any matter under Section 18(3) of the RTI Act 2005, have the same powers as are vested in a civil court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in respect of the following matters:

- Summoning and enforcing the attendance of persons and compelling them to give oral or written evidence on oath and to produce the documents or things;
- Requiring the discovery and inspection of documents;
- Receiving evidence on affidavit;
- Requisitioning any public record or copies thereof from any court or office; **So, Statement I is correct.**
- Issuing summons for examination of witnesses or documents; and
- Any other matter, which may be prescribed. **So, Statement II is correct.**

The Central Information Commission is a high-powered independent body which, inter alia, looks into the complaints made to it and decides the appeals. It entertains complaints and appeals pertaining to offices, financial institutions, public sector undertakings, etc., under the Central Government and the Union Territories.

The Central Information Commission was established by the Central Government in 2005. It was constituted under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005).

Therefore, the Central Information Commission (CIC) can call for any public record from any court or office in India, as it is vested with powers similar to those of a civil court when trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

Therefore, the Central Information Commission (CIC), constituted under the RTI Act, 2005, has powers similar to a civil court, including summoning witnesses, requiring document production, and requisitioning public records from any court or office. This civil court-like authority directly explains its power to call for public records. While the CIC's statutory basis is correct, it does not itself explain this power. **So, both Statement II and Statement III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement I.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION	
Composition	<p>The Central Information Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and such number of Central Information Commissioners not exceeding 10 as may be deemed necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The President appoints them on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister. ➤ They should be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance. ➤ They should not be a Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature of any State or Union Territory. ➤ They should not hold any other office of profit or be connected with any political party or carry on any business or pursue any profession.
Powers and Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is the duty of the Commission to receive and inquire into a complaint from any person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who has not been able to submit an information request because of the non-appointment of a Public Information Officer; • who has been refused information that was requested; • who has not received response to his/her information request within the specified time limits; • who thinks the fees charged are unreasonable; • who thinks information given is incomplete, misleading or false; and • Any other matter relating to obtaining information. ➤ The Commission can order an inquiry into any matter if there are reasonable grounds (suo-mote power). ➤ During the investigation of a complaint, the Commission may examine any record under the control of a public authority, and no such record may be withheld from it on any grounds. In other words, all public records must be given to the Commission during the inquiry for examination. ➤ The Commission has the power to secure compliance with its decisions from the public authority. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing access to information in a particular form; • directing the public authority to appoint a Public Information Officer where none exists; • publishing information or categories of information; • making necessary changes to the practices relating to management, maintenance and destruction of records; • enhancing training provision for officials on the right to information; • seeking an annual report from the public authority on compliance with this Act; • requiring the public authority to compensate for any loss or other detriment suffered by the applicant; • imposing penalties under this Act; • rejecting the application.

78. Consider the following articles:

1. Article 14
2. Article 15
3. Article 21

Which of the above Articles is/are connected to the concept of inclusive digital access as a fundamental right?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Supreme Court in *Amar Jain v Union of India* acknowledged the Inclusive and meaningful digital access to e-governance and welfare delivery systems as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty.

The Supreme Court held that the State's obligation under Articles 21 [right to a dignified life], 14 [equality], 15 [right against discrimination], 38 [Directive Principles of State Policy] of the Constitution must encompass the responsibility to ensure that digital infrastructure, government portals, online learning platforms and financial technology are universally accessible and responsive to all vulnerable and marginalised sections. Invoking the 'principle of substantive equality', the Supreme Court held that digital transformation must be both inclusive and equitable.

Therefore, the Supreme Court ruled that Articles 14, 15, and 21 are connected to support the right to inclusive digital access as a part of a fundamental right. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

79. Consider the following Statements regarding 'Constitutional Morality':

1. It signifies a harmonious relationship between the government and the governed.
2. Fundamental Rights restrict the application of Constitutional Morality.

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

EXPLANATION:

Constitutional morality refers to adherence to the core principles of the Constitution, which include justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, secularism, and the rule of law. It is a guiding principle that ensures the actions of the government and individuals align with the values and spirit of the Constitution, rather than simply its written words.

- According to Dr Ambedkar, the concept of constitutional morality implied the harmonious interaction between the governing and governed, including the peaceful settlement of dissent faced from the latter and conflict of interests arising between them without indulging in any major confrontations or resorting to violent revolutions. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The term 'morality' is not excessively stated in the Constitution. Constitutional morality can originate from within the Constitution itself. Articles 12 to 35 (Fundamental Rights), Articles 36 to 51 (Directive Principles of State Policy), Preamble and the Fundamental Duties tend to have the pervasive essence emphasising constitutional morality.
- Constitutional morality is more abstract than statutory laws, which are fixed and can be directly enforced. It demands respect for the Constitution's values even when they conflict with certain social norms, beliefs, or practices. It aims to uphold the integrity of democracy and ensure the protection of individual rights. Thus, Fundamental Rights are essential to the Constitution's morality, not a restriction. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CONSTITUTIONAL MORALITY	
About	<p>Constitutional morality is essential for several reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Safeguarding Democracy: It strengthens the democratic fabric of the nation by ensuring that governance is rooted in justice, equality, and respect for individual rights. ➤ Promoting Social Justice: It protects minority rights and opposes discriminatory practices, even when they have social or religious acceptance. ➤ Preventing Majoritarianism: Constitutional morality curbs the dangers of majority dominance in society, ensuring that laws and policies are designed to protect everyone, not just those in power or the majority. ➤ Guiding Judicial Interpretation: It aids the Judiciary in interpreting the Constitution in a way that upholds its core principles and values, especially in cases where statutory laws fall short of delivering justice.
Judgments	<p>The concept of constitutional morality has evolved through several landmark judgments, which have served to clarify and reinforce its significance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kesavananda Bharati Case: This case established the basic structure doctrine, holding that Parliament cannot alter the "basic structure" of the Constitution. Here, constitutional morality was implicitly invoked to preserve the Constitution and its fundamental ideals against possible erosion by the State. ➤ Right to Privacy: In Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India, the Supreme Court ruled that the right to privacy is a fundamental right under Article 21. This case underscored constitutional morality by asserting that individual privacy and autonomy are protected from excessive state intrusion. These cases demonstrate how constitutional morality can challenge long-standing social norms, religious practices, and even government policies to safeguard individual rights and uphold constitutional integrity.

80. Consider the following statements regarding the Abolition of titles under Article 18 of the Indian Constitution:

1. The state cannot confer any title on both citizens and foreigners.
2. Hereditary titles are exempted under Article 18.
3. National awards such as Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, and Padma Bhushan do not come under the purview of Article 18.
4. Recipients of national awards should not use them as prefixes or suffixes to their name; otherwise, the government may forfeit the award.

How many of the statements given above is /are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 18 of the Indian Constitution abolishes titles and makes four provisions in that regard:

- It prohibits the State from conferring any title (except a military or academic distinction which is not considered a title) on anybody, whether a citizen or a foreigner. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It prohibits a citizen of India from accepting any title from any foreign state.
- A foreigner holding any office of profit or trust under the State is prohibited from accepting any title from any foreign state without the prior consent of the President.

- No citizen or foreigner holding any office of profit or trust under the State is to accept any present, emolument or office from or under any foreign State without the consent of the President.

Hereditary titles are not exempted under Article 18. By prohibiting the conferment of titles, the Constitution seeks to avoid the creation of a privileged class or caste of citizens who enjoy special rights due to hereditary titles.

- Titles such as Maharaja, Raj Bahadur, Rai Bahadur, Rai Saheb, Dewan Bahadur, Sir, Nawab, Raja, etc, have historically been used to distinguish the ruling elite from the general population. Such distinctions were often associated with wealth, power, and privilege, which are inherently unequal.
- In a democratic republic like India, equality before the law is a foundational value. Article 18 ensures that no individual, regardless of their social or economic standing, can hold a title that elevates them above others based on hereditary privilege. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Article 18 of the Indian Constitution plays a critical role in ensuring equality and fairness in the social, political, and professional spheres. The article eliminates the possibility of individuals gaining special privileges based on birth, social class, or foreign influence.

While exceptions are made for military honours, academic degrees, and national awards, these distinctions are merit-based and do not confer social rank or nobility. The Judiciary has consistently upheld the spirit of Article 18, clarifying that professional designations and awards for excellence do not violate its provisions.

Thus, National awards such as Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, and Padma Bhushan do not come under the purview of Article 18. However, it also ruled that they should not be used as suffixes or prefixes to the names of awardees. Otherwise, they should forfeit the awards. **So, Statements 3 and 4 are correct.**

81. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has banned public access to several OTT platforms for streaming obscene content.

Statement II: Article 39 (f) directs the State to prevent exploitation and ensure the healthy development of children and youth.

Statement III: The Indian Constitution permits reasonable restrictions on free speech under Article 19(2).

- (a) **Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct, and both of them explain Statement-I**
- (b) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement-I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct, and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement-II nor Statement-III is correct

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has directed that public access to 25 OTT platforms be disabled for streaming obscene and, at times, pornographic content.

The action was reportedly taken in consultation with the ministries of home affairs and electronics and information technology, the department of legal affairs, industry bodies, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), as well as experts working in the domain of women and child rights. **So, Statement I is correct.**

- In Article 39 (f) of the Constitution, which was substituted through the Constitution (Forty-Second Amendment) Act, 1976, it states that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity, and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment. **So, Statement II is correct.**
- Article 19(2) specifies the grounds for reasonable restrictions related to freedom of speech and expression. These include Sovereignty and integrity of India, Security of the State, Friendly relations

with foreign states, public order, Decency or morality, Contempt of Court, Defamation and Incitement to an offence. **So, Statement III is correct.**

Thus, streaming obscene content on the OTT platforms is restricted under the Decency or morality of Article 19 (2) and banning such OTT platforms is necessary to give children and youth opportunities and facilities to develop healthily, in order to prevent access to harmful content, as provided under Article 39 of the Indian Constitution.

So, both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct, and both of them explain Statement-I.

82. With reference to the Deputy Speaker, consider the following statements:

1. He/she can preside over the Joint Sitting of Parliament if the Speaker is absent.
2. The Office of the Deputy Speaker is not considered subordinate to that of the Speaker.
3. He/she cannot be a member of Parliamentary committees.
4. He/she is always a member of the main Opposition party.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are the Presiding Officers of the Lok Sabha. Like the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker is also elected by the Lok Sabha itself from amongst its members. He is elected after the Speaker has been elected.

- According to Article 95 of the Constitution, the Deputy Speaker performs the duties of the Speaker's office when it is vacant. He also acts as the Speaker when the latter is absent from the sitting of the House. In both cases, he assumes all the powers of the Speaker.
- He also presides over the joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament, in case the Speaker is absent from such a sitting. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The Deputy Speaker is not subordinate to the Speaker. He is directly responsible to the House. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The Deputy Speaker has one special privilege, that is, whenever he is appointed as a member of a parliamentary committee, he automatically becomes its chairman. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

Until the 10th Lok Sabha, both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker were typically from the ruling party.

Since the 11th Lok Sabha, there has been a consensus that the Speaker comes from the ruling party (or ruling alliance) and the post of Deputy Speaker goes to the main opposition party. While it's merely a consensus among the political parties, rather than a constitutional or statutory clause, it does not always need to come from the opposition party. **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PRESIDING OFFICERS	
Deputy Speaker Of the Lok Sabha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Deputy Speaker remains in office usually during the life of the Lok Sabha. However, he may vacate his office earlier in any of the following three cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If he ceases to be a member of the Lok Sabha; • If he resigns by writing to the Speaker, and • Suppose he is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the Lok Sabha. Such a resolution can be moved only after giving 14 days' advance notice. ➤ Like the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, while presiding over the House, cannot vote in the first instance; he can only exercise a casting vote in the case of a tie.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Further, when a resolution for the removal of the Deputy Speaker is under consideration of the House, he cannot preside at the sitting of the House, though he may be present. ➤ When the Speaker presides over the House, the Deputy Speaker is like any other ordinary member of the House. He can speak in the House, participate in its proceedings and vote on any question before the House. ➤ The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, while assuming their offices, do not make and subscribe to any separate oath or affirmation.
Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Deputy Chairman is a constitutional position created under Article 89 of the Constitution, which specifies that the Rajya Sabha shall choose one of its MPs to be the Deputy Chairman as often as the position becomes vacant. ➤ The office becomes vacant either by resignation, removal from office, or when the Rajya Sabha member's term expires. ➤ The Deputy Chairman is the one position that is elected solely by members of the Rajya Sabha. ➤ It is a critical position not just because s/he steps in when there is a vacancy in the office of Chairperson/Vice President, but also because s/he plays a critical role in ensuring the smooth running of the House.

83. Separation of powers between the executive and the judiciary is:

- (a) A Liberal-Intellectual Directive Principle of State Policy
- (b) An element of the basic structure of the Constitution
- (c) A basis for the American Presidential system
- (d) All the above**


EXPLANATION:

The sharing of powers between the three organs of government – the legislature, the executive and the Judiciary is called separation of powers.

- Article 50 of the Constitution states that the State shall take steps to separate the Judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State, and this is listed among the Liberal-Intellectual Directive Principles of State Policy in Part IV. **So, Option (a) is correct.**
- The Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) established the Basic Structure Doctrine of the Constitution. The doctrine of separation of powers implies that each pillar of democracy – the executive, legislature and the Judiciary – performs separate functions and acts as separate entities. This doctrine is a part of the basic structure of the Indian Constitution, even though it is not specifically mentioned in its text. **So, Option (b) is correct.**
- Unlike the Indian Constitution, the American Constitution provides for the presidential form of government. The doctrine of separation of powers is the basis of the American presidential system. The legislative, executive and judicial powers of the government are separated and vested in the three independent organs of the government. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SEPARATION OF POWERS	
About	<p>According to the Constitution, there are three organs of government. These are the legislature, the executive and the Judiciary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The legislature refers to our elected representatives. ➤ The executive is a smaller group of people who are responsible for implementing laws and running the government. ➤ In order to prevent the misuse of power by any one branch of government, the Constitution says that each of these organs should exercise different powers.

	Through this, each organ acts as a check on the other organs of government, and this ensures the balance of power between all three.
Division of Powers	<p>➤ There are two sets of governments created by the Indian Constitution: one for the entire nation, called the Union Government (central government), and one for each unit or State, called the State Government. Both of these have a constitutional status and a clearly identified area of activity.</p> <p>➤ If there is any dispute about which powers come under the control of the Union and which under the States, this can be resolved by the Judiciary on the basis of the constitutional provisions.</p> <p>➤ The Constitution clearly demarcates subjects, which are under the exclusive domain of the Union and those under the States. It shows how powers are distributed between the centre and the States.</p> <p>➤ One of the important aspects of this division of powers is that economic and financial powers are centralised in the hands of the central government by the Constitution. The States have immense responsibilities but very meagre revenue sources.</p>  <pre> graph TD A[Constitution of India] --> B[Union List Includes subjects like: - Defense - Atomic Energy - Foreign Affairs - War and Peace - Banking - Railways - Post and Telegraph - Airways - Ports - Foreign Trade - Currency & Coinage Union Legislature alone can make laws on these matters.] A --> C[State List Includes subjects like: - Agriculture - Police - Prison - Local Government - Public Health - Land - Liquor - Trade and Commerce - Livestock and Animal Husbandry - State Public Services Normally only the State Legislature can make laws on these matters.] A --> D[Concurrent List Includes subjects like: - Education - Transfer of Property other than Agricultural land - Forests - Trade Unions - Adulteration - Adoption and Succession Both Union and State Legislature alone can make laws on these matters.] B --> E[Residuary Powers Include all other matters not mentioned in any of the Lists. - Cyber Laws Union Legislature alone has the power to legislate on such matters.] C --> E D --> E </pre>

84. Consider the following statements:

1. The Concept of "Scheduled Castes" originated in statutory form in the Government of India Act, 1935.
 2. The President of India, under Article 366, notifies the Scheduled Castes for each state and union territory.
 3. Once notified, the list of Scheduled Castes can be altered only by Parliament through a law.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The term 'scheduled caste' was coined by the Simon Commission (1927). The term appeared in statutory form for the first time in the Government of India Act 1935. The expressions 'Depressed Classes', 'Exterior Castes' and 'Untouchables' were commonly used for the scheduled-castes during the colonial period. Gandhiji called them 'Harijans' (the people of God). But since the passage of the Government of India Act of 1935, they have been generally referred to as 'Scheduled Castes'. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Article 341 in the Constitution of India states:

- Clause 1: The President may with respect to any State or Union territory, and where it is a State after consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the castes, races or tribes or parts of or group within castes, races or tribes which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to that State or Union territory, as the case may be. Therefore, the President of India, under Article 341 (Not Article 366), notifies the Scheduled Castes for each state and union territory. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- Clause 2: Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Castes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any caste, race or tribe or part of or group within any caste, race or tribe. However, any inclusion or exclusion of a caste or tribe from a Presidential notification can be made only by Parliament, and not by a subsequent Presidential notification. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES (OBCS) AND ANGLO-INDIANS	
OBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Constitution has not specified the classes of citizens who are to be called the socially and educationally backward classes, also known as Other Backward Classes (OBCs). ➤ The 102nd Amendment Act of 2018 empowered the President to specify the socially and educationally backward classes in relation to a state or union territory. ➤ In the case of a state, the President issues the notification after consultation with the Governor of the state concerned. ➤ But, any inclusion in or exclusion from the Central List of socially and educationally backward classes specified in a Presidential notification can be done only by the Parliament and not by a subsequent Presidential notification.
Anglo-Indian community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Unlike in the case of SCs, STs and OBCs, the Constitution has defined the persons who belong to the Anglo-Indian community. ➤ Accordingly, 'an Anglo-Indian means a person whose father or any of whose other male progenitors in the male line is or was of European descent but who is domiciled within the territory of India and is or was born within such territory of parents habitually resident therein and not established there for temporary purposes only'.

85. Consider the following statements regarding Overseas Citizens of India (OCI):

1. An OCI is a foreign national of Indian origin who gets special status to live, work, and travel in India.
2. An OCI must register with the Foreign Regional Registration Office (FRRO) if staying in India for more than 10 years.
3. Special permission from the FRRO is needed for research, missionary, or journalistic activities.
4. In India, an OCI can pursue careers like doctors, nurses, dentists, advocates, architects or chartered accountants.

How many of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

A person of Indian origin who is a foreign national and gets registered as an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholder under Section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, is an OCI.

- A registered Overseas Citizen of India is granted an entry, multi-purpose, life-long visa for visiting India;
- He/she is exempted from registration with the Foreign Regional Registration Officer or Foreign Registration Officer for any length of stay in India.

Therefore, the OCI Cardholder is entitled to a lifelong visa for visiting India and is not required to report to the Foreign Overseas Citizens of India Regional Registration Office (FRRO) or local police authorities, irrespective of the length of stay in India. **So, Statement 1 is correct, and Statement 2 is not correct.**

The Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder shall be required to obtain a special permission or a Special Permit, as the case may be, from the competent authority or the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer or the Indian Mission concerned, namely: -

- To undertake research;
- To undertake any Missionary or Tabligh or Mountaineering or Journalistic activities; **So, Statement 3 is correct.**
- To undertake an internship in any foreign Diplomatic Missions or foreign Government organisations in India or
- To take up employment in any foreign Diplomatic Missions in India;
- To visit any place which falls within the Protected, Restricted or prohibited areas as notified by the Central Government or competent authority;

According to the notifications published in the Gazette of India (notably the OCI Scheme notifications under Section 7B (1) of the Citizenship Act, 1955), OCI cardholders are treated similarly to foreign nationals in economic, financial, and educational fields in India, and they can pursue the following professions in India with parity with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs):

- Doctors,
- Dentists,
- Nurses and Pharmacists;
- Advocates;
- Architects;
- Chartered accountants. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

OVERSEAS CITIZENS OF INDIA (OCI)	
About	Introduced in August 2005, the OCI scheme provides for registration of all Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who were citizens of India on 26 January 1950, or thereafter, or were eligible to become citizens of India on the said date.
Registered OCI Card Holders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As per government records, there were more than 45 lakh registered OCI cardholders in 2023, from 129 countries. ➤ The US topped the list with over 16.8 lakh OCI cardholders, followed by the UK (9.34 lakh), Australia (4.94 lakh), and Canada (4.18 lakh).
Restriction Applicable	<p>Most notably, these rules require OCI cardholders to seek permission or a permit to visit "protected areas" in India, similar to restrictions applicable to foreign nationals visiting Jammu & Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An applicant is not eligible to get an OCI card if his/her parents or grandparents have ever been citizens of Pakistan or Bangladesh. However, the spouse of a citizen of India or the spouse of a foreign origin of an OCI, whose marriage has been registered and subsisted for not less than two years, can apply for an OCI card. ➤ Foreign military personnel, whether in service or retired, are also not eligible for the grant of OCI. ➤ An OCI cardholder is not entitled to vote; to be a member of a Legislative Assembly or of a Legislative Council or of Parliament; to hold Indian constitutional posts such as that of the President, Vice President, Judge of the Supreme Court or High Court. Also, she cannot normally hold employment in the Government.

86. Consider the following statements regarding the "SHRESHTA scheme" that was recently in the news:

1. It is a government-funded residential school initiative aimed at providing quality education to students from rural backgrounds.
2. Private schools and schools run by NGOs or voluntary organisations can both participate under this scheme.

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

EXPLANATION:

SHRESHTA (Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas) is a new scheme implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for the purpose of providing seats for the meritorious Schedule Caste boys and girls in the best private residential schools in the country. Every year, it is expected that about 3000 students will be selected for admission in Class 9 and Class 11 under the scheme.

Thus, SHRESHTA focuses on providing seats in the best private residential schools for students from Scheduled Caste communities, not necessarily those from rural backgrounds. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The SHRESHTA scheme is implemented in two modes: one provides for private residential schools to become part of it, and another allows for NGO-run and voluntary organisation-run residential schools.

Once selected, the schools provide residential schooling facilities to the prescribed number of Scheduled Caste students, following which the funds spent under this scheme by the respective schools are reimbursed by the Government. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SHRESHTA SCHEME	
Nodal Ministry	The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment implements the SHRESHTA (Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas) scheme in India.
Objective of the Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To enhance the reach of the development initiative of the Government. ➤ To fill the gap in service-deprived Scheduled Castes dominant areas in the sector of education by collaborating with voluntary organisations. ➤ To provide an environment for socio-economic upliftment and overall development of the Scheduled Castes. ➤ To provide access to high-quality education to bright Scheduled Caste students so that they can explore future opportunities.

87. Recently, the Department of Consumer Affairs launched an online portal that lets consumers file grievances conveniently without visiting the forum physically. Which of the following is it?

- (a) **e-Daakhil**
- (b) e-Samadhan
- (c) Nyaya Setu
- (d) Jan Suraksha Portal

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the Department of Consumer Affairs, under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, successfully implemented the E-Daakhil portal nationwide, now operational in every state and union territory of India.

- Due to restrictions on consumers due to COVID-19, the e-daakhil portal was introduced as an inexpensive, speedy and hassle-free mechanism for filing consumer complaints.
- e-Daakhil is an innovative online platform designed to streamline the consumer grievance redressal process, providing an efficient and convenient way for consumers to approach the relevant consumer forum, eliminating the need to travel and be physically present to file their grievances.
- Since its inception, e-Daakhil has been a game-changer in promoting consumer rights and ensuring timely justice.
- From filing complaints to tracking their status, E-Daakhil ensures a paperless and transparent process with respect to the filing of cases.
- Any consumer or Advocate can sign up on the e-Daakhil platforms with the required authentication by receiving an OTP on their registered cell phone or an activation link on their registered email address. They can then move on with filing a complaint.
- The portal has facilitated all aggrieved consumers to submit complaints to consumer commissions online in the comfort of their own homes, to pay the appropriate fees, and track the progress of the case online.
- The e-Daakhil portal was first launched on September 7, 2020, by the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

SAMADHAN (Software Application for Monitoring And Disposal, Handling of Industrial Disputes/Claims/General Complaints) Portal is a digital initiative of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India to make the life of workmen, management, trade union and other stakeholders smooth by making the system more user-friendly, transparent & efficient through online documentation, centralised monitoring & reducing disposal time by giving them a single online platform for raising their grievances. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**

To streamline operations and strengthen inter-agency coordination, Nyaya Setu has been launched as a dedicated digital platform for the police. It offers unified access to data from all pillars of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), enabling law enforcement officers to make informed decisions, minimise delays, and improve case outcomes. **So, Option (c) is not correct.**

Jan Suraksha is a Digital platform envisaged by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, to provide access to Social Security Insurance Schemes at affordable rates, introduced by

the Government of India. Banks and insurance companies have partnered on the Jansuraksha portal to provide a digital journey for the subscribers for enrollments, issuance of policy certificates and claims processing. **So, Option (d) is not correct.**

88. Consider the following statements regarding "Amrit Gyaan Kosh" that was recently in the news:

1. It is a digital knowledge repository of governance case studies, focusing on India-centric ideas and scalable governance models.
2. It is connected to the iGOT platform, which offers online training for government officials under Mission Karmayogi.
3. The initiative aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of health, education, agriculture, and digital governance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

- Amrit Gyaan Kosh is a knowledge repository of governance good practices in the form of case studies. It focuses on India-centric ideas and scalable governance models, offering content accessible to government officials in the Centre, State, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), and Panchayats. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The Amrit Gyaan Kosh Portal is integrated with the iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training) platform, a key digital learning tool under the Mission Karmayogi initiative, which offers online training and capacity-building content for government officials. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- This comprehensive repository curates' best practices from across India, aligning with 15 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), except SDG Goal 1: No Poverty and SDG Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and encompasses diverse policy themes such as health, education, agriculture, and digital governance. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**
- All government training institutions are being encouraged to integrate Amrit Gyaan Kosh case studies into their training programs, strengthening the problem-solving and decision-making capabilities of government officials.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

AMRIT GYAAN KOSH PORTAL	
About	<p>Amrit Gyaan Kosh Portal contributes towards improving Public Service Delivery across various government departments in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Serving as valuable examples of real-life, solution-oriented approaches to governance challenges, enabling officials to address similar issues more effectively. ➤ Providing actionable insights to tackle governance challenges, foster continuous innovation, and promote practical knowledge-sharing. ➤ Inspiring public servants by offering them successful governance models to emulate and adopt innovative strategies that improve public service delivery. ➤ Incentivising high performance among government officials by recognising their contributions on platforms like the iGOT Portal, motivating public servants to strive for excellence in their roles.
Karmayogi Bharat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Karmayogi Bharat, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), is a crucial part of the Mission Karmayogi framework. ➤ Its responsibility is to operate and manage the iGOT Karmayogi platform, ensuring anytime, anywhere, any-device learning for civil service officials to enhance their competency. ➤ The SPV will own, manage, maintain, and improve the digital assets, including the IPR of all software, content, process, etc., on behalf of the Government with an annual subscription-based revenue model. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision: To transform the Indian civil services capacity-building landscape by establishing a robust digital ecosystem that enables continuous, anytime-anywhere learning, making officials future-ready. • Mission: Create an all-in-one online platform for civil service officials. It guides learning, hosts discussions, manages careers, and conducts reliable assessments to showcase officials' competency effectively.

89. With Reference to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, consider the following Statements:

- I. The act created two Union Territories, named Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir, with their respective legislature.
- II. The present UT of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly can legislate on all State List subjects except "Police" and "Public Order".
- III. The Act granted Sixth Schedule status to the UT of Ladakh.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, gives provision for the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, i.e., Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir (Except Kargil and Leh districts) and Union territory of Ladakh (Includes Kargil and Leh districts). This Act provides the concept of a new Legislative Assembly for the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir (Like Delhi and Pondicherry). At the same time, this Act does not provide legislation for the Union territory of Ladakh (Like Chandigarh). **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

Under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has powers similar to those of the Delhi and Puducherry Assemblies.

- Parliament has the power to make laws on any subject for the Union Territory of J&K.
- The Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir UT can make laws on subjects listed in the State List, except for Public Order and Police.
- Concurrent List subjects, to the extent applicable to Union Territories.
- If there is any conflict between a law passed by the Legislative Assembly and a law passed by Parliament, then the Parliamentary law prevails. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution aims to protect tribal populations and their interests through autonomous governance. It is applicable to Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

The Sixth Schedule establishes autonomous institutional mechanisms which have legislative, judicial and executive powers for governance. The councils derive all their powers and functions directly from the Constitution.

Ladakh, despite having a 97% tribal population, does not currently have Sixth Schedule status, although there have been demands and protests for granting it to ensure local autonomy and protection of environment and culture. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

90. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 19(1)(g) of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to access any part of the country, subject to certain exceptions and restrictions.
2. Safe and motorable roads are considered a component of the Right to Life under Article 21.

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 19 of the Indian Constitution sets forth several rights for its citizens, which are subject to certain reasonable restrictions in order to protect the integrity and sovereignty of its people, and also to maintain friendly relations, security, decency, morality, public Order, and prevent defamation or any kind of encouragement to crime.

Article 19(1) of the Constitution of India guarantees six fundamental freedoms to every citizen of India, namely:

- Freedom of speech and expression (Article 19(1)(a))
- Freedom to assemble peacefully and without arms (Article 19(1)(b));
- Freedom to form associations, unions or co-operative societies (Article 19(1)(c));
- Freedom to move freely throughout the territory of India (Article 19(1)(d));
- Freedom to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India (Article 19(1)(e)), and
- Freedom to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business (Article 19(1)(g)).

Thus, the right to access any part of the country is in Article 19 (1)(d). **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The freedom of movement has two dimensions, viz, internal (right to move inside the country) and external (right to move out of the country and right to come back to the country). Article 19 protects only the first dimension. The second dimension is dealt with by Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty).

Recently, the Supreme Court has clarified that access to safe, motorable and well-maintained roads is an essential part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

91. The term "The Gen Z revolution" is sometimes mentioned in the news, which is a protest against social media bans that triggers political upheaval, leading to government dissolution in which of the following countries?

- (a) Bhutan
- (b) Taiwan
- (c) **Nepal**
- (d) Sri Lanka

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the Nepalese government banned 26 social media platforms, including Facebook, WhatsApp, and YouTube, after companies failed to register with the government. The move disrupted communications for two million Nepalis abroad and affected tourism.

Mass protests, led by Generation Z (those born in the late 1990s and early 2000s), erupted, demanding the dissolution of Parliament and the formation of new leadership outside traditional party structures. However, such a dissolution is likely unconstitutional. Article 76(7) of Nepal's Constitution allows Parliament to be dissolved only after failed Prime Minister appointments, and Article 66(2) requires Presidential actions to follow the Council of Ministers' recommendation. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

DISSOLUTION OF THE LOK SABHA IN INDIA	
About	<p>In India, the power to dissolve the Lok Sabha is derived from Articles 83 and 85 of the Constitution. These provisions indicate that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The President has the authority to dissolve the House "from time to time." ➤ If the House is not dissolved within five years, it automatically stands dissolved at the end of its term, unless its life is extended during a national Emergency by Parliament. <p>Conditions for exercising the right to dissolve Parliament include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The existence of a representative body, which is the object of dissolution. ➤ An act of the Executive, representing a separate organ vested with the power to dissolve. ➤ The summoning of a new Parliament following dissolution.

92. Consider the following statements with respect to the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK):

1. It is currently a fully statutory body under the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993
2. Under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, NCSK is mandated to monitor the implementation of the Act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the Union Cabinet approved a three-year extension of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) beyond 31.03.2025 (i.e. up to 31.03.2028).

The Commission, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, works to enforce laws prohibiting manual scavenging across India.

The first National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), set up in 1994 under the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993, was functioning as a statutory body till 2004, when the law lapsed.

Since then, the Commission has been acting as a non-statutory body under the Social Justice Ministry, with its tenure being extended from time to time. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013), became effective from 2013, prohibiting manual scavenging, and no person or agency can engage or employ any person for manual scavenging from that date. The contraveners shall be punishable with a fine, imprisonment, or both.

With the enactment of "The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013", the mandate and scope of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) have also been enlarged. As per Section 31(1) of the said Act, the Commission shall perform the following functions, namely:

- To monitor the implementation of the Act.
- To enquire into complaints regarding contravention of the provisions of the Act, and to convey its findings to the concerned authorities with recommendations requiring further action.
- To advise the Central and State Governments on the effective implementation of the Act's provisions.
- To take suo-motu notice of a matter relating to the non-implementation of the Act.

In the discharge of its functions, the Commission have the powers to call for information with respect to any matter specified above from any Government or local or other authority. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI KARAMCHARIS (NCSK)	
Composition	The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis comprises one Chairperson (in the rank and status of the Union Minister of State), one Vice-Chairperson (in the rank and status of the Secretary to the Government of India) and five members, including a lady member (in the rank and status of the Secretary to the Government of India) and the Secretary (in the rank of Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India).
Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommend to the Central Government specific programmes of action towards the elimination of inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities for Safai Karamcharis. ➤ Study and evaluate the implementation of programs and schemes related to the social and economic rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis and scavengers, in particular. ➤ Investigate specific grievances and take suo-motu notice of matters relating to non-implementation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmes or schemes in respect of any group of Safai Karamcharis • decisions, guidelines or instructions, aimed at mitigating the hardships of Safai Karamcharis • measures for the social and economic upliftment of Safai Karamcharis • The provisions of any law in its application to Safai Karamcharis, and take up such matters with the concerned authorities or with the Central or State Governments ➤ To study and monitor the working conditions, including those relating to health, safety and wages of Safai Karamcharis working under various kinds of employers, including Government, Municipalities and Panchayats, and to make recommendations in this regard.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Make reports to the Central or State Governments on any matter concerning Safai Karamcharis, taking into account any difficulties or disabilities being encountered by Safai Karamcharis. ➤ Any other matter which may be referred to it by the Central Government.
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93. Consider the following with respect to the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025:

1. The act imposes a complete ban on all online games involving money.
2. This act applies to online money gaming services offered within the territory of India only.
3. The act recognises e-sports and Online Social games as a legitimate competitive sport in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, passed by the Parliament recently, marks a landmark move to shield citizens from the menace of online money games while promoting and regulating other kinds of online games.

- This Act has banned all online games involving money, regardless of whether they are games of chance or skill.
- Advertising and promotion of such games is strictly prohibited.
- Banks or payment systems cannot process financial transactions related to these platforms.
- Authorities will also be empowered to block access to unlawful platforms under the Information Technology Act, 2000.

Parliament justified the move by citing addiction, financial ruin, money laundering, and even terror financing, concluding that a complete ban was necessary in the interest of the public. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, provides a comprehensive framework aimed at promoting safe digital recreation while prohibiting harmful practices associated with online money games. This ensures that users can engage in online gaming in a secure and regulated environment.

Regarding its applicability, the legislation covers the entire territory of India.

It applies not only to online money gaming services offered within India but also to platforms operated from outside India that target users within the country.

This gives the law extraterritorial reach, allowing effective regulation of all online gaming services accessible to Indian users. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

- Esports refers to competitive digital sports where teams or individuals participate in organised tournaments. Success in esports requires strategy, coordination, and advanced decision-making skills.

- Online Social Games are casual games that form Part of everyday recreation. They are primarily skill-based and designed for entertainment, learning, or social interaction. Such games are generally considered safe and do not cause negative social consequences.

The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, recognises esports and online social games as legitimate competitive sports by establishing a national legal framework to promote and develop these sectors. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PROMOTION AND REGULATION OF ONLINE GAMING ACT, 2025	
About	<p>The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, is an essential step in India's digital journey. It protects citizens from unregulated money gaming while allowing e-sports and educational games that build skills and creativity.</p> <p>By balancing innovation with safety, the Bill promotes a safer and healthier digital environment, strengthens India's role in global digital policy, and ensures that technology benefits society rather than harms it.</p>
Benefits	<p>This Act is expected to deliver wide-ranging benefits for society and the economy. Its main positive impacts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Boost to the Creative Economy: The Bill supports India's position as a hub for digital creativity. By encouraging e-sports and safe online games. ➤ Empowering Youth: Young people will gain new opportunities to participate in safe and constructive activities. E-sports and skill-based digital games will help them build confidence, discipline and teamwork. ➤ A Safer Digital Environment: Families will be protected from predatory money gaming practices. ➤ Strengthening Global Leadership: India will emerge as a global leader in responsible gaming and digital policy.
Notable Government Initiatives	<p>The government has introduced multiple measures to protect citizens from online gaming risks such as addiction, financial fraud, money laundering, and cybercrime.</p> <p>Information Technology Act, 2000 and Related Rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, amended in 2023, set norms for online gaming platforms. • Intermediaries must prevent unlawful or illegal content on their platforms. • Platforms offering money games must register with self-regulatory bodies (SRBs), which verify if a game is legal. • Section 69A empowers the government to block access to illegal websites or links. • Between 2022 and June 2025, 1,524 betting and gambling websites and apps were blocked. <p>Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 111: Penalises unlawful economic activities and cybercrimes. • Section 112: Punishes unauthorised betting and gambling. Offenders can face 1–7 years imprisonment with fines. <p>Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (IGST Act)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulates illegal and offshore gaming platforms. • Online money gaming suppliers must register under the Simplified Registration Scheme. • Ensures digital gaming platforms comply with taxation rules like physical businesses. <p>Consumer Protection Act, 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibits misleading and surrogate advertisements. • The Central Consumer Protection Authority can investigate, penalise, and take criminal action against offenders. • Issued advisories to prevent celebrities and influencers from promoting betting platforms.

	<p>Ministry Advisories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Information & Broadcasting issued advisories (2022–2024) to media, advertisers, and influencers against misleading online betting ads. The Ministry of Education issued guidelines for parents and teachers on safe gaming habits for children. <p>Reporting Cybercrimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizens can report cybercrime via the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (cybercrime.gov.in). Complaints are forwarded to state/UT law enforcement agencies. Portal has a dedicated section for financial fraud. A toll-free helpline (1930) is available for reporting online scams and fraud quickly
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94. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Lokpal can inquire into a corruption complaint against a High Court judge.

Statement II: Lokpal has jurisdiction to inquire into allegations of corruption against public servants under the Union Government.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct**

EXPLANATION:

The Lokpal is the first institution of its kind in independent India, established under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013 to inquire and investigate into allegations of corruption against public functionaries who fall within the scope and ambit of the Act.

A Lokpal can enquire into offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (PCA) committed by:

- The PM with specified safeguards,
- Current and former union ministers,
- Current and former MPs,
- Group A, B, C, D officers,
- Employees of a company, society or a trust set up by an act of Parliament or financed or controlled by the central government.
- Employees of the association of persons that
 - have received funding from the government and have an annual income above a specified amount; or
 - have received public donations and have an annual income above a specified amount, or received foreign funding above Rs 10 lakh a year.

One of the key shortcomings of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, is that it does not cover the judiciary. Although the judiciary is central to upholding the rule of law, the Act does not empower the Lokpal to investigate allegations of corruption against judges.

As a result, there is a major gap in the anti-corruption framework. Under Section 14 of the Act, the judiciary is not expressly included, which means the Lokpal cannot inquire into complaints against High Court or Supreme Court judges. This keeps judicial accountability outside the Lokpal's jurisdiction. **So, Statement I is not correct.**

The Lokpal has the authority to investigate allegations of corruption against public servants under the Union Government.

Complaints must be in the prescribed form and relate to offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, but there is no restriction on who can file them.

Upon receiving a complaint, the Lokpal may order a preliminary inquiry through its Inquiry Wing or any other agency, or refer it for investigation, including to the CBI, if a prima facie case exists. Before the investigation, the concerned public servant is asked for an explanation.

For central government officials, complaints are referred to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

The CVC reports to the Lokpal regarding Group A and B officials and acts itself under the CVC Act for Group C and D officials. This framework establishes the Lokpal's jurisdiction over the public servants under the Union Government. **So, Statement II is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

THE LOKPAL AND LOKAYUKTA ACT, 2013	
Recently in the news	The Court will decide if the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, permits the anti-corruption ombudsman to examine allegations against judges of constitutional courts.
About	<p>The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013, mandated the establishment of Lokpal at the Union level and Lokayukta at the State level. Lokpal and Lokayuktas are statutory bodies, and these do not have any constitutional status.</p> <p>These institutions perform the function and role of an "Ombudsman" (an official appointed to investigate individuals' complaints against a company or organisation, especially a public authority). They inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public bodies/organisations and other related matters.</p>
Lokpal and Lokayukta Amendment Act, 2016	<p>The amendment enabled the leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha to become a member of the selection committee in the absence of a recognised Leader of Opposition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This Bill also amended Section 44 of the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act 2013. Section 44 of the Act dealt with the provisions of furnishing of details of assets and liabilities, within 30 days of joining the government service, of any public servant. This amendment replaced the time limit of 30 days. It stated that the public servants will make a declaration of their assets and liabilities in the form and manner as prescribed by the government. ➤ In the case where any non-governmental organisation receives funds of more than Rs. 1 crore from the government or receives foreign funding of more than Rs. 10 lakh, then the assets of the trustees and board members are to be disclosed to the Lokpal. <p>The Bill provided an extension to the time limit given to trustees and board members to declare their assets and those of their spouses.</p>
Salient features	<p>The Lokpal consists of a Chairperson with a maximum of members, of whom 50% shall be judicial members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 50% of the members of the Lokpal shall come from amongst the SCs, the STs, the OBCs, minorities and women. ➤ The selection of the Chairperson and the members of Lokpal shall be through a Selection Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India or a sitting Supreme Court Judge nominated by the Chief Justice of India and an eminent jurist to be nominated by the President of India on the basis of recommendations of the first four members of the selection committee.

95. Consider the following statements with respect to Surrogacy rules in India:

1. The child to be born through surrogacy must have at least one gamete from the intending parents.
2. Single women opting for surrogacy should be either a divorcee or a widow.
3. The surrogate mother is required to carry the child to help another individual or couple without receiving monetary compensation.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Surrogacy is an arrangement where a woman (the surrogate) carries and gives birth to a baby for another person or couple, who are known as the intended parents. The surrogate agrees to hand over the baby to the intended parents once it's born.

Lately, the Central government has modified the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022.

- As per the latest amendment, the couple can have a child born through surrogacy, but must have at least one gamete from the intending couple. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Single women (widows or divorcees) undergoing surrogacy must use their own eggs and donor sperm to avail surrogacy procedures.
- The Act allows access to surrogacy only to two categories of single women — those who are widowed or divorced. Even in these cases, the regulations stipulate that the woman's own eggs have to be used. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

In India, surrogacy is regulated by the Surrogacy Regulation Act, 2021. This act prohibits commercial surrogacy.

The object of this Act is to prevent the exploitation of women who may be lured into the arrangements of commercial surrogacy.

Under the provisions of the Act, altruistic surrogacy is permitted, whereby the surrogate mother is required to carry the child to help another individual or couple without receiving any monetary benefit other than medical and insurance expenses.

The purpose is to ensure that the procedure of surrogacy remains ethical and transparent, and promotes the welfare of all the parties involved. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SURROGACY (REGULATION) ACT, 2021	
About	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Surrogacy Regulation Act, 2021, defines surrogacy as the practice where a woman carries and gives birth to a child for an intended couple, with the intention of handing over the child to them after birth (Section 2(zd)). ➤ The Act distinguishes between altruistic surrogacy and commercial surrogacy. Altruistic surrogacy (Section 2(b)) allows only medical expenses and insurance coverage for the surrogate mother or her dependents, with no monetary reward. ➤ Commercial surrogacy, where the surrogate receives payment or other benefits beyond medical costs, is strictly prohibited to prevent exploitation. ➤ Surrogacy clinics and medical practitioners are regulated under Section 4. ➤ Only registered clinics can perform surrogacy procedures. ➤ Doctors, embryologists, and other personnel are prohibited from engaging in commercial surrogacy. ➤ Abortions during surrogacy are allowed only with the written consent of the surrogate mother and the registered medical practitioner. ➤ The Act also sets eligibility criteria for surrogate mothers: she must be married, aged 25–35 years, have at least one child, not provide her own gametes, and act as a surrogate only once. ➤ Finally, the Act protects the rights of children born through surrogacy. ➤ The child is considered the biological child of the intended couple and is entitled to all rights and privileges of a natural child. ➤ Abandonment of the child, inside or outside India, is prohibited.

96. Consider the following statements regarding the E-SECBHR app by the Bihar State Election Commission:

1. Only one registered voter is allowed to log in using one mobile number.
2. All Senior citizens, disabled people and pregnant women can avail this option.
3. Facial recognition is used for voter identity verification during login, but not for voting.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Recently, Bihar announced India's first e-voting through a mobile app. The app is available for those people who are unable to go to polling booths to cast their votes. Senior citizens, disabled people and pregnant women can avail this option. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

- Voters have to install the E-SECBHR app, which is currently available only for Android users. The voters must link their mobile number to the app as registered in the electoral roll. After verification, they can cast a vote using the e-SECBHR app on the election day.

Only two registered voters are allowed to log in using one mobile number, and Verification of each voter is being done by entering the voter ID number. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The Bihar State Election Commission has introduced the FRS- Face Recognition System for voter verification.

The e-voting system will have features like a blockchain platform, liveness detection, face match, live face scan, and face comparison, making the voting tamper-proof.

Blockchain technology ensures that votes are recorded and saved in a secure, immutable system.

Facial recognition and matching assist in the verification of voter identities during login and voting.

Thus, Facial recognition is used for voter identity verification during login and for voting. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

97. Consider the following statements regarding the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India:

1. The Lok Sabha has recently enabled simultaneous interpretation of parliamentary proceedings in all the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule.
2. The Kokborok language has already been included in the Eighth Schedule.

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

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the Lok Sabha Speaker announced that simultaneous interpretation of parliamentary proceedings will now be available in all 22 Eighth Schedule languages. The Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, mentioned in Articles 344 and 351, lists 22 official languages.

- Originally, 14 languages were included in 1950. Later, Sindhi was added in 1967 (21st Amendment), Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali in 1992 (71st Amendment), and Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali in 2003 (92nd Amendment), bringing the total to 22.

So, Statement 1 is correct.

Recently, the Kokborok Sahitya Parishad sought the inclusion of the Kokborok language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

- The 22 languages that are included in the eight schedule are Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.

Kokborok is one of Tripura's official languages and the mother tongue of the major tribes of the state, including Tripuri, Reang, Jamatia, Uchoi and Koloi. At present, the Kokborok language is not included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CLASSICAL LANGUAGES	
About	In the Present-day scenario, there are eleven languages that are held under the 'classical' status in India; namely, Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013) and Odia (2014). Recently, the Union Cabinet approved classical language status to Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali and Prakrit. All these six languages are listed under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500- 2000 years. ➤ A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a heritage by generations of speakers. ➤ Knowledge texts, especially prose texts, in addition to poetry, epigraphical and inscriptional evidence. ➤ The Classical Languages and literature could be distinct from its current form or could be discontinuous with later forms of its offshoots.
Part XVII Official Language Articles 343 to 351	Part XVII of the Constitution contains provisions for an official language for the Union, the states, the judiciary, and for use in inter-governmental communication. Language of the Union <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Article 343: Official language of the Union. ➤ Article 344: Commission and Committee of Parliament on official language. Regional Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Article 345: Official language or languages of a State. ➤ Article 346: Official language for communication between one State and another or between a State and the Union. ➤ Article 347: Special provision relating to language spoken by a section of the population of a State. Language of the Supreme Court, High Courts, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Article 348: Language to be used in the Supreme Court and in the High Courts and for Acts, Bills, etc. ➤ Article 349: Special procedure for enactment of certain laws relating to language. Special Directives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Article 350: Language to be used in representations for redress of grievances. ➤ Article 350A: Facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at the primary stage. ➤ Article 350B: Special Officer for linguistic minorities. ➤ Article 351: Directive for development of the Hindi language.

98. Recently, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced that it will begin a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar ahead of its state assembly elections. In this aspect, consider the following powers of the ECI :

1. Section 16 of the Representation of the People Act 1950 (RPA) deals with disqualifications for voter registration in an electoral roll.
2. Section 21 of the RPA empowers the ECI to prepare and revise electoral rolls.

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

EXPLANATION:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar before the upcoming assembly elections.

- The aim is to include all eligible voters and remove ineligible names, ensuring accuracy and fairness in the voter list.
- This exercise follows constitutional provisions and the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RPA). Article 326 guarantees universal adult suffrage, while Section 16 of the RPA lays down disqualifications, such as non-citizenship, unsound mind declared by a court, or disqualification due to corrupt practices or election offences. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RPA) empowers the Election Commission of India (ECI) to prepare and revise the electoral rolls for every constituency.

Each constituency has its own voter list, which is prepared with reference to a fixed qualifying date. Once the list is finalised and published, it becomes the official electoral roll for that constituency.

The law provides that the electoral roll must be revised:

- Before every general election to the Lok Sabha or a State Assembly.
- Before every bye-election to fill a vacant seat.

The electoral roll may also be revised in any year if directed by the Election Commission. Even if not revised, the existing voter list remains valid and can be used.

Further, the Election Commission has the authority to order a special revision of the voter list at any time for a constituency or Part of it, if needed.

In such cases, until the special revision is completed, the previously published electoral roll continues to remain in force. This ensures that elections are not delayed and that the voter list remains functional at all times. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION (SIR)	
About	<p>According to the recent notification of the Election Commission of India (ECI), this is the first intensive revision of the Bihar rolls since 2003 and aims to maintain "the integrity of the Electoral Roll" as it is "fundamental for the conduct of free & fair elections".</p> <p>It aims to achieve three things in Bihar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ That every eligible citizen is enrolled, and no one is excluded ➤ No ineligible voter remains on the rolls ➤ To eliminate dead/shifted/absentee voters <p>The ECI has justified this intensified exercise, citing factors such as rapid urbanisation, frequent migration, the addition of newly eligible young voters, underreporting of deaths and the inclusion of names of foreign illegal immigrants.</p>
Challenges involved in it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Burden on citizens: Individuals must submit fresh applications and proof of citizenship, including parents' identity, by a short deadline. ➤ Exclusion of common documents: Aadhaar and ration cards are not accepted as proof, making the process harder. ➤ Risk of disenfranchisement: High poverty and migration in Bihar could prevent millions from meeting requirements, violating the right to vote. ➤ Short timeframe: The exercise is scheduled during the monsoon and floods, leaving limited time for completion.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Administrative constraints: ECI needs to train 1 lakh BLOs, with 20,000 positions still vacant. ➤ Lack of consultation: The exercise was planned without prior public consultation, raising concerns about fairness.
Constitutional provisions regarding Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Article 326 – Provides that every citizen of India who is 18 years or older has the right to vote, subject to disqualifications prescribed by law. ➤ Article 324 – Vests the Election Commission of India (ECI) with the superintendence, direction, and control of elections in India.

99. Which of the following writs can be issued against administrative authorities?

- (a) Prohibition, Certiorari and Mandamus
- (b) Certiorari and Mandamus**
- (c) Mandamus only
- (d) Prohibition and Certiorari

EXPLANATION:

The Supreme Court (under Article 32) and the high courts (under Article 226) can issue the writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and quo-warranto.

Mandamus:

- Mandamus is issued to compel a public authority, government official, or lower court to perform a public duty or act in accordance with the law.
- It is issued when a public authority has failed to carry out its statutory duties or when an official refuses to act as required by law.
- A writ of Mandamus can be issued against a public or government authority (administrative authority) that has not performed its legal duties.
- It does not apply to private individuals but only to public authorities or bodies.

Certiorari:

- The writ of Certiorari is issued by a higher court to a lower court, tribunal, or authority (administrative authority), quashing or correcting a decision or order that is deemed to be made without jurisdiction or in violation of the principles of law. Initially, the writ of certiorari cannot be issued against the administrative authority.

However, in 1991, the Supreme Court clarified that this writ cannot be issued against purely administrative actions. This implies that it can be invoked only in those situations where it is the concerned authority's duty to act judiciously, after hearing both the parties and without any extraneous considerations. On the other hand, in the subsequent decisions, this view has been rejected. So even if the authority is not required to hear both sides before coming to a decision, the principles of natural justice must be obeyed. Thus, the writ of certiorari can be issued even in administrative cases.

Prohibition:

- The writ of Prohibition is issued by a higher court (usually the Supreme Court or High Court) to a lower court or authority to stop it from acting beyond its jurisdiction. It is issued when a lower court, tribunal, or authority is proceeding with a matter that is outside of its jurisdiction or competence.

Thus, certiorari and mandamus can be issued against administrative authorities. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

WRITS-TYPES	
About	➤ Article 32 deals with the 'Right to Constitutional Remedies', or affirms the right to move the Supreme Court by appropriate proceedings for the enforcement of the rights conferred in Part III of the Constitution.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It states that the Supreme Court "shall have power to issue directions or orders or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari, whichever may be appropriate, for the enforcement of any of the rights conferred by this Part".
Writ Jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scope: Supreme Court (Article 32) issues writs only for the enforcement of fundamental rights; High Court (Article 226) issues writs for both fundamental rights and ordinary legal rights ("any other purpose"), making the High Court's jurisdiction broader. ➤ Territorial reach: Supreme Court's writs apply across the whole of India; High Court's writs apply only within its territorial jurisdiction, or outside it if the cause of action arises within that jurisdiction. ➤ Nature of remedy: Remedy under Article 32 is itself a Fundamental Right—the Supreme Court cannot refuse to exercise its writ jurisdiction; remedy under Article 226 is discretionary—the High Court may refuse to issue a writ.
Types	<p>Both the High Courts and the Supreme Court can be approached for violation or enactment of fundamental rights through five kinds of writs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The writ of habeas corpus can be issued against both public authorities and private individuals. The writ, on the other hand, is not issued where the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • detention is lawful, • the proceeding is for contempt of a legislature or a court, • detention is by a competent court, • detention is outside the jurisdiction of the court. ➤ The writ of prohibition can be issued only against judicial and quasijudicial authorities. It is not available against administrative authorities, legislative bodies, or private individuals or bodies. ➤ The Quo-Warranto writ can be issued only in case of a substantive public office of a permanent character created by a statute or by the Constitution. It cannot be issued in cases of ministerial office or private office.

100. Consider the following principles:

1. Welfare state
2. Dignity of the individual
3. Integrity of the state
4. Parliamentary privilege

How many of the above have been held by the Supreme Court to be part of the basic structure of the Constitution?

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

EXPLANATION:

In 1973, a 13-judge Constitution Bench ruled in *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala* that Article 368 of the Constitution does not enable Parliament to amend the basic framework of the document. The historic ruling came to be known as the "basic structure" doctrine, a judicial principle that the Constitution has certain basic features that cannot be altered or destroyed by amendments by Parliament.

From the various judgements, the following have emerged as 'basic features' of the Constitution or elements of the 'basic structure' of the Constitution:

- Supremacy of the Constitution
- Welfare state (socio-economic justice)
- Judicial review
- Freedom and dignity of the individual

- Unity and integrity of the nation (includes all states)

So, Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

The Supreme Court of India has not held parliamentary privilege to be Part of the basic structure of the Constitution. Parliamentary privileges in India are outlined in Articles 105 and 194. Parliamentary privileges are special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by the two Houses of Parliament, their committees and their members. **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE CONSTITUTION

About	<p>The present position is that the Parliament under Article 368 can amend any part of the Constitution, including the Fundamental Rights, but without affecting the 'basic structure' of the Constitution. However, the Supreme Court is yet to define or clarify what constitutes the 'basic structure' of the Constitution.</p> <p>From the various judgements, the following have emerged as 'basic features' of the Constitution or elements of the 'basic structure' of the Constitution:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supremacy of the Constitution 2. Sovereign, democratic and republican nature of the Indian polity 3. Secular character of the Constitution 4. Separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary 5. Federal character of the Constitution 6. Unity and integrity of the nation 7. Welfare state (socio-economic justice) 8. Judicial review 9. Freedom and dignity of the individual 10. Parliamentary system 11. Rule of law 12. Harmony and balance between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles 13. Principle of equality 14. Free and fair elections 15. Independence of Judiciary 16. Limited power of Parliament to amend the Constitution 17. Effective access to justice 18. Principles (or essence) underlying fundamental rights 19. Powers of the Supreme Court under Articles 32, 136, 141 and 142 20. Powers of the High Courts under Articles 226 and 227
Parliamentary privileges	<p>Parliamentary privilege refers to special rights and immunities enjoyed by Parliament as an institution and by MPs as individuals, enabling them to carry out their constitutional functions without external interference. These privileges are of two types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Collective privileges – enjoyed by each House of Parliament. ➤ Individual privileges – enjoyed by the members themselves. <p>The Constitutional basis lies in Articles 105 (for Parliament) and 194 (for State Legislatures):</p> <p>Article 105(2) & 194(2): Protect MPs/MLAs from legal proceedings for anything said or any vote given in the House or its committees. Also, no liability arises for official publications of House proceedings.</p> <p>Article 105(3) & 194(3): State that Parliament or State Legislatures may define privileges by law. Until such laws are made, privileges remain the same as those existing before the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978.</p> <p>These provisions ensure freedom of speech in the House, immunity from court interference, and institutional autonomy, safeguarding the independence of legislatures.</p>
