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## ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

### GENERAL STUDIES (P) TEST – 4126 (2024)

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#### Q 1.D

- Constitution can be broadly defined as the basic principles and laws of a nation, state, or social group that determine the powers and duties of the government and guarantee certain rights to the people in it.
- **Basic functions of a constitution**
  - Any group will need some basic rules that are publicly promulgated and known to all members of that group to achieve a minimal degree of coordination. But these rules must not only be known, they must also be enforceable. If citizens have no assurance that others will follow these rules, they will themselves have no reason to follow these rules
    - **Thus, It provides a set of basic rules that allow for minimal coordination amongst members of a society.**
  - **The constitution specifies who has the power to make decisions in a society.** It decides how the government will be constituted.
  - **Constitution also sets some limits on what a government can impose on its citizens.** These limits are fundamental in the sense that government may never trespass them.
  - Constitution also enables the government to fulfil the aspirations of a society and create conditions for a just society.
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 2.C

- **DIRECTIVES OUTSIDE PART IV:** Apart from the Directives included in Part IV, there are some other Directives contained in other parts of the Constitution. They are:
  - **Claims of SCs and STs to Services:** **The claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or a State (Article 335 in Part XVI).**
  - **Instruction in mother tongue:** It shall be the endeavor of every state and every local authority within the state to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups (Article 350-A in Part XVII).
  - **Development of the Hindi Language:** It shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language and to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India (Article 351 in Part XVII).
- The above Directives are also non-justiciable in nature. However, they are also given equal importance and attention by the judiciary on the ground that all parts of the constitution must be read together.
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 3.A

- **FEATURES OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS**
  - The Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution are characterized by the following:
    - **Some of them are available only to citizens while others are available to all persons whether citizens, foreigners, or legal persons like corporations or companies. Hence, the statement 3 is correct.**
    - They are not absolute but qualified. The state can impose reasonable restrictions on them. However, whether such restrictions are reasonable or not is to be decided by the courts. **Thus, they strike a balance between the rights of the individual and those of the society as a whole, between individual liberty and social control. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- All of them are available against the arbitrary action of the state. **However, some of them are also available against the action of private individuals. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Some of them are negative in character, that is, place limitations on the authority of the State, while others are positive in nature, conferring certain privileges on the persons.
- They are justiciable, allowing persons to move the courts for their enforcement, if and when they are violated.
- They are defended and guaranteed by the Supreme Court. Hence, the aggrieved person can directly go to the Supreme Court, not necessarily by way of appeal against the judgment of the high courts.
- They are not sacrosanct or permanent. The Parliament can curtail or repeal them but only by a constitutional amendment act and not by an ordinary act. Moreover, this can be done without affecting the 'basic structure' of the Constitution.
- They can be suspended during the operation of a National Emergency except for the rights guaranteed by Articles 20 and 21. Further, the six rights guaranteed by Article 19 can be suspended only when an emergency is declared on the grounds of war or external aggression (i.e., external emergency) and not on the ground of armed rebellion (i.e., internal emergency).
- **Their scope of operation is limited by Article 31A (saving of laws providing for the acquisition of estates, etc.), Article 31B (validation of certain acts and regulations included in the 9th Schedule), and Article 31C (saving of laws giving effect to certain directive principles).**
- Their application to the members of armed forces, para-military forces, police forces, intelligence agencies, and analogous services can be restricted or abrogated by the Parliament (Article 33).
- Their application can be restricted while martial law is in force in any area. Martial law means 'military rule' imposed under abnormal circumstances to restore order (Article 34). It is different from the imposition of a national emergency.
- **Most of them are directly enforceable (self-executory) while a few of them can be enforced on the basis of a law made for giving effect to them. Such a law can be made only by the Parliament and not by state legislatures so that uniformity throughout the country is maintained (Article 35). Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

#### Q 4.D

- With an objective to shift the focus of measuring the performance of hospitals from the volume of services provided to the value of healthcare services, **National Health Authority (NHA) is introducing a new system to measure and grade hospital performance under the flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).**
- The new initiative will introduce **the concept of 'value-based care'**, where payment will be outcome-based and providers will be rewarded according to quality of treatment delivered.
- **AB PMJAY is a centrally sponsored health assurance scheme.** It provides a cover of up to Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. This is the **"world's largest government-funded healthcare program"** targeting more than 50 crore beneficiaries. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It provides **cashless and paperless access to services for beneficiaries at point of service. Beneficiary families have been identified from Socio-Economic Caste Census, 2011. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **National Health Authority (NHA) is the apex body responsible for implementing India's flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme called "Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana" & has been entrusted with the role of designing strategy, building technological infrastructure, and implementing of "National Digital Health Mission" to create a National Digital Health Eco-system. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **National Health Authority is the successor of the National Health Agency, which was functioning as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 since 23rd May 2018.** Pursuant to Cabinet decision for full functional autonomy, National Health Agency was reconstituted as the National Health Authority.

#### Q 5.D

- **Global Economic Prospects, a flagship report (issued twice a year) was recently released by World Bank. Hence statements 1 and 2 are not correct.**
- It examines global economic developments and prospects, with a **special focus on emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs).**

- **Key Projections:**
  - Global GDP Growth: 1.7% in 2023 - third-weakest pace since 1993, overshadowed only by 2009 and 2020 global recessions.
  - **India is expected to grow at 6.6% in 2023.**
  - **Reasons for the slowdown: Elevated Inflation, Higher interest rates, reduced investment and disruptions caused by Russia-Ukraine war.**
  - Any additional adverse shocks could push the global economy into recession.
  - **Recession is a significant, pervasive, and persistent decline in economic activity – at least for two consecutive quarters of negative GDP for most analyses.**

#### Q 6.C

- **Schedule 4 deals with the allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the states and the union territories.** It covers articles 4 and 80. **Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Schedule 5 deals with provisions relating to the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes.**
- **Schedule 6 deals with provisions relating to the administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **10th Schedule deals with the provisions relating to disqualification of the members of Parliament and State Legislatures on the ground of defection.** This schedule was added by the 52nd Amendment Act of 1985, also known as Anti-defection Law. **Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.**

#### Q 7.D

- **Recently, a report titled “Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2022”** was prepared in coordination with WMO, UNEP, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), NASA, and European Commission.
- **Key observations of the report:**
  - Actions taken under Montreal Protocol contribute to ozone recovery in the upper stratospheric layer.
  - **If current policies remain in place, the ozone layer is expected to recover to 1980 values by around 2066 over the Antarctic, by 2045 over the Arctic, and by 2040 for the rest of the world.**
- **Ozone-depleting substances are man-made gases that destroy ozone once they reach the ozone layer.** The ozone layer sits in the upper atmosphere and reduces the amount of harmful ultraviolet radiation that reaches Earth from the sun. Ultraviolet radiation can have detrimental effects on both humans and the environment. For instance, **inducing skin cancer and cataract distorts plant growth, and damages the marine environment.**
- **Ozone-depleting substances include:**
  - chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)
  - hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)
  - **hydrobromofluorocarbons (HBFCs). Hence option 2 is correct.**
  - halons
  - **methyl bromide. Hence option 1 is correct.**
  - **carbon tetrachloride. Hence option 3 is correct.**
  - **methyl chloroform. Hence option 4 is correct.**
- **They have been used as:**
  - **refrigerants in commercial, home, and vehicle air conditioners and refrigerators**
  - **foam blowing agents**
  - components in electrical equipment
  - industrial solvents
  - **solvents for cleaning (including dry cleaning)**
  - **aerosol spray propellants**
  - fumigants

#### Q 8.B

- **Swaran Singh Committee** was set up in 1976 by the Congress government to provide suggestions on the inclusion of the Fundamental Duties in the Indian Constitution. The Congress Government at the Centre accepted these recommendations and enacted the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1976. This amendment added a new part, namely, Part IVA to the Constitution. This new part consists of only one Article, that is, Article 51A.
- Though the Swaran Singh Committee suggested the incorporation of eight Fundamental Duties in the Constitution, the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act (1976) included ten Fundamental Duties.

Interestingly, certain recommendations of the Committee were not accepted by the Congress Party and hence, not incorporated in the Constitution.

- **Certain recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee were not accepted and hence, not incorporated into the Constitution.** This include:
  - The Parliament may provide for the imposition of such penalty or punishment as may be considered appropriate for any non-compliance with or refusal to observe any of the duties. **Hence statement (a) is not correct.**
  - No law imposing such penalty or punishment shall be called in question in any court on the ground of infringement of any of Fundamental Rights or on the ground of repugnancy to any other provision of the Constitution. **Hence statement (d) is not correct.**
  - Duty to pay taxes should also be a Fundamental Duty of the citizens. **Hence statement (c) is not correct.**
- **Duty to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so is part of Fundamental duties under article 51A (d) of the constitution. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 9.B

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was set up in **1963** by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Later, it was transferred to the **Ministry of Personnel** and now it enjoys the status of an **attached office**. The Special Police Establishment (which looked into vigilance cases) setup in 1941 was also merged with the CBI. The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the **Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964)**. The CBI is not a statutory body. It **derives its powers** from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, of 1946**.
- The **functions of CBI** are:
  - **Investigating cases of corruption, bribery, and misconduct of Central government employees. Hence statement (a) is correct.**
  - Investigating cases relating to infringement of fiscal and economic laws, that is, breach of laws concerning export and import control, customs and central excise, income tax, foreign exchange regulations, and so on. However, such cases are taken up either in consultation with or at the request of the department concerned.
  - **Investigating serious crimes, having national and international ramifications, committed by organized gangs of professional criminals. Hence statement (c) is correct.**
  - Coordinating the activities of the anticorruption agencies and the various state police forces
  - Taking up, on the request of a state government, any case of public importance for investigation.
  - **Maintaining crime statistics and disseminating criminal information. Hence statement (d) is correct.**
- **Probing terror attacks including bomb blasts, hijacking of aircraft and ships, attacks on nuclear installations, and use of weapons of mass destruction is the function of the National Investigation Agency. Hence option (b) is not correct.**

#### Q 10.C

- **The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs has introduced standards for USB Type-C ports, plug, and cables used in electronic devices like mobile phones, laptops, etc. It aims to provide common charging solutions for various electronic devices sold in the country by March 2025.**
- **Need for Common Charger:**
  - To reduce the number of chargers per consumer, thus **reducing e-waste in India**
  - **Ease out the technological ‘lock-in’ effect**, whereby a consumer becomes dependent on a single manufacturer.
- **USB i.e., Universal Serial Bus (an industry standard)** is used for connecting a wide variety of devices to a processor.
  - USB Types: USB-A is a flat and rectangular shape; USB-B has multiple designs, but the common shape is a square; and USB-C is a smaller rectangular with rounded corners.
  - **In the EU by 2024, all mobile phones, tablets, and cameras will be sold with a USB Type-C charging port.**
- **USB Type-C uses a 24-pin double-sided connector** allowing device manufacturers to enable Alternate Mode, which unlocks the ability to use alternate data protocols for direct device-to-host transmission. This allows you to output VGA, HDMI, DisplayPort, Thunderbolt, Ethernet, or other types of connections from a single USB Type-C port with the help of compatible adapters. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**



- **The USB Type-C is a new reversible connector** that allows you to connect the cable to your device in any direction, unlike its predecessors.
- **The physical USB-C connector isn't backward compatible, but the underlying USB standard is.** One can't plug older USB devices into a modern, tiny USB-C port, nor can one connect a USB-C connector to an older, larger USB port. **But that doesn't mean one has to discard all your old peripherals. USB 3.1 is still backward-compatible with older versions of USB, so one just needs a physical adapter with a USB-C connector on one end and a larger, older-style USB port on the other end.** One can then plug your older devices directly into a USB Type-C port. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **It has the ability to use a single cable for data transfer, deliver video to a display, and power delivery, which are the key features of USB Type-C.**

#### Q 11.B

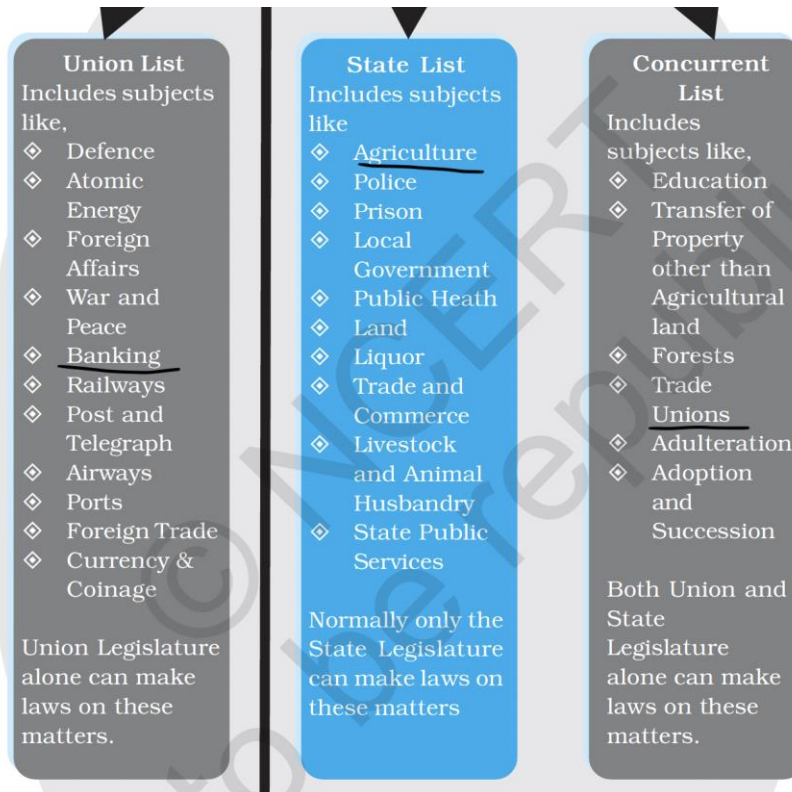
- After the great revolt of 1857, the British Government felt the necessity of seeking the cooperation of the Indians in the administration of their country. In pursuance of this policy of association, three acts were enacted by the British Parliament in 1861, 1892 and 1909. **The Indian Councils Act of 1861** is an important landmark in the constitutional and political history of India.
- **The features of this Act were as follows**
  - It made the beginning of the representative institutions by **associating Indians with the law-making process.** It, thus, provided that the Viceroy should nominate some **Indians as non-official members of his expanded council.** In 1862, Lord Canning, the then Viceroy, nominated three Indians to his legislative council—the Raja of Benaras, the Maharaja of Patiala and Sir Dinkar Rao.
  - It initiated the process of decentralization by **restoring the legislative powers to the Bombay and Madras Presidencies.**
  - It also provided for the **establishment of new legislative councils for Bengal, North-Western Provinces and Punjab,** which were established in 1862, 1886 and 1897, respectively.
  - It empowered the Viceroy to make rules and orders for the more convenient transaction of business in the council. It also **gave recognition to the 'portfolio' system, introduced by Lord Canning in 1859.** Under this, a member of the Viceroy's council was made in-charge of one or more departments of the Government and was authorised to issue final orders on behalf of the council on matters of his department(s).
  - **It empowered the Viceroy to issue ordinances, without the concurrence of the legislative council, during an emergency.**
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 12.A

- **In the Champakam Dorairajan case (1951), the Supreme Court ruled that the directive principles of State policy laid down in Part IV of the Constitution cannot in any way override or abridge the fundamental rights guaranteed by Part III. On the other hand, they have to conform to and run as subsidiaries to the fundamental rights laid down in Part III. But, it also held that Fundamental Rights could be amended by the Parliament by enacting constitutional amendment acts.**
- As a result, the Parliament made the First Amendment Act (1951), the Fourth Amendment Act (1955), and the Seventeenth Amendment Act (1964) to implement some of the Directives.
- The above situation underwent a major change in 1967 following the Supreme Court's judgement in the **Golaknath case (1967).** In that case, the Supreme Court ruled that the Parliament cannot take away or abridge any of the Fundamental Rights, which are 'sacrosanct' in nature. In other words, the Court held that the Fundamental Rights cannot be amended for the implementation of the Directive Principles.
- **In the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973),** the Supreme Court declared the above second provision of Article 31C as unconstitutional and invalid on the ground that judicial review is a basic feature of the Constitution and hence, cannot be taken away.
- **In the Minerva Mills case (1980),** the Supreme Court also held that 'the Indian Constitution is founded on the bedrock of the balance between the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles. They together constitute the core of the commitment to social revolution. They are like two wheels of a chariot, one no less than the other. To give absolute primacy to one over the other is to disturb the harmony of the Constitution. This harmony and balance between the two is an essential feature of the basic structure of the Constitution.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

### Q 13.B

- The Constitution divided the powers between the Centre and the states in terms of the Union List, State List and Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule.
  - The Union List consists of 98 subjects (originally 97), the State List 59 subjects (originally 66) and the Concurrent List 52 subjects (originally 47).
  - Both the Centre and the states can make laws on the subjects of the concurrent list, but in case of a conflict, the Central law prevails. The residuary subjects (ie, which are not mentioned in any of the three lists) are given to the Centre.
- Important subjects as distributed in seventh schedule**



- Hence option (b) is the correct answer.

### Q 14.C

- In the *Minerva Mills* case (1980), the Supreme Court provided key clarifications on the interpretation of the basic structure doctrine. The court ruled that the power of the parliament to amend the constitution is limited by the constitution.
  - Hence the parliament cannot exercise this limited power to grant itself unlimited power. In addition, a majority of the court also held that the parliament's power to amend is not a power to destroy.
- The ruling struck down clause 4 and 5 of the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976. **Clause 4 gave precedence to directive principles of state policy over fundamental rights. Supreme court struck down this provision and said that harmony and balance between fundamental rights directive principles is part of basic structure of the constitution.** Clause 5 gave unlimited power to parliament to amend the constitution and this was also struck down by supreme court deeming it to be destroying the basic structure of the constitution.
- Hence option (c) is the correct answer.

### Q 15.B

- A **Bose-Einstein condensate (BECs)** is so named because its existence was posited almost a century ago by **Albert Einstein and Indian mathematician Satyendra Nath Bose**. It is often termed as fifth state of matter. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- It exists when atoms of certain elements are **cooled to temperatures near absolute zero**. At that point, clusters of atoms begin functioning as a single quantum object with both wave and particle properties. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- BECs have also been used to create **atom lasers, atomic clocks and gravitational, rotational or magnetic sensors** with excellent sensitivity. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

#### Q 16.A

- **Right to freedom of Religion (Articles 25 to 28)**
  - **Freedom from Taxation for the Promotion of a Religion under 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. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - This provision prohibits the State from favouring, patronising and supporting one religion over the other. This means that taxes can be used for the promotion or maintenance of all religions.
  - **This provision prohibits only the levy of a tax and not a fee. This is because the purpose of a fee is to control the secular administration of religious institutions and not to promote or maintain the religion. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - Thus, a fee can be levied on pilgrims to provide them with some special service or safety measures. Similarly, a fee can be levied on religious endowments for meeting the regulation expenditure.

#### Q 17.D

- Article 360 empowers the president to proclaim a Financial Emergency if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen due to which the financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory is threatened.
- The consequences of the proclamation of a Financial Emergency are as follows:
  - The executive authority of the Centre extends to the giving of
    - directions to any state to observe such canons of financial propriety as may be specified in the directions, and
    - such other directions to any state as the President may deem necessary and adequate for the purpose.
  - Any such direction may include a provision requiring
    - the reduction of salaries and allowances of all or any class of persons serving in the state; and
    - **the reservation of all money bills or other financial bills for the consideration of the President after they are passed by the legislature of the state. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - The **President may issue directions for the reduction of salaries and allowances of**
    - all or any class of persons serving the Union; and
    - **the judges of the Supreme Court and the high court. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - Thus, during the operation of a financial emergency, the **Centre acquires full control over the states in financial matters. Hence statement 1 is correct.**

#### Q 18.A

- **Article 3 authorizes the Parliament to:**
  - form a new state by separation of territory from any state or by uniting two or more states or parts of states or by uniting any territory to a part of any state
  - **increase the area of any state**
  - diminish the area of any state
  - alter the boundaries of any state
  - **alter the name of any state**
- **Admission of new states is not permitted under article 3 of the constitution.** It is allowed under Article 2 of the constitution which empowers the Parliament to 'admit into the Union of India, or establish, new states on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit'.
  - **Thus, Article 2 grants two powers to the Parliament:**
    - **the power to admit into the Union of India new states. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
    - the power to establish new states.
- The first refers to the admission of states which are already in existence, while the second refers to the establishment of states which were not in existence before.

#### Q 19.D

- Modern democratic governments are classified into parliamentary and presidential on the basis of nature of relations between the executive and the legislative organs of the government.
  - The parliamentary system of government is one in which the executive is responsible to the legislature for its policies and acts. The presidential system of government, on the other hand, is one in which the executive is not responsible to the legislature for its policies and acts, and is constitutionally independent of the legislature in respect of its term of office.

- **Advantages of the Parliamentary System**
  - **Harmony Between Legislature and Executive**
    - The greatest advantage of the parliamentary system is that it ensures harmonious relationship and cooperation between the legislative and executive organs of the government. The executive is a part of the legislature and both are interdependent at work.
  - **Responsible Government**
    - By its very nature, the parliamentary system establishes a responsible government. The ministers are responsible to the Parliament for all their acts of omission and commission. The Parliament exercises control over the ministers through various devices like question hour, discussions, adjournment motion, no confidence motion.
  - **Ready Alternative Government**
    - In case the ruling party loses its majority, the Head of the State can invite the opposition party to form the government. This means an alternative government can be formed without fresh elections. Hence, Dr. Jennings says, 'the leader of the opposition is the alternative prime minister'.
  - **Wide Representation**
    - In a parliamentary system, the executive consists of a group of individuals (i.e., ministers who are representatives of the people). Hence, it is possible to provide representation to all sections and regions in the government. The prime minister while selecting his ministers can take this factor into consideration.
  - Prevents Despotism.
- **Demerits of the parliamentary system**
  - Continuity of Policies
    - The parliamentary system is not conducive to the formulation and implementation of long-term policies. This is due to the uncertainty of the tenure of the government. A change in the ruling party is usually followed by changes in the policies of the government.
  - Unstable Government
  - Dictatorship of the Cabinet
  - **Against strict separation of powers**
  - Government by Amateurs
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 20.A

- **Equality**
  - The term 'equality' means the absence of special privileges to any section of society and the provision of adequate opportunities for all individuals without any discrimination. The Preamble secures all citizens of India equality of status and opportunity. This provision embraces three dimensions of equality—civic, political, and economic.
  - **There are some provisions in the Constitution that seek to achieve political equality.**
    - No person is to be declared ineligible for inclusion in electoral rolls on grounds of religion, race, caste, or sex (Article 325). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
    - Elections to the Lok Sabha and the state assemblies were to be on the basis of adult suffrage (Article 326). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - **The following provisions of the chapter on Fundamental Rights ensure civic equality:**
    - **Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth (Article 15).**
    - Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment (Article 16).
    - Abolition of untouchability (Article 17).
    - **Abolition of titles (Article 18). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 21.D

- The procedure for the amendment of the Constitution as laid down in Article 368 is as follows:
  - An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either the House of Parliament not in the state legislatures.
  - **The bill can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member and does not require prior permission of the president. A nominated member of the Lok Sabha can be a minister or a private member. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - The bill must be passed in each House by a special majority, that is, a majority of the total membership of the House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of the House present and voting.



- Each House must pass the bill separately. In case of a disagreement between the two Houses, there is no provision for holding a joint sitting of the two Houses for the purpose of deliberation and passage of the bill.
- **If the bill seeks to amend the federal provisions of the Constitution, it must also be ratified by the legislatures of half of the states by a simple majority, that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- After duly passed by both Houses of Parliament and ratified by the state legislatures, where necessary, the bill is presented to the president for assent.
- The president must give his assent to the bill. He can neither withhold his assent to the bill nor return the bill for reconsideration of the Parliament.
- After the president's assent, the bill becomes an Act (i.e., a constitutional amendment act) and the Constitution stands amended in accordance with the terms of the Act.

#### Q 22.B

- **RIGHT TO EQUALITY:**

- **Equality before Law and Equal Protection of Laws**
  - Article 14 says that the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or 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.
  - The concept of 'equality before the law' (negative concept) is of British origin while the concept of 'equal protection of laws' has been taken from the American Constitution. The first concept connotes:
    - ❖ the absence of any special privileges in favour of any person,
    - ❖ the equal subjection of all persons to the ordinary law of the land administered by ordinary law courts, and
    - ❖ 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:
    - ❖ the equality of treatment under equal circumstances, both in the privileges conferred and liabilities imposed by the laws,
    - ❖ the similar application of the same laws to all persons who are similarly situated, and
    - ❖ the like should be treated alike without any discrimination.
  - 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. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - The Supreme Court held that where equals and unequals are treated differently, Article 14 does not apply. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - While Article 14 forbids class legislation, it permits the reasonable classification of persons, objects, and transactions by the law. But the classification should not be arbitrary, artificial, or evasive. Rather, it should be based on an intelligible differential and substantial distinction.

#### Q 23.D

- Unitary state is a system of political organization in which most or all of the governing power resides in a centralized government, in contrast to a federal state.
- Despite being a federation Indian constitution possesses many unitary features such as
  - **Single Constitution**
    - Usually, in a federation, the states have the right to frame their own Constitution separate from that of the Centre. In India, on the contrary, no such power is given to the states. The Constitution of India embodies not only the Constitution of the Centre but also those of the states. Both the Centre and the states must operate within this single-frame.
  - **Emergency Provisions**
    - The Constitution stipulates three types of emergencies—national, state and financial. During an emergency, the Central government becomes all powerful and the states go into the total control of the Centre. It converts the federal structure into a unitary one without a formal amendment of the Constitution. This kind of transformation is not found in any other federation.
  - **All-India Services**
    - In India, the Centre and the states have their separate public services. But, in addition, there are all-India services (IAS, IPS, and IFS) which are common to both the Centre and the states. The

members of these services are recruited and trained by the Centre which also possess ultimate control over them. Thus, these services violate the principle of federalism under the Constitution.

- **Appointment of Governor**
  - The governor, who is the head of the state, is appointed by the President. He holds office during the pleasure of the President. He also acts as an agent of the Centre. Through him, the Centre exercises control over the states.
- **Integrated Election Machinery**
  - The Election Commission conducts elections not only to the Central legislature but also to the state legislatures. But, this body is constituted by the President and the states have no say in this matter. The position is same with regard to the removal of its members as well
- Veto Over State Bills
- Parliament's Authority Over State List
- Integrated Audit Machinery
- Integrated Judiciary
- No Equality of State Representation
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 24.B

- **Fundamental Rights Consists of :**
- **Right to equality (Articles 14–18)**
  - Equality before the law and equal protection of laws (Article 14).
  - Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15).
  - Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment (Article 16).
  - **Abolition of untouchability and prohibition of its practice (Article 17). Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
  - Abolition of titles except military and academic (Article 18).
- **Right to freedom (Articles 19–22)**
  - Protection of six rights regarding freedom of:
    - speech and expression,
    - assembly,
    - association,
    - movement,
    - residence, and
    - profession (Article 19).
  - Protection in respect of conviction for offences (Article 20).
  - Protection of life and personal liberty (Article 21).
  - Right to elementary education (Article 21A).
  - Protection against arrest and detention in certain cases (Article 22).
- **Right against exploitation (Articles 23–24)**
  - Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour (Article 23).
  - Prohibition of employment of children in factories, etc. (Article 24).
- **Right to freedom of religion (Article 25–28)**
  - Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion (Article 25).
  - Freedom to manage religious affairs (Article 26).
  - Freedom from payment of taxes for the promotion of any religion (Article 27).
  - Freedom from attending religious instruction or worship in certain educational institutions (Article 28).
- **Cultural and educational rights (Articles 29–30)**
  - Protection of language, script and culture of minorities (Article 29).
  - Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions (Article 30).
- **Right to constitutional remedies (Article 32)**
  - Right to move the Supreme Court for the enforcement of fundamental rights including the writs of (i) habeas corpus, (ii) mandamus, (iii) prohibition, (iv) certiorari, and (v) quo warranto (Article 32).

#### Q 25.A

- **The Protection of Human Rights Act of 1993** provides for the creation of not only the National Human Rights Commission but also a **State Human Rights Commission** at the state level. A State Human Rights Commission can inquire into violation of human rights only in respect of subjects mentioned in the **State List** (List-II) and the **Concurrent List** (List-III) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

- The Commission may take any of the following steps during or upon the completion of an inquiry:
  - it may recommend to the state government or authority to make payment of compensation or damages to the victim;
  - it may recommend to the state government or authority the initiation of proceedings for prosecution or any other action against the guilty public servant;
  - it may recommend to the state government or authority for the grant of immediate interim relief to the victim;
  - it may approach the Supreme Court or the state high court for the necessary directions, orders or writs
- From the above, It's clear that the **functions** of the commission are mainly **recommendatory** in nature. It has **no power to punish the violators of human rights, nor to award any relief including monetary relief to the victim**. Notably, its recommendations are **not binding** on the state government or authority. But, it should be informed about the action taken on its recommendations within one month. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Commission **submits its annual or special reports to the state government**. These reports are laid before the state legislature, along with a memorandum of action taken on the recommendations of the Commission and the reasons for non-acceptance of any of such recommendations. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 26.D

- **Recently**, telescopes at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) **observed a massive black hole devouring a star**. The incident was the fifth-closest example of a black hole destroying a star and occurred 250 million light-years from the earth, in the centre of another galaxy.
- The astronomical phenomenon of the **destruction of a star by a black hole** is called a **Tidal Disruption Event (TDE)**.
- During a TDE, the tidal force of a **black hole disrupts the star in vicinity**. While about half of the star's debris continues on its original path, the other half is attracted by the black hole's gravitational pull. The gradual growth of this material bound to the black hole produces **a short-lived flare of emission, known as a tidal disruption event**.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 27.A

- Articles 358 and 359 describe the effect of a **National Emergency (Article 352)** on Fundamental Rights. **Article 358** deals with the suspension of the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by **Article 19**, while **Article 359** deals with the suspension of other Fundamental Rights (**except those guaranteed by Articles 20 and 21**). **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
- The differences between Articles 358 and 359 can be summarised as follows:
  - **Article 358 is confined to Fundamental Rights under Article 19 only whereas Article 359 extends to all those Fundamental Rights whose enforcement is suspended by the Presidential Order.**
  - Article 358 automatically suspends the fundamental rights under Article 19 as soon as the emergency is declared. On the other hand, Article 359 does not automatically suspend any Fundamental Right. It only empowers the president to suspend the enforcement of the specified Fundamental Rights.
  - **Article 358 operates only in case of External Emergency** (that is, when the emergency is declared on the grounds of war or external aggression) and not in the case of Internal Emergency (ie, when the Emergency is declared on the ground of armed rebellion). **Article 359**, on the other hand, operates in case of **both External Emergency as well as Internal Emergencies**.
  - Article 358 suspends Fundamental Rights under Article 19 for the entire duration of the Emergency while Article 359 suspends the enforcement of Fundamental Rights for a period specified by the president which may either be the entire duration of the Emergency or a shorter period.
  - **Article 358 extends to the entire country whereas Article 359 may extend to the entire country or a part of it.**
  - Article 358 suspends Article 19 completely while Article 359 does not empower the suspension of the enforcement of Articles 20 and 21.
  - Article 358 enables the State to make any law or take any executive action inconsistent with Fundamental Rights under Article 19 while Article 359 enables the State to make any law or take any executive action inconsistent with those Fundamental Rights whose enforcement is suspended by the Presidential Order.

Q 28.C

- **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021** broadly deal with **Social media sites, Digital news sites, and Over-the-top (OTT) streaming platforms. Hence options 1, 2, and 4 are correct.**
- It covers guidelines on **Social Media Intermediaries, Grievance Appellate Committees**, ensuring **online safety & dignity** of users, and **educating users** about Privacy Policies. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is responsible for the formulation of an oversight mechanism to ensure the same.
- **Recently, draft rules for online gaming**, were released by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY). Online games will have to register with a self-regulatory body, and only games that are cleared by the body will be allowed to legally operate in India. **Online gaming companies will not be allowed to engage in betting on the outcome of games, as per the proposed rules. Hence option 3 is not correct.**
- The proposed rules, aimed at safeguarding users against potential harm from skill-based games, have been introduced as an amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

Q 29.C

- One of the prima facie differences between the dual citizenship provisions is that the Indian constitution actively prevents dual citizenship while the constitution of the United States does not mention any restriction on it
- In **India**, both a citizen by **birth** as well as a **naturalized** citizen is eligible for the office of President. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- while in the **USA**, only a citizen by **birth** and **not a naturalized** citizen is eligible for the office of President. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

Q 30.C

- The characteristics of the Fundamental Duties:
  - Some of them are moral duties while others are civic duties. For instance, cherishing noble ideals of freedom struggle is a moral precept and respecting the Constitution, National Flag and National Anthem is a civic duty.
  - They refer to such values which have been a part of the Indian tradition, mythology, religions and practices. In other words, they essentially contain just a codification of tasks integral to the Indian way of life.
  - Unlike some of the Fundamental Rights which extend to all persons whether citizens or foreigners, the **Fundamental Duties are confined to citizens only and do not extend to foreigners. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - Like the Directive Principles, the fundamental duties are also non-justiciable.
  - The **Constitution does not provide for their direct enforcement by the courts. Moreover, there is no legal sanction against their violation. However, the Parliament is free to enforce them by suitable legislation. Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Q 31.B

- According to Article 51A, it shall be the duty of every citizen of India:
  - **to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag, and the National Anthem;**
  - to cherish and follow the noble ideals that inspired the national struggle for freedom;
  - to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India;
  - to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
  - to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic, and regional or sectional diversities and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
  - to value and preserve the rich heritage of the country's composite culture;
  - to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures;
  - **to develop scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry and reform;**
  - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
  - **to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity** so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievement, and
  - to provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years. This duty was added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, of 2002.



- The list of duties does not cover important duties like casting vote, paying taxes, family planning, and so on.
- Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

#### Q 32.B

- The proclamation of national emergency (**under Article 352**) must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within **one month** from the date of its issue. Originally, the period allowed for approval by the Parliament was two months but was reduced by the **44th Amendment Act of 1978**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- However, if the proclamation of emergency is issued at a time when the Lok Sabha has been dissolved or the dissolution of the Lok Sabha takes place during the period of one month without approving the proclamation, then the proclamation survives until 30 days from the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after its reconstitution, provided the Rajya Sabha has in the meantime approved it.
- If approved by both Houses of Parliament, the **emergency continues for six months** and can be extended to an **indefinite period** with an approval of the Parliament **every six months**. This provision for periodical parliamentary approval was also added by the **44th Amendment Act of 1978**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

#### Q 33.B

- In the Kesavananda Bharati case(1973), the Supreme Court overruled its judgement in the Golak Nath case (1967). It upheld the validity of the 24th Amendment Act (1971) and stated that Parliament is empowered to abridge or take away any of the Fundamental Rights. At the same time, it laid down a new doctrine of the ‘basic structure’ of the Constitution.
- It ruled that the constituent power of Parliament under Article 368 does not enable it to alter the ‘basic structure’ of the Constitution. This means that the Parliament cannot abridge or take away a Fundamental Right that forms a part of the ‘basic structure’ of the Constitution. The doctrine of basic structure of the constitution was reaffirmed and applied by the Supreme Court in the Indira Nehru Gandhi case3a (1975).
- **Elements of Basic Structure**
  - Supremacy of the Constitution
  - **Sovereign, democratic and republican nature of the Indian polity**
  - **Secular character of the Constitution**
  - **Separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary**
  - Federal character of the Constitution
  - Unity and integrity of the nation
  - Welfare state (socio-economic justice)
  - Judicial review
  - Freedom and dignity of the individual
  - **Parliamentary system**
  - Rule of law
  - Harmony and balance between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles
  - Principle of equality
  - Free and fair elections
  - Independence of Judiciary
  - Limited power of Parliament to amend the Constitution
  - Effective access to justice
  - Principles (or essence) underlying fundamental rights
  - Powers of the Supreme Court under Articles 32, 136, 141 and 142
  - Powers of the High Courts under Articles 226 and 227
- **Presidential system of government is not part of the basic structure.**
- Hence option (b) is the correct answer.

### Q 34.C

- Indian constitution has borrowed many features from various constitutions of the world.

Sources	Features Borrowed
1. Government of India Act of 1935	Federal Scheme, Office of governor, Judiciary, Public Service Commissions, Emergency provisions and administrative details.
2. British Constitution	Parliamentary government, Rule of Law, legislative procedure, single citizenship, cabinet system, prerogative writs, parliamentary privileges and bicameralism.
3. US Constitution	<u>Fundamental rights</u> , independence of judiciary, <u>Judicial review</u> , impeachment of the president, removal of Supreme Court and high court judges and post of vice-president.
4. Irish Constitution	<u>Directive Principles of State Policy</u> , nomination of members to Rajya Sabha and method of election of president.
5. Canadian Constitution	Federation with a strong Centre, vesting of residuary powers in the Centre, appointment of state governors by the Centre, and advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
6. Australian Constitution	Concurrent List, freedom of trade, commerce and inter-course, and <u>joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament</u> .
7. Weimar Constitution of Germany	Suspension of Fundamental Rights during Emergency.
8. Soviet Constitution (USSR, now Russia)	Fundamental duties and the ideal of justice (social, economic and political) in the Preamble.
9. French Constitution	Republic and the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity in the Preamble.
10. South African Constitution	Procedure for amendment of the Constitution and election of members of Rajya Sabha.
11. Japanese Constitution	Procedure established by Law.

- Hence option (c) is the correct answer.

### Q 35.C

- The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added four new Directive Principles to the original list. They require the State:
  - To secure opportunities for the healthy development of children (Article 39).
  - To promote equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor (Article 39 A).
  - To take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries (Article 43 A).**
  - To protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wildlife (Article 48 A).
- The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 added one more Directive Principle, which requires the State **to minimise inequalities in income, status, facilities, and opportunities (Article 38).**
- The 86th Amendment Act of 2002 changed the subject matter of Article 45 and made elementary education a fundamental right under Article 21A. The amended directive requires the State **to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.**

- The 97th Amendment Act of 2011 added a new Directive Principle relating to cooperative societies. It requires the state to promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control, and professional management of cooperative societies (Article 43B).
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 36.A

- The Act marked a second milestone towards a completely responsible government in India. It was a lengthy and detailed document having 321 Sections and 10 Schedules.
- **The features of this Act were as follows:**
  - **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). **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
    - Residuary powers were given to the Viceroy. However, the federation never came into being as the princely states did not join it.
  - 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.
    - Moreover, the Act introduced responsible Governments in provinces, that is, the Governor was required to act with the advice of ministers responsible to the provincial legislature. This came into effect in 1937 and was discontinued in 1939.
  - 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 introduced bicameralism in six out of eleven 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. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - 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 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.
  - It provided for the establishment of a Federal Court, which was set up in 1937.

#### Q 37.C

- A ‘constitutional tort’ is a **violation of one’s constitutional rights**, particularly fundamental rights, **by an agent of the government**, acting in his/her **official capacity**.
- **In India, there is no legislation**, which governs the liability of the State for the torts committed by its servants. It is **Article 300** of the Constitution of India, which **enumerates the liability of the Union or State** in the tortious act of the Government. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A court of law **can award monetary compensation to the victim** in such a case. for eg: in Supreme Court in **State of Rajasthan V. Mst. Vidyawati Case**, the Court ordered the defendant, i.e., the State of Rajasthan to pay compensation of **Rs. 15,000** to the plaintiff. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Recently**, Supreme Court Justice Ramasubramanian said “no one can either be taxed or penalized for holding an opinion which is not in conformity with the constitutional values. It is **only when his opinion gets translated into action and such action results in injury or harm or loss that an action in tort will lie.**”

#### Q 38.C

- Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people. Features of democracy often include
  - freedom of assembly
  - association, property rights
  - freedom of religion and speech

- inclusiveness and equality
- citizenship
- consent of the governed
- voting rights
- freedom from unwarranted governmental deprivation of the right to life and liberty, and minority rights.
- In some political systems, people may have elected their representatives to the national and provincial assemblies but those elected representatives are not really the rulers. They cannot take the final decisions. The power to take final decisions rests with other entities like army. This happens in many dictatorships and monarchies.
  - **But in a democracy, the final decision-making power must rest with those elected by the people. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- In China, elections are regularly held after every five years for electing the country's parliament. But these are not free and fair as the ruling communist party can never lose. But in a democracy, everyone should have an equal opportunity to contest elections and be able to win them if desired by the people. **Thus ruling party in a democracy must not have any advantage over the opposition parties and must have a fair chance of losing elections if desired by the people. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- In Saudi Arabia women do not have the right to vote. Estonia has made its citizenship rules in such a way that people belonging to Russian minority find it difficult to get the right to vote.
- Democracy is based on a fundamental principle of political equality. **But in a democracy political equality is emphasized and each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- In a democracy, everyone should be equal in the eyes of law. People's rights must be protected and a **democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional law and citizens' rights. Hence statement 4 is not correct.**

#### Q 39.B

- **Liberal-Intellectual Principles** The principles included in this category represent the ideology of liberalism.
- **They direct the state:**
  - To secure for all citizens a uniform civil code throughout the country (Article 44).
  - To provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years (Article 45).
  - **To organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines (Article 48).**
  - To protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wild life (Article 48 A).
  - To protect monuments, places, and objects of artistic or historic interest which are declared to be of national importance (Article 49).
  - To separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State (Article 50).
  - To promote international peace and security and maintain just and honourable relations between nations; to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations, and to encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration (Article 51).
- **Prohibition of the slaughter of cows and the Promotion of Cooperative societies are based on Gandhian ideology.**
- **Securing opportunities for the healthy development of children is based on an ideology of socialism.**
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 40.A

- In the nineteenth century struggles for democracy often centered around political equality, freedom and justice. One major demand was the right for every adult citizen to vote. Many European countries that were becoming more democratic did not initially allow all people to vote.
  - In some countries only people owning property had the right to vote. Often women did not have the right to vote. In the United States of America, the blacks all over the country could not exercise the right to vote until 1965.
- India granted Universal Adult Franchise to its citizens in 1950, when the Constitution of India came into force declaring India a democratic republic. It is provided under the Article 326 of the Indian Constitution.



When was universal adult franchise granted?

1893	New Zealand
1917	Russia
1918	Germany
1919	Netherlands
1928	Britain
1931	Sri Lanka
1934	Turkey
1944	France
1945	Japan
1950	India
1951	Argentina
1952	Greece
1955	Malaysia
1962	Australia
1965	US
1978	Spain
1994	South Africa

- Hence option (a) is the correct answer.

#### Q 41.D

- **The Constituent Assembly held its first meeting on December 9, 1946.** On December 13, 1946, **Jawaharlal Nehru** moved the historic '**Objectives Resolution**' in the Assembly. It laid down the fundamentals and philosophy of the constitutional structure. This Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Assembly on January 22, 1947.
- After the **acceptance of the Mountbatten Plan of June 3, 1947**, for the partition of the country, the representatives of most of the other princely states took their seats in the Assembly. The members of the Muslim League from the Indian Dominion also entered the Assembly.
  - The Assembly was made a fully sovereign body, which could frame any Constitution it pleased.
  - Two separate functions were assigned to the Assembly, that is, making of the Constitution for free India and enacting ordinary laws for the country. **Whenever the Assembly met as the Constituent body it was chaired by Dr. Rajendra Prasad and when it met as the legislative body, it was chaired by G.V. Mavlankar. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - The Muslim League members (hailing from the areas included in Pakistan) withdrew from the Constituent Assembly for India. Consequently, the total strength of the Assembly came down to 299 as against 389 originally fixed in **1946 under the Cabinet Mission Plan.**
- In addition to the making of the Constitution and enacting of ordinary laws, the Constituent Assembly also performed the following functions:
  - It ratified India's membership of the Commonwealth in May 1949.
  - It adopted the national flag on July 22, 1947.
  - **It adopted the national anthem on January 24, 1950.**
  - **It adopted the national song on January 24, 1950. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - It elected Dr. Rajendra Prasad as the first President of India on January 24, 1950.
- In all, the Constituent Assembly had 11 sessions over two years, 11 months and 18 days. On January 24, 1950, the Constituent Assembly held its final session. It, however, did not end, and **continued as the provisional parliament of India from January 26, 1950, till the formation of new Parliament** after the first general elections in 1951–52.

#### Q 42.B

- The National Commission for SCs and STs came into being consequent upon the passing of the **65th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1990**. The Commission was established under **Article 338** of the Constitution with the objective of monitoring all the safeguards provided for the SCs and STs under the Constitution or other laws.
- In order to safeguard the interests of the STs more effectively, it was proposed to set up a separate National Commission for STs by bifurcating the existing combined National Commission for SCs and STs. This was done by passing the **89th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2003**. This Act further amended Article 338 and inserted a new **Article 338-A** in the Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The separate **National Commission for STs** came into existence in **2004**. It consists of a **chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and three other members**. They are appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal. Their **conditions of service and tenure of office are also determined by the President**. Hence **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The Commission is vested with the power to regulate its own procedure.
- The Commission, while investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint, has all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and in particular in respect of the following matters:
  - summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath;
  - requiring the discovery and production of any document;
  - receiving evidence on affidavits;
  - requisitioning any public record from any court or office;
  - issuing summons for the examination of witnesses and documents; and
  - any other matter which the President may determine.

#### Q 43.B

- **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIB)** means that the **bank is too big to fail**. According to the RBI, some banks become systemically important due to their size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity, and lack of substitute and interconnection. Banks whose **assets exceed 2% of GDP** are considered part of this group.
- The D-SIB framework requires the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs starting from 2015 and place these banks in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs).
- **Recently**, the Reserve Bank of India declared that the **State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank** will continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) in India for **year 2023**.
- Hence, **option (b) is the correct answer**.

#### Q 44.C

- Article 21 declares that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law. This right is available to both citizens and non-citizens.
- The Supreme Court has reaffirmed its judgement in the Menaka case in the subsequent cases.
- **It has declared the following rights as part of Article 21:**
  - Right to live with human dignity.
  - Right to a decent environment including pollution-free water and air and protection against hazardous industries.
  - Right to livelihood.
  - Right to privacy.
  - Right to shelter.
  - Right to health.
  - Right to free education up to 14 years of age.
  - Right to free legal aid.
  - Right against solitary confinement.
  - Right to a speedy trial.
  - Right against handcuffing.
  - Right against inhuman treatment.
  - Right against delayed execution.
  - **Right to travel abroad. Hence, option 2 is correct.**
  - Right against bonded labour.
  - Right against custodial harassment.
  - Right to emergency medical aid.
  - Right to timely medical treatment in government hospitals.
  - **Right not to be driven out of a state. Hence, option 1 is correct.**
  - Right to a fair trial.
  - Right of the prisoner to have necessities of life.
  - Right of women to be treated with decency and dignity.
  - Right against public hanging.
  - **Right to the road in hilly areas. Hence, option 4 is correct.**
  - Right to information.

- Right to reputation.
- Right of appeal from a judgement of conviction
- Right to family pension
- Right to social and economic justice and empowerment
- Right against bar fetters
- Right to appropriate life insurance policy
- Right to sleep
- Right to freedom from noise pollution
- Right to sustainable development
- Right to opportunity.
- **Freedom of Speech and Expression (Article 19(1)(a))**
  - It implies that every citizen has the right to express his views, opinions, belief and convictions freely by word of mouth, writing, printing, picturing or in any other manner. The Supreme Court held that the freedom of speech and expression includes the following:
    - Right to propagate one's views as well as the views of others. (b) Freedom of the press.
    - Freedom of commercial advertisements.
    - Right to telecast, the government has no monopoly on electronic media.
    - Right against bundh called by a political party or organisation. (g) Right to know about government activities.
    - **Freedom of silence. Hence, option 3 is not correct.**
    - Right against the imposition of pre-censorship on a newspaper. (j) Right to demonstration or picketing but not right to strike.
  - 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.

#### Q 45.D

- **Right to Education:**
- **Article 21 A** declares that the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such a manner as the State may determine. **Thus, this provision makes only elementary education a Fundamental Right and not higher or professional education. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**
- **This provision was added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2002.** This amendment is a major milestone in the country's aim to achieve 'Education for All'. The government described this step as 'the dawn of the second revolution in the chapter of citizens' rights'.
- **Even before this amendment, the Constitution contained a provision for free and compulsory education for children under Article 45 in Part IV. Hence, option (b) is not correct.**
- **However, being a directive principle, it was not enforceable by the courts. Now, there is scope for judicial intervention in this regard. This amendment changed the subject matter of Article 45 in directive principles. It now reads—'The state shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.' Hence, option (c) is not correct.**
- It also added a new fundamental duty under Article 51A that reads—'It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years'.
- In 1993 itself, the Supreme Court recognised a Fundamental Right to primary education in the right to life under Article 21. It held that every child or citizen of this country has a right to free education until he completes the age of 14 years.
- Thereafter, his right to education is subject to the limits of the economic capacity and development of the state. In this judgement, the Court overruled its earlier judgement (1992) which declared that there was a fundamental right to education up to any level including professional education like medicine and engineering.
- **In pursuance of Article 21A, the Parliament enacted the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. This Act seeks to provide that every child has a right to be provided full time elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards. Hence, option (a) is not correct.**
- This legislation is anchored in the belief that the values of equality, social justice and democracy and the creation of a just and humane society can be achieved only through the provision of inclusive elementary education to all.

**Q 46.A**

- **Hawaiian volcano kilauea** has erupted again recently.
- **Kilauea volcano is active shield volcano (erupts magma of low viscosity and hence less steep) located on the Hawaiian island.** Hawaii, USA is a group of 8 volcanic islands in the central Pacific Ocean stretching in a crescent from Kure Island in west to Hawaii in east. Volcanoes make up 51% of Hawaii Island landmass. Out of 8, five main volcanoes are considered active. Four of these active volcanoes are located on Big Island. They include Kilauea, Mauna Loa, Mauna Kea, and Hualalai.
- **Kilauea, also called Mount Kilauea, the world's most active volcanic mass, located on the southeastern part of the island of Hawaii, Hawaii state, U.S.** The central feature of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Kilauea ("Much Spreading" in Hawaiian), is an elongated dome built of lava eruptions from a central crater and from lines of craters extending along east and southwest rifts, or fissures.
- **Kilauea's slopes merge with those of the nearby volcano Mauna Loa on the west and north. In a series of eruptions that began in 1983 and continued into the early 21st century, Kilauea produced a river of flowing lava that reached the sea 10 miles (16 km) south of the volcano.**
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**
- **Mount Stromboli** is one of the four active volcanoes in Italy. It is one of the eight Aeolian Islands, a volcanic arc north of Sicily.
- **Mount Vesuvius** is a stratovolcano located on the Gulf of Naples in Campania, Italy, about 9 km east of Naples and a short distance from the shore. It is one of several volcanoes forming the Campanian volcanic arc.
- **Mount Etna, or simply Etna,** is an active stratovolcano on the east coast of Sicily, Italy, in the Metropolitan City of Catania, between the cities of Messina and Catania. It lies above the convergent plate margin between the African Plate and the Eurasian Plate.

**Q 47.C**

- National Emergency has been proclaimed **three times** so far— in **1962, 1971, and 1975. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **First proclamation** of National Emergency was issued in **October 1962** on account of **Chinese aggression** in the NEFA (North-East Frontier Agency—now Arunachal Pradesh) and was in force till January 1968. Hence, a fresh proclamation was not needed at the time of the war against Pakistan in 1965. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Second proclamation** of national emergency was made in **December 1971** in the wake of an **attack by Pakistan**. Even when this Emergency was in operation. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- A **Third proclamation** of National Emergency was made in **June 1975**. Both the second and third proclamations were revoked in March 1977.
- **The first two proclamations (1962 and 1971) were made on the ground of 'external aggression', while the third proclamation (1975) was made on the ground of 'internal disturbance',** that is, certain persons have been inciting the police and the armed forces against the discharge of their duties and their normal functioning.

**Q 48.B**

- **The World Economic Forum has recently published the Global Risks Report 2023.**
- The report is **published annually based on Global Risks Perception Survey.**
- It highlights key risks across five categories: Economic, Environmental, Geopolitical, Societal, and Technological. Global risk is defined as the possibility of the occurrence of an event or condition that, if it occurs, would negatively impact a significant proportion of global GDP, population, or natural resources.
- Key findings:
  - The top 5 risks for India are Digital inequality, Geopolitical contest for resources, Cost-of-living crisis, Debt crises, Natural disasters, and Extreme weather events over the short and medium term.
  - The cost of living dominates global risks in the next 2 years while climate action failure dominates the next decade.
  - The economic effects of COVID-19 and the Ukraine war resulted in rising inflation, rapid normalization of monetary policies, low-growth, low-investment era.
  - Technology such as AI, quantum computing and biotechnology, etc. will exacerbate inequalities and the digital divide.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**



**Q 49.B**

- **Preamble**
  - “We, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens: **JUSTICE, Social, Economic and Political; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all; FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation; IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION**”.
  - Sources of the Constitution:
    - **Fundamental duties and the ideal of justice (social, economic, and political) in the Preamble have been taken from Soviet Constitution (USSR, now Russia). Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
    - **Republic and the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity in the Preamble have been taken from French Constitution. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

**Q 50.A**

- The role of CAG in the auditing of public corporations is limited. Broadly speaking, his relationship with public corporations falls into the following three categories:
  - Some corporations are **audited totally and directly by the CAG**, for example, **Damodar Valley Corporation, Oil and Natural Gas Commission**, and others. **Hence option 2 is correct.**
  - Some other corporations are audited by private professional auditors who are appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the CAG. If necessary, the CAG can conduct a **supplementary audit**. Examples are **Central Warehousing Corporation, Industrial Finance Corporation**, and others.
  - Some other corporations are **totally subjected to private audits**. In other words, their audit is done exclusively by private professional auditors and the CAG does not come into the picture at all. They submit their annual reports and accounts directly to the Parliament. Examples of such corporations are the **Life Insurance Corporation of India, Reserve Bank of India, State Bank of India, Food Corporation of India**, and others. **Hence options 1, 3, and 4 are not correct.**
- The role of the CAG in the auditing of Government companies is also limited. They are audited by private auditors who are appointed by the Government on the advice of the CAG. The CAG can also undertake a supplementary audit or test audit of such Companies.

**Q 51.A**

- **Four years since the introduction of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) — India’s first national policy on curbing air pollution — air quality has improved in only 49 out of 131 cities in FY 21-22, compared to the previous year, according to a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).** Less than 50% utilisation of total funds is released under NCAP.
- **PRANA (Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities)** is a portal for monitoring of the implementation of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**
  - **It will support tracking of physical as well as financial status of city air action plan implementation and disseminate information on air quality management efforts under NCAP to public.**
  - It would also disseminate information on air quality to the public while also providing comprehensive information related to NCAP programme details, progress, city action plans, implementation updates by city/state/ national level agencies, air quality data, and trends, etc.
- **About NCAP**
- **Launched in 2019, it is a time-bound, national level strategy from Central Government to tackle air pollution problem across country in a comprehensive manner.**
- **It aims a 40% reduction in Particulate Matter (PM) concentrations by 2026 (base year 2017) in 131 cities (123 non-attainment cities and 42 million plus cities/urban agglomerations; 34 cities are common in both categories).**

**Q 52.D**

- The Constitution confers the following **rights and privileges on the citizens of India** (and denies the same to aliens):
  - **Right against discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15). Hence option 1 is correct.**

- Right to equality of opportunity in the matter of public employment (Article 16).
- **Right to freedom of speech and expression, assembly, association, movement, residence, and profession (Article 19). Hence option 2 is correct.**
- Cultural and educational rights (Articles 29 and 30).
- Right to vote in elections to the Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly.
- **Right to contest for membership of the Parliament and the state legislature.**
- Eligibility to hold certain public offices, that is, President of India, Vice-President of India, **judges of the Supreme Court and the high courts**, Governor of states, Attorney General of India, and Advocate General of states. **Hence options 3 and 4 are correct.**

#### Q 53.D

- Amendment to the Constitution requires two different kinds of special majorities:
- in the first place, **those voting in favor of the amendment bill should constitute at least half of the total strength of that House.**
- Secondly, the **supporters of the amendment bill must also constitute two-thirds of those who actually take part in voting.**
- Both Houses of Parliament must pass the amendment bill separately in this same manner (there is no provision for a joint session). For every amendment bill, this special majority is required.
- **In the Rajya Sabha, there are 245 members. Therefore, any amendment must be supported by a minimum of 123 members. Even if only 150 members are present at the time of voting, the amendment bill must get the support of 123 out of them.**
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 54.A

- The Constituent Assembly appointed a number of committees to deal with different tasks of constitution-making. Out of these, eight were major committees and the others were minor committees.
  - **Union Powers Committee - Jawaharlal Nehru. Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
  - Union Constitution Committee - Jawaharlal Nehru
  - **Provincial Constitution Committee - Sardar Patel. Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
  - Drafting Committee - Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
  - Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas - Sardar Patel.
    - This committee had the following five sub-committees:
    - Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee - J.B. Kripalani
    - Minorities Sub-Committee - H.C. Mukherjee
    - North-East Frontier Tribal Areas and Assam Excluded & Partially Excluded Areas Sub-Committee -Gopinath Bardoloi
    - Excluded and Partially Excluded Areas (other than those in Assam) Sub-Committee - A.V. Thakkar
    - North-West Frontier Tribal Areas Sub-Committee<sup>8a</sup>
  - Rules of Procedure Committee - Dr. Rajendra Prasad
  - **States Committee (Committee for Negotiating with States) - Jawaharlal Nehru.**
  - **Steering Committee - Dr. Rajendra Prasad. Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 55.C

- **CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS**
  - **Protection of Interests of Minorities**
    - Article 29 provides that any section of the citizens residing in any part of India having a distinct language, script or culture of its own, shall have the right to conserve the same.
    - Further, no citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State or receiving aid out of State funds on grounds only of religion, race, caste, or language.
    - The first provision protects the right of a group while the second provision guarantees the right of a citizen as an individual irrespective of the community to which he belongs.
    - **Article 29 grants protection to both religious minorities as well as linguistic minorities.**
    - **However, the Supreme Court held that the scope of this article is not necessarily restricted to minorities only, as it is commonly assumed to be. This is because of the use of the words 'section of citizens in the Article that includes minorities as well as the majority. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Supreme Court also held that the right to conserve the language includes the right to agitate for the protection of the language. Hence, the political speeches or promises made for the conservation of the language of a section of the citizens do not amount to corrupt practice under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- **Right of Minorities to Establish and Administer Educational Institutions**
  - Article 30 grants the following rights to minorities, whether religious or linguistic:
    - ❖ **All minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
    - ❖ 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 right of minorities in this regard. The Act deleted the right to property as a Fundamental Right (Article 31).
    - ❖ 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.

#### Q 56.C

- **The Citizenship Act (1955)** prescribes **three ways of losing citizenship** whether acquired under the Act or prior to it under the Constitution, viz, renunciation, termination, and deprivation:
  - By **Renunciation**: Any citizen of India of full age and capacity can make a declaration renouncing his Indian citizenship. Upon the registration of that declaration, that person ceases to be a citizen of India. However, if such a declaration is made during a war in which India is engaged, its registration shall be withheld by the Central Government. Further, when a person renounces his Indian citizenship, every minor child of that person also loses Indian citizenship. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - However, when such a child attains the age of eighteen, he may resume Indian citizenship.
  - By **Termination**: When an Indian citizen voluntarily (consciously, knowingly and without duress, undue influence, or compulsion) acquires citizenship of another country, his Indian citizenship automatically terminates. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.** This provision, however, does not apply during a war in which India is Engaged.
  - By **Deprivation**: It is a compulsory termination of Indian citizenship by the Central government, if:
    - the citizen has obtained citizenship by fraud;
    - the citizen has shown disloyalty to the Constitution of India;
    - the citizen has unlawfully traded or communicated with the enemy during a war;
    - the citizen has, within five years after registration or naturalization, been imprisoned in any country for two years; and
    - the citizen has been ordinarily resident out of India for **seven years** continuously.

#### Q 57.C

- **The Protection of Human Rights Act of 1993** provides for the creation of not only the National Human Rights Commission but also a State Human Rights Commission at the state level. Accordingly, twenty-six states have constituted the State Human Rights Commissions through Official Gazette Notifications.
- A **State Human Rights Commission can inquire into violation of human rights only in respect of subjects mentioned in the State List (List-II) and the Concurrent List (List-III) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- However, if any such case is already being inquired into by the National Human Rights Commission or any other Statutory Commission, then the State Human Rights, Commission does not inquire into that case. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The central government may confer upon the State Human Rights Commissions the functions relating to human rights being discharged by the union territories, **except the union territory of Delhi.** The functions relating to human rights in the case of the union territory of Delhi are to be dealt with by the National Human Rights Commission.

### Q 58.C

- The composition of the NITI Aayog is as follows:
  - Chairperson: The Prime Minister of India
  - Governing Council: It comprises the Chief Ministers of all the States, Chief Ministers of Union Territories with Legislatures (i.e., Delhi, Puducherry, and Jammu and Kashmir), and Lt. Governors of other Union Territories.
  - **Regional Councils:** These are formed to address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one state or region. These are formed for a specified tenure. These are convened by the Prime Minister and comprised of the Chief Ministers of States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories in the region. **These are chaired by the Chairperson of the NITI Aayog or his nominee. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - Special Invitees: Experts, specialists, and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge as special invitees nominated by the Prime Minister.
- Full-time Organisational Framework: It comprises, in addition to the Prime Minister as the Chairperson:
  - **Vice-Chairperson:** He is appointed by the Prime Minister. Hence, statement 1 is correct. He enjoys the rank of a Cabinet Minister. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
  - Members: Full-time. They enjoy the rank of a Minister of State.
  - Part-time Members: Maximum of 2, from leading university research organizations and other relevant institutions in an ex-officio capacity. Part-time members would be on a rotation.
  - Ex-Officio Members: Maximum of 4 members of the Union Council of Ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
  - Chief Executive Officer: He is appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed tenure, in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.
  - Secretariat: As deemed necessary.

### Q 59.C

- The presidential system elects a head of government independently of the legislature, while in contrast, the head of government in a parliamentary system answers directly to the legislature.
- **Features:**
  - **Real head of the state:** in this system the head of the state is the real executive head. Hence statement 1 is correct.
  - **Separation of powers:** the presidential form of government is based on the principle of separation of power among the three organs of the government. **The executive is not responsible to legislature.** The executive cannot dissolve the legislature. And the judiciary is independent from executive and legislature.
  - **Principle of checks and balances:** All the three organs of the government are separated from each other but all are checking each other and restraining each other from any type of transgression of their power and functions.
  - **Political homogeneity not necessary:** it is not necessary that all cabinet should belong to same political party. In a presidential system, the president is the head of state and head of government.
- In this system the office of president is very powerful, both in theory and practice. **Countries with such a system include the United States, Brazil and most Latin American countries. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- In this system, president is usually elected directly by the people. It is based on the separation of powers and president is elected independently of the legislature. **Thus he is not accountable to the legislature. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

### Q 60.C

- **Recent Context:** The United Nations has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- **Millet** is a collective term referring to a number of **small-seeded annual grasses** that are cultivated as grain crops, primarily on marginal lands in dry areas in temperate, subtropical, and tropical regions. Some of the common millets available in India are Ragi (Finger millet), Jowar (Sorghum), Sama (Little millet), Bajra (Pearl millet), and Variga (Proso millet).
- **India is the largest producer of millet in the world** accounting for 20% of global production and 80% of Asia's production.
- In India, the **national average per-hectare yield** is roughly 1 tonne for jowar, 1.5 tonnes for bajra and 1.7 tonnes for ragi, as against 3.5 tonnes for wheat and 4 tonnes for paddy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Between **2003-04 and 2021-22**, India's millet output has **actually fallen from 21.32 million tonnes (mt) to 15.92 mt. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**



### Q 61.C

- **Recently BIS celebrated its 75th foundation day. On this occasion, various Initiatives were launched:**
  - **Standards National Action Plan (SNAP) 2022- 27:** SNAP to meet the emerging technologies and concerns of sustainability and climate change. It will play an important role in steering the national standardization efforts.
  - **Revised National Electrical Code of India 2023 or NEC 2023:** Prepared by BIS, it provides guidelines for regulating Electrical Installations practices across country. India's first NEC was formulated in 1985 (subsequently revised in 2011). Current revision includes latest International best practices and addition of special locations like Hospitals, Community facilities, Hotels, etc.
  - **Revision Exercise of National Building Code of India (NBC 2016):** BIS initiated exercise of Revision of NBC to include Sustainable city planning norms; New and sustainable building materials, etc.
  - **Standards Clubs in Schools:** Through Standards Clubs, BIS aims to expose science students of class 9th and above to the concepts of Quality and Standardization through student centric activities.
  - Training courses for national capacity building for judicious implementation of NBC 2016 and NEC 2023
- **BIS was established under the BIS Act 1986, assuming the functions of the erstwhile Indian Standards Institution (ISI) which was established in 1947. Presently BIS operates under the framework of the BIS Act of 2016. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - It is the national Standards Body of India working under the aegis of **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - BIS through its core activities of standardization and conformity assessment, has been benefiting the economy by providing safe and reliable and quality goods; minimizing health hazards to consumers; protecting the environment, promoting exports and imports substitute; controlling proliferation of varieties etc

### Q 62.A

- The various features or provisions of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Amendment Act, 2019 are as follows :
  - **It applied the provisions of the NIA Act also to persons who commit a scheduled offence beyond India** against Indian citizens or affect the interest of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - It provided that the officers of the NIA shall have similar powers, duties, privies and liabilities being exercised by the police officers in connection with the investigation of offences, not only in India but also outside India.
  - It empowered the central government, with respect to a scheduled offence committed outside India, to direct the NIA to register the case and take up an investigation as if such an offence has taken place in India.
  - It provided that the central government and the state governments may designate **Sessions Courts as Special Courts for conducting the trial of offences under the NIA Act. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - It inserted certain new offences in the Schedule of the NIA Act.
- The Act extends to the whole of India and it applies also
  - to citizens of India outside India;
  - to persons in the service of the Government wherever they may be;
  - to persons on ships and aircraft registered in India wherever they may be; and
  - to persons who commit a Scheduled Offence beyond India against an Indian citizen or affect the interest of India.

### Q 63.C

- Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. Usually, a federation has two levels of government. One is the government for the entire country that is usually responsible for a few subjects of common national interest.
  - The others are governments at the level of provinces or states that look after much of the day-to-day administering of their state. Both these levels of governments enjoy their power independent of the other.
- **Federal features of Indian constitution**
  - **Dual Polity**

- Constitution establishes a dual polity consisting the Union at the Centre and the states at the periphery. Each is endowed with sovereign powers to be exercised in the field assigned to them respectively by the Constitution. The Union government deals with the matters of national importance like defence, foreign affairs, currency, communication and so on. The state governments, on the other hand, look after the matters of regional and local importance like public order, agriculture, health, local government and so on.
- **Written Constitution**
  - It specifies the structure, organisation, powers and functions of both the Central and state governments and prescribes the limits within which they must operate. Thus, it avoids misunderstandings and disagreements between the two.
- **Division of Powers**
  - The Constitution divided the powers between the Centre and the states in terms of the Union List, State List and Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule.
- **Supremacy of the Constitution**
  - The Constitution is the supreme (or the highest) law of the land. The laws enacted by the Centre and the states must conform to its provisions.
- **Rigid Constitution**
  - The division of powers established by the Constitution as well as the supremacy of the Constitution can be maintained only if the method of its amendment is rigid. Hence, the Constitution is rigid to the extent that those provisions which are concerned with the federal structure.
- **Independent Judiciary**
  - The Constitution establishes an independent judiciary headed by the Supreme Court for two purposes: one, to protect the supremacy of the Constitution by exercising the power of judicial review; and two, to settle the disputes between the Centre and the states or between the states.
- **Bicameralism**
  - The Constitution provides for a bicameral legislature consisting of an Upper House (Rajya Sabha) and a Lower House (Lok Sabha). The Rajya Sabha represents the states of Indian Federation, while the Lok Sabha represents the people of India as a whole.
- **Integrated Judiciary is a unitary feature of the Indian constitution.**
  - The Indian Constitution has established an integrated judicial system with the Supreme Court at the top and the state high courts below it. This single system of courts enforces both the Central laws as well as the state laws. In US, on the other hand, there is a double system of courts whereby the federal laws are enforced by the federal judiciary and the state laws by the state judiciary.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 64.D

- First Past The Post System (FPTP) is a plurality voting method, a plurality meaning the largest part of the whole, in contrast to majority, which generally means more than half of the whole. Under FPTP the candidate with the highest number (but not necessarily a majority) of votes is elected.
- **Though the Constitution has adopted the system of proportional representation in the case of Rajya Sabha, it has not preferred the same system in the case of Lok Sabha. Instead, it has adopted the First-past-the-post system (territorial representation) for the election of members to the Lok Sabha. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Under this system, every member of the legislature represents a geographical area known as a constituency. From each constituency, only one representative is elected. Hence such a constituency is known as a single-member constituency. **In this system, a candidate who secures majority of votes is declared elected. There is no need to get 50 percent of the total votes to get elected. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - This simple majority system of representation does not represent the whole electorate. In other words, it does not secure due representation to minorities (small groups).
- The system of proportional representation aims at removing the defects of territorial representation. Under this system, all sections of the people get representation in proportion to their number. Even the smallest section of the population gets its due share of representation in the legislature.
  - There are two kinds of proportional representation, namely, single transferable vote system and list system. In India, the first kind is adopted for the election of members to the Rajya Sabha and state legislative council and for electing the President and the Vice-President.

**Q 65.D**

- Since 1950, the successive governments at the Centre and in the states have made several laws for implementing the Directive Principles such as:
- **the Payment of Bonus Act (1965),**
- **the Contract Labour Regulation and Abolition Act (1970),**
- **the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act (1986),**
- **the Bonded Labour System Abolition Act (1976), to protect the interests of the labour sections.**
- In 2006, the government banned child labour. In 2016, the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act (1986) was renamed the Child and Adolescent Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986.
- The Maternity Benefit Act (1961) and **the Equal Remuneration Act (1976) have been made to protect the interests of women workers.**
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

**Q 66.D**

- The NHRC is a multi-member body consisting of a chairperson and five members. The chairperson should be a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court and members should be a serving or retired judge of the Supreme Court, a serving or retired chief justice of a high court, and three persons (out of which at least one should be a woman) having knowledge or practical experience with respect to human rights.
- In addition to these full-time members, the commission also has seven ex-officio members—the chairpersons of
  - the National Commission for Minorities,
  - the National Commission for SCs,
  - the National Commission for STs,
  - the **National Commission for Women,**
  - the **National Commission for BCs** and
  - the **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights** and
  - the **Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.**
- **Hence, options 1, 3, 4 and 5 are correct.**

**Q 67.A**

- **Recent Context:** Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to procure VSHORAD (IR Homing) missile system.
- **Very Short-Range Air Defense System (VSHORADS) is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) designed and developed indigenously by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry Partners. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - It is meant to target **low-altitude aerial threats at short ranges.**
  - These are **lightweight and portable surface-to-air missiles. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - These can be fired by individuals or small groups to destroy aircraft or helicopters.
  - Propelled by a **dual-thrust solid motor**, it incorporates many novel technologies including a miniaturized Reaction Control System (RCS) and integrated avionics.

**Q 68.A**

- **102nd Amendment Act of 2018** conferred a constitutional status on the National Commission for Backward Classes. For this purpose, the amendment inserted a new **Article 338-B** in the constitution. Hence, the Commission ceased to be a statutory body and became a constitutional body. In other words, the **constitutional status of the new Commission is at par with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST). Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Commission **presents an annual report** to the **President**. It can also submit a report as and when it thinks necessary. The President places all such reports before the Parliament, along with a memorandum explaining the action taken on the recommendations made by the Commission. The memorandum should also contain the reasons for the non-acceptance of any of such recommendations. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 69.B

- An Emergency due to the failure of the constitutional machinery in the states (**Article 356**). This is popularly known as '**President's Rule**'. It is also known by two other names—'State Emergency' or 'constitutional Emergency'. However, the Constitution does not use the word 'emergency' for this situation.
- The **President** acquires the following **extraordinary powers when the President's Rule is imposed** in a state:
  - **He can take up the functions of the state government and powers vested in the governor or any other executive authority in the state. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - **He can declare that the powers of the state legislature are to be exercised by the Parliament. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - He can take all other necessary steps including the suspension of the constitutional provisions relating to anybody or authority in the state.
- It should be noted here that the **President cannot assume to himself the powers vested in the concerned state high court or suspend the provisions of the Constitution** relating to it. In other words, the constitutional position, status, powers, and functions of the concerned state high court remain the same even during the President's Rule. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 70.B

- **The Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) are bonds issued by any sovereign entity**, inter-governmental groups or alliances and corporates with the aim that proceeds of bonds are utilised for environmentally sustainable projects. **It will help in reducing the carbon intensity of the economy.**
- SGrBs were announced in Union Budget 2022-23 and framework for SGrBs was issued (by Ministry of Finance) in November 2022.
- **RBI will issue 5-year and 10-year green bonds of Rs 4,000 crore each in current financial year. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The only difference between Green Bonds and other ordinary government-issued bonds is that the funds raised from investors are only used to support initiatives that have a good influence on the environment, such as green construction and renewable energy. Primarily these aim to contribute to the planet and its sustainability.
- The government has tried to make them **attractive for institutional investors** by giving sops like **issuing them through a uniform price auction, making them eligible for Repo as also SLR purposes, and making them eligible for trading in the secondary market. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Even NRIs are allowed to invest in them.** The risk is further reduced in these bonds as per the framework announced earlier where the payments of principal and interest on these bonds are not conditional on the performance of the eligible projects and the investors in **these bonds do not bear any project-related risks. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Eligible projects under SGrBs framework include** projects of renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean transportation, climate change adaptation, sustainable water and waste management, pollution prevention and control, green buildings, and biodiversity conservation.

#### Q 71.D

- Under **Article 324 of the Constitution of India**, the Election Commission of India is vested with the power of superintendence, direction, and control of conducting the elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
- Though the constitution has sought to safeguard and ensure the independence and impartiality of the Election Commission, some flaws can be noted, viz.,
  - The Constitution has **not prescribed the qualifications (legal, educational, administrative or judicial)** of the members of the Election Commission. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - The Constitution has **not specified the term of the members of the Election Commission. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
    - Subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, the conditions of service and tenure of office of the Election Commissioners and the Regional Commissioners shall be such as the **President may by rule determine. Thus, the constitution has not determined the tenure of election commissioners.**
  - The Constitution has **not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the Government. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**



#### Q 72.D

- The Lokayukta is the **Indian Parliamentary Ombudsman**, executed into power, through and for, each of the State Governments of India. It is brought into effect in a state, after **passing the Lokayukta Act in the respective state Legislature** and a person of reputable background is nominated to the post. The post is created to quickly address grievances against the working integrity and efficiency of the government or its administration (public servants). Once appointed, **Lokayukta cannot be dismissed or transferred by the government, and can only be removed by passing an impeachment motion by the state assembly**, making it a powerful deterrent against corruption and maladministration of the governing system.
- Even much before the **enactment of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013)** itself, **many states had already set up the institution of Lokayuktas**. It must be noted here that the **institution of lokayukta was established first in Maharashtra in 1971**. Although Odisha had passed the Act in this regard in 1970, it came into force only in 1983. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The lokayukta and upalokayukta are **appointed by the governor of the state**. While appointing, the governor in **most of the states (varies from state to state)** consults
  - the chief justice of the state high court, and
  - the leader of the Opposition in the state legislative assembly.
  - the speaker of the legislative assembly (**optional**)
  - **In case the state has a legislative council**, the chairman of the legislative council and the leader of the opposition of the legislative council are also consulted
  - **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **recommendations made by the Lokayukta are only advisory and not binding on the state government. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

#### Q 73.C

- Every **state government** should establish a **District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)** for every district in the state.
- A DDMA consists of a chairperson and other members, not exceeding seven. **The Collector (or District Magistrate or Deputy Commissioner) of the district is the ex-officio chairperson of the DDMA. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **chief executive officer** of the DDMA, the superintendent of police, and the chief medical officer of the district are the ex-officio members of the DDMA. The chief executive officer of the DDMA is **appointed by the state government. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 74.B

- The constitution can be amended by a simple majority of the two Houses of Parliament outside the scope of Article 368.
- **These provisions include:**
  - 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 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.
- Those provisions of the Constitution which are related to the federal structure of the polity can be **amended by a special majority of the Parliament and also with the consent of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority. Like, Election of the President and its manner.**
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

### Q 75.B

- **It was in 1934 that the idea of a Constituent Assembly for India was put forward for the first time by M.N. Roy, a pioneer of communist movement in India.**
  - In 1935, the Indian National Congress (INC), for the first time, officially demanded a Constituent Assembly to frame the Constitution of India.
  - In 1938, Jawaharlal Nehru, on behalf the INC declared that ‘the Constitution of free India must be framed, without outside interference, by a Constituent Assembly elected on the basis of adult franchise’.
- The Constituent Assembly was constituted in November 1946 under the scheme formulated by the Cabinet Mission Plan. The features of the scheme were:
  - The total strength of the Constituent Assembly was to be 389. Of these, 296 seats were to be allotted to British India and 93 seats to the princely states.
  - Out of 296 seats allotted to British India, 292 members were to be drawn from the eleven governors’ provinces and four from the four Chief Commissioners’ provinces, one from each.
  - **Each province and princely state (or group of states in case of small states) were to be allotted seats in proportion to their respective population. Roughly, one seat was to be allotted for every million population. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - Seats allocated to each British province were to be divided among the three principal communities—Muslims, Sikhs and General (all except Muslims and Sikhs), in proportion to their population.
  - The representatives of each community were to be elected by members of that community in the provincial legislative assembly and voting was to be by the method of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote.
  - **The representatives of the princely states were to be nominated by the heads of the princely states. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **It is, thus, clear that the Constituent Assembly was to be a partly elected and partly nominated body.** Moreover, the members were to be indirectly elected by the members of the provincial assemblies, who themselves were elected on a limited franchise.
- **The elections to the Constituent Assembly (for 296 seats allotted to the British Indian Provinces) were held in July-August 1946.** The Indian National Congress won 208 seats, the Muslim League 73 seats and the small groups and independents got the remaining 15 seats. However, the 93 seats allotted to the princely states were not filled as they decided to stay away from the Constituent Assembly. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

### Q 76.B

- At present (2019), the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution specifies 22 languages (originally 14 languages). These are
- Assamese, Bengali, **Bodo**, Dogri (Dongri), Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Mathili (Maithili), Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, **Nepali**, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, **Santhali**, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and **Urdu**. Sindhi was added by the 21st Amendment Act of 1967; Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added by the 71st Amendment Act of 1992; and Bodo, Dongri, Maithili and Santhali were added by the 92nd Amendment Act of 2003.
- **English is not listed in eighth schedule.**
- In terms of the Constitution provisions, there are two objectives behind the specification of the above regional languages in the Eighth Schedule:
  - the members of these languages are to be given representation in the Official Language Commission; and
  - the forms, style and expression of these languages are to be used for the enrichment of the Hindi language
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

### Q 77.A

- Democracy is of two types—direct and indirect. In direct democracy, the people exercise their supreme power directly as is the case in Switzerland.
  - There are four devices of direct democracy, namely, Referendum, Initiative, Recall and Plebiscite.
- In indirect democracy, on the other hand, the representatives elected by the people exercise the supreme power and thus carry on the government and make the laws. This type of democracy, also known as representative democracy.
- **Referendum is a procedure whereby proposed legislation is referred to the electorate for settlement by their direct votes. Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**

- Initiative is a method by means of which the people can propose a bill to the legislature for enactment.
- **Recall is a method by means of which the voters can remove a representative or an officer before the expiry of his term**, when he fails to discharge his duties properly. **Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Plebiscite is a method of obtaining the opinion of people on any issue of public importance.** It is generally used to solve the territorial disputes. **Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

#### Q 78.A

- **Article 1 describes India, that is, Bharat as a ‘Union of States’ rather than a ‘Federation of States’.** This provision deals with two things: one, name of the country; and two, type of polity. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Secondly, the country is described as ‘Union’ although its Constitution is federal in structure. According to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the phrase ‘Union of States’ has been preferred to ‘Federation of States’ for two reasons: one, the Indian Federation is not the result of an agreement among the states like the American Federation; and two, the states have no right to secede from the federation.
- According to Article 1, the territory of India can be classified into three categories:
  1. Territories of the states
  2. Union territories
  3. Territories that may be acquired by the Government of India at any time.
- The **names of states and union territories** and their territorial extent are mentioned in the **first schedule of the Constitution.** At present, there are **28 states and 8 union territories.** Hence **statement 2 is correct and statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 79.A

- **Recently, Union Cabinet approved a 20,000 crore budget for National Green Hydrogen Mission.**
- **Grey hydrogen** is the most common form of hydrogen and is **generated from natural gas, or methane**, through a process called “**steam reforming**”. In this process, natural gas containing methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) can be used to produce hydrogen with thermal processes, such as steam-methane reformation and partial oxidation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Hydrogen can be produced from a range of resources including fossil fuels, nuclear energy, biomass, and renewable energy sources. Depending on production methods, hydrogen can be **grey, blue, or green** and sometimes **even pink, yellow or turquoise.** They’re **essentially color codes, used within the energy industry to differentiate between the types of hydrogen.** Depending on the type of production used, **different colors are assigned to the hydrogen.**
- **Hydrogen emits only water when burnt.** It derives the grey hydrogen name **because of the process of production** and not on basis of the by products after burning. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Green hydrogen** is the only type **produced in a climate-neutral manner**, meaning it could play a vital role in global efforts to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050.

#### Q 80.B

- The Government of India Act of 1919 was enacted and came into force in 1921. This Act is also known as Montagu- Chelmsford Reforms (Montagu was the Secretary of State for India and Lord Chelmsford was the Viceroy of India).
- **The features of this Act were as follows:**
  - **It relaxed central control over the provinces by demarcating and separating the central and provincial subjects.** The central and provincial legislatures were authorized to make laws on their respective list of subjects. However, the structure of government continued to be centralized and unitary.
  - **It further divided the provincial subjects into two parts– transferred and reserved.** The transferred subjects were to be administered by the Governor with the aid of Ministers responsible to the legislative council.
    - The reserved subjects, on the other hand, were to be administered by the Governor and his executive council without being responsible to the legislative council. This dual scheme of governance was known as ‘dyarchy’.
  - It required that the three of the six members of the Viceroy’s executive Council (other than the Commander-in-Chief) were to be Indian.
  - **It extended the principle of communal representation** by providing separate electorates for **Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans.**
  - It granted franchise to a limited number of people on the basis of property, tax or education.

- It created a new office of the High Commissioner for India in London and transferred to him some of the functions hitherto performed by the Secretary of State for India.
- It provided for the establishment of a public service commission. Hence, a Central Public Service Commission was set up in 1926 for recruiting civil servants.
- **It separated, for the first time, provincial budgets from the Central budget and authorized the provincial legislatures to enact their budgets.**
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 81.A

- **Centre has named its new integrated food security scheme for providing free foodgrains to Antodaya Ann Yojna (AAY) and Primary Household (PHH) beneficiaries under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It'll strengthen provisions of NFSA, 2013 in terms of accessibility, affordability, and availability of food grains for the poor. It will subsume two subsidy schemes of the Department of Food & Public Distribution
- **Food Subsidy to FCI:** It is in form of a consumer subsidy (Difference between Economic cost incurred by FCI and realized Central Issue Price) and a buffer subsidy (Cost of holding and maintaining buffer stock).
- **Food Subsidy for decentralized procurement** states dealing with procurement, allocation, and delivery of free foodgrains to states under NFSA.
- Earlier, a scheme with a similar name (PMGKAY) was implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Difference between the two schemes**
  - Earlier, NFSA beneficiaries were getting foodgrains entitlement (35 kg per AAY Household and 5 kg per person to PHH) at a subsidized rates (Rs 3/kg rice, Rs 2/kg wheat, and Rs 1/kg coarse grains).
  - **Now, the government has done away with subsidized prices and providing food grains free of cost for a year. However, an additional quantity of 5 kg of food grains will not be provided.**

#### Q 82.B

- The Constitution (**Article 165**) has provided for the office of the advocate general for the states. He is the **highest law officer in the state.**
- The **term of office of the advocate general is not fixed by the Constitution.** Further, the Constitution does not contain the procedure and grounds for his removal. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **He holds office at the pleasure of the governor.** This means that he may be removed by the governor at any time. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In the performance of his official duties, the advocate general is entitled to appear before any court of law within the state. Further, he has the right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the Houses of the state legislature or any committee of the state legislature of which he may be named a member, but without a right to vote. **He enjoys all the privileges and immunities that are available to a member of the state legislature. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

#### Q 83.A

- **Recent Context: FSSAI Survey stated that 15% of dietary supplements were found to be unsafe for consumption.**
  - unsupervised consumption of dietary supplements, warning poor-quality products can affect cardiovascular health and kidneys.
- **FSSAI is under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
- It is an autonomous statutory body established under Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006.
- FSSA 2006 consolidates various acts & orders that had earlier handled food related issues in various Ministries.
- It regulates and monitor, manufacture, processing, distribution of food while ensuring safe and wholesome food to consumers.
- Headquarters - Delhi

#### Q 84.B

- **In the Waman Rao case (1981), the Supreme Court adhered to the doctrine of the 'basic structure' and further clarified that it would apply to constitutional amendments enacted after April 24, 1973. Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
- The court in Waman Rao vs Union of India ultimately ruled that the First Constitutional Amendment Act of 1951, that introduced Articles 31A, 31B, as well as the Twenty-Fifth Amendment Act that introduced



Article 31C were constitutional, and did not damage any basic or essential features or the basic structure of the Constitution.

- **S.R. Bommai Case (1994):**
  - The verdict concluded that the power of the President to dismiss a State government is not absolute. The verdict said the President should exercise the power only after his proclamation (imposing his/her rule) is approved by both Houses of Parliament. Till then, the Court said, the President can only suspend the Legislative Assembly by suspending the provisions of Constitution relating to the Legislative Assembly.
- **Kuldip Nayar Case (2006):**
  - The case of Kuldip Nayar v. Union of India (2006) deals with the amendments to the Representation of People's Act, 1951 where, initially it required for the electors to have a "domicile" in the State concerned for getting elected to the Council of States, which was subsequently deleted by the said amendment in 2003.
- **Indira Gandhi Nehru Case (1975):**
  - The doctrine of basic structure of the constitution was reaffirmed and applied by the Supreme Court in the Indira Nehru Gandhi case (1975). In this case, the Supreme Court invalidated a provision of the 39th Amendment Act (1975) which kept the election disputes involving the Prime Minister and the Speaker of Lok Sabha outside the jurisdiction of all courts.

#### Q 85.D

- **Collective responsibility** is the convention under which individual members of government are held accountable for the acts and decisions of the government as a whole.
- Under the Constitution of India, **Article 75(3)** deals with Collective Responsibility at the Centre (The Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People), while **Article 164(3)** deals with state governments. **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are not correct.**
- **Recently, Supreme Court stated**, "a statement made by a minister, even if traceable to any affairs of the state or for protecting the government, cannot be attributed vicariously to the government by invoking the principle of collective responsibility". In other words, the flow of stream in **collective responsibility is from the Council of Ministers to the individual Ministers and not vice versa.**

#### Q 86.B

- Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. Usually, a federation has two levels of government. One is the government for the entire country that is usually responsible for a few subjects of common national interest.
  - The others are governments at the level of provinces or states that look after much of the day-to-day administering of their state. Both these levels of governments enjoy their power independent of the other.
- **Features of federalism**
  - There are two or more levels (or tiers) of government.
  - Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
  - The jurisdictions of the respective levels or tiers of government are specified in the constitution. So the existence and authority of each tier of government is constitutionally guaranteed.
  - The fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government. Such changes require the consent of both levels of government.
  - Courts have the power to interpret the constitution and the powers of different levels of government. The highest court acts as an umpire if disputes arise between different levels of government in the exercise of their respective power.
  - Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.



- Hence option (b) is the correct answer.

#### Q 87.A

- Among all the committees of the Constituent Assembly, **the most important committee was the Drafting Committee set up on August 29, 1947**. It was this committee that was entrusted with the task of preparing a draft of the new Constitution. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It consisted of seven members. They were
  - **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (Chairman)**. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
  - N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar
  - Alladi Krishnaswamy Ayyar
  - Dr. K.M. Munshi
  - Syed Mohammad Saadullah
  - N. Madhava Rau
  - T.T. Krishnamachari
- The Drafting Committee, after taking into consideration the proposals of the various committees, prepared the first draft of the Constitution of India, which was published in February, 1948. The people of India were given eight months to discuss the draft and propose amendments.

#### Q 88.C

- **Recent Context:** The union government has informed that **cadastral maps** of 35% of over six lakh villages in the country have so far been **geo-referenced under the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)**.
  - **Cadastral Maps are a digital form of land records that show all boundaries of different parts of land pieces based on their length, area, and direction.**
- **DILRMP is implemented by the Department of Land Resources under the Ministry of Rural Development.** It is a **Central Sector scheme** that has been extended to 2023-24, to complete its original targets as well as expand its ambit with a slew of new schemes. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - Its three major components: **Computerization of land record**, Survey/re-survey, Computerization of Registration. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 89.B

- The **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government. It was established in **1964** by an executive resolution of the Central government. Its establishment was recommended by the **Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–64)**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The CVC is a **multi-member body** consisting of a **Central Vigilance Commissioner (chairperson)** and **not more than two vigilance commissioners**. They are appointed by the president by warrant under his hand and seal on the recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of the prime minister as its head, the Union minister of home affairs, and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. They hold office for a term of four years or until they attain the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier. After

their tenure, they are **not eligible for further employment under the Central or state government. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The salary, allowances, and other conditions of service of the **Central Vigilance Commissioner** are similar to those of the **Chairman of UPSC** and that of the vigilance commissioner are similar to those of a member of UPSC. But they cannot be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 90.C

- **The Constitution (One Hundred And First Amendment) Act, 2016** passed on the 8th of September, 2016. Since then the GST council has been notified bringing into existence the Constitutional body to decide issues relating to GST, inserted a new **Article 279-A** in the Constitution. This Article empowered the President to constitute a GST Council by order. Accordingly, the President issued the order in 2016 and constituted the Council. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- As per Article 279A of the amended Constitution, the GST Council which will be a joint forum of the Centre and the States shall consist of the following members: -
  - Union Finance Minister - Chairperson
  - The Union Minister of State, in charge of Revenue or finance - Member
  - The Minister In-charge of finance or taxation or any other Minister nominated by each State Government - Members
- As per Article 279A (4), the Council will make recommendations to the Union and the States on important issues related to GST, like the goods and services that may be subjected or exempted from GST, model GST Laws, principles that govern Place of Supply, threshold limits, GST rates including the floor rates with bands, special rates for raising additional resources during natural calamities/disasters, special provisions for certain States, etc.
- The Secretariat of the Council is located in New Delhi. The **Union Revenue Secretary** acts as the **ex-officio Secretary** to the Council. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 91.C

- **The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** has been constituted by the Government of India, under the **Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005** to exercise and perform the powers and functions assigned to it under CPCR Act, 2005. **The Commission works under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The commission consists of the following members namely: A chairperson who, is a person of eminence and has done outstanding work for promoting the welfare of children; and Six members, out of which at least two are women are appointed by the Central Government.
- The Functions of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights as laid out in the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 are as follows:
  - Examine and review the safeguards provided by or under any law for the time being in force for the protection of child rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation;
  - **Inquire into complaints and take suo-motu notice of matters relating to:**
    - **Deprivation and violation of child rights; Hence statement 2 is correct.**
    - Non-implementation of laws providing for the protection and development of children;
    - Non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardships to and ensuring the welfare of the children and provide relief to such children;
  - Inspect or cause to be inspected any juveniles custodial home, or any other place of residence or institution meant for children, under the control of the Central Government or any State Government or any other authority, including any institution run by a social organization.
  - Spread child rights literacy among various sections of society and promote awareness of the safeguards available for protection of these rights through publications, the media, seminar and other available means;
- **Hence, both statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

#### Q 92.C

- The Central Information Commission is a statutory body, set up under the Right to Information Act in 2005 under the Government of India to act upon complaints from those individuals who have not been able to submit information requests to a Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer due to either the officer not have been appointed, or because the respective Central Assistant

Public Information Officer or State Assistant Public Information Officer refused to receive the application for information under the Right to Information Act. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

- However, the newly amended act, **Right to Information Act (Amendment), 2019** empowers the Central Government to prescribe the term of office for the commissioners as it may deem fit to the government. Before this amendment, their term was fixed for 5 years.
- **The 2019 Amendment Act also states that the salary, allowances and other service conditions of the Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner (of Centre as well as States) shall be such as prescribed by the Central Government.** Before this amendment, the salary, allowances and other service conditions of the Chief Information Commissioner were similar to those of the Chief Election Commissioner and that of an Information Commissioner were similar to those of an Election Commissioner (State Election Commissioners in case of States).
- The Commission consists of a **Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners.** The Commission, when constituted initially, had five commissioners including the Chief Information Commissioner. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The President can remove the Chief Information Commissioner or any Information Commissioner from office under the following circumstances:
  - if he is adjudged insolvent; or
  - if he has been convicted of an offence which (in the opinion of the President) involves moral turpitude; or
  - if he engages during his term of office in any paid employment outside the duties of his office; or
  - if he is (in the opinion of the President) unfit to continue in office due to infirmity of mind or body; or
  - if he has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his official functions.
- In addition to these, the President can also remove the Chief Information Commissioner or any Information Commissioner on the **ground of proven misbehaviour or incapacity.** However, in these cases, the President has to **refer the matter to the Supreme Court for an enquiry.** If the Supreme Court, after the enquiry, upholds the cause of removal and advises so, then the President can remove him.
- The **Commission submits an annual report to the Central Government** on the implementation of the provisions of this Act. The Central Government places this report before each House of Parliament.

#### Q 93.C

- Provisions under DPSP with relevant constitutional articles:
- **To promote cottage industries on an individual or cooperation basis in rural areas (Article 43)**
- To prohibit the consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs which are injurious to health (Article 47).
- **To prohibit the slaughter of cows, calves, and other milch and draught cattle and to improve their breeds (Article 48).**
- To organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines (Article 48).
- **To protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wildlife (Article 48 A).**
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 94.B

- The American Constitution was the first, to begin with, a Preamble. Many countries, including India, followed this practice. 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.
- **Originally (1949), the Constitution contained a Preamble, 395 Articles (divided into 22 Parts) and 8 Schedules. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Preamble reveals four ingredients or components:
  - Source of the authority of the Constitution: The Preamble states that the Constitution derives its authority from the people of India.
  - Nature of Indian State: It declares India to be of a sovereign, socialist, secular democratic, and republican polity.
  - **Objectives of the Constitution: It specifies justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity as the objectives. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - Date of adoption of the Constitution: It stipulates November 26, 1949, as the date.
- In the Berubari Union case (1960), the Supreme Court said that the Preamble shows the general purposes behind the several provisions in the Constitution and is thus a key to the minds of the makers of the



Constitution. Further, where the terms used in any article are ambiguous or capable of more than one meaning, some assistance at interpretation may be taken from the objectives enshrined in the Preamble. **Despite this recognition of the significance of the Preamble, the Supreme Court specifically opined that Preamble is not a part of the Constitution. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

- **The above opinion was reversed in the Keshavananda Bharati case in 1973;** Supreme Court held that Preamble is part of the constitution. This opinion was further clarified by the Supreme Court **in the LIC of India case (1995).**

#### Q 95.D

- **Recent Context:** Votive stupas (offered in fulfillment of a vow) were discovered by the Archeological Survey of India near Sarai Tila mound within the premises of **Nalanda Mahavihara** in Bihar.
- Stupa, Sanskrit for heap, is a mound-like (hemispherical) burial structure containing relics of Buddhist monks. E.g. Sanchi Stupa built over Buddha relics.
- **About Nalanda Mahavihara**
  - **It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution from the 3rd century BCE to 13th century CE. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - Gautam Buddha as well as Mahavira stayed at Nalanda.
  - Other famous scholars at Nalanda Nagarjuna, Dharmapala, Dinnaga, Jinamitra Santaraksita etc.
  - **Imminent pilgrim monks like Hiuen Tsang and I-tsing also visited. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - **It prospered under Gupta Dynasty, Harsha of Kannauj and Pala Dynasty. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - It includes stupas, shrines, viharas (residential and educational buildings) and important art works in stucco, stone and metal.

#### Q 96.D

- The Verma Committee on Fundamental Duties of the Citizens (1999) identified the existence of legal provisions for the implementation of some of the Fundamental Duties. They are mentioned below:
  - **The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act (1971) prevents disrespect to the Constitution of India, the National Flag and the National Anthem.**
  - The various criminal laws in force provide punishments for encouraging enmity between different sections of people on grounds of language, race, place of birth, religion and so on.
  - **The Protection of Civil Rights Act (1955) provides for punishments for offences related to caste and religion.**
  - The Indian Penal Code (IPC) declares the imputations and assertions prejudicial to national integration as punishable offences.
  - **The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 1967 provides for the declaration of a communal organisation as an unlawful association.**
  - **The Representation of People Act (1951) provides for the disqualification of members of the Parliament or a state legislature for indulging in corrupt practice, that is, soliciting votes on the ground of religion or promoting enmity between different sections of people on grounds of caste, race, language, religion and so on.**
  - **The Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972 prohibits trade in rare and endangered species.**
  - The Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980 checks indiscriminate deforestation and diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 97.A

- **Article 324** of the Constitution has made the following provisions with regard to the composition of the election commission:
  - The Election Commission shall consist of the chief election commissioner and a number of other election commissioners, if any, as the president may from time to time fix.
  - **The appointment of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners shall be made by the president. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - When any other election commissioner is so appointed, the chief election commissioner shall act as the chairman of the election commission.
  - The president may also appoint after consultation with the election commission such regional commissioners as he may consider necessary to assist the election commission.
  - The conditions of service and tenure of office of the election commissioners and the regional commissioners shall be determined by the president.

- The chief election commissioner and the two other election commissioners have **equal powers and receive equal salaries, allowances, and other perquisites**, which are similar to those of a **judge of the Supreme Court. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The chief election commissioner is provided with the **security of tenure. He cannot be removed** from his office except in the **same manner and on the same grounds** as a **judge of the Supreme Court.** In other words, he can be removed by the president on the basis of a resolution passed to that effect by both Houses of Parliament with a special majority, either on the ground of **proven misbehavior or incapacity.**
- Thus, he **does not hold his office till the pleasure of the president**, though he is appointed by him. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 98.D

- **Centre has recently cleared Rs. 2600 crore incentive scheme to promote RUPAY, BHIM-UPI.**
- The scheme aims to promote RuPay Debit Cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions (person-to-merchant) in FY 2022-23.
- **Features of scheme:**
  - Banks would be provided financial incentives for promoting Point of Sale (PoS) and e-commerce transactions using RuPay and UPI.
  - Promote **UPI Lite and UPI 123PAY** as economical and user-friendly digital payment solutions.
- **UPI Lite is an 'on-device wallet' feature by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to allow users to make small-value payments (upto ₹200) offline. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **UPI 123PAY** is an instant payment system for feature phone (non-smartphone) users.
- In addition, **NPCI has allowed Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) with NRE (non-resident external) or NRO (non-resident ordinary) accounts in 10 countries to use the UPI platform from their international mobile numbers. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- Member banks have to ensure such types of accounts are only allowed as per extant Foreign Exchange Management Act regulations and RBI rules.
- 10 countries are Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hongkong, Oman, Qatar, USA, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and United Kingdom. UPI works on the principle of SIM binding for security purposes and till now, it was enabled only for Indian mobile numbers.

#### Q 99.D

- Directive Principles, although confer no legal rights and create no legal remedies, are significant and useful in the following ways:
  - **They are like an 'Instrument of Instructions' or general recommendations addressed to all authorities in the Indian Union.** They remind them of the basic principles of the new social and economic order, which the Constitution aims at building.
  - They have served as useful beacon lights to the courts. They have helped the courts in exercising their power of judicial review, that is, the power to determine the constitutional validity of a law.
  - They form the dominating background to all State action, legislative or executive, and also a guide to the courts in some respects.
  - They amplify the Preamble, which solemnly resolves to secure to all citizens of India justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.
- The Directives also play the following roles:
  - **They facilitate stability and continuity in domestic and foreign policies in political, economic, and social spheres in spite of the changes in the party in power.**
  - They are supplementary to the fundamental rights of the citizens. They are intended to fill in the vacuum in Part III by providing for social and economic rights.
  - Their implementation creates a favourable atmosphere for the full and proper enjoyment of the fundamental rights by the citizens. Political democracy, without economic democracy, has no meaning.
  - They enable the opposition to exercise influence and control over the operations of the government. The Opposition can blame the ruling party on the ground that its activities are opposed to the Directives.
  - They serve as a crucial test for the performance of the government. The people can examine the policies and programmes of the government in light of these constitutional declarations.
  - **They serve as a common political manifesto.** 'A ruling party, irrespective of its political ideology, has to recognize the fact that these principles are intended to be its guide, philosopher and friend in its legislative and executive acts'
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

**Q 100.D**

- 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.**
- The provisions under Directive Principles derived their inspiration from many other sources such as
  - **‘Instrument of Instructions’ enumerated in the Government of India Act of 1935.**
  - **Gandhian ideology, was inspired from the program of reconstruction enunciated by Gandhi during the national movement.**
  - **Noble ideals inspired the national struggle for freedom.**
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

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