

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

GENERAL STUDIES (P) TEST – 4127 (2024)

Q 1.B

- Unlike the American Constitution, the Indian Constitution has established an integrated judicial system with the Supreme Court at the top and the high courts below it. Under a high court (and below the state level), there is a hierarchy of subordinate courts: district courts and other lower courts.
- **This single system of courts, adopted from the Government of India Act of 1935, enforces both central and state laws.**
- In the USA, on the other hand, federal laws are enforced by the federal judiciary and state laws are enforced by the state judiciary. There is thus a double system of courts in the USA—one for the centre and the other for the states.
- To sum up, although a federal country like the USA, India has a unified judiciary and one system of fundamental law and justice.
- **The Supreme Court of India was inaugurated on January 28, 1950, and the date of the commencement of the Indian Constitution is 26 January 1950. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **It succeeded the Federal Court of India, established under the Government of India Act of 1935. However, the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is greater than that of its predecessor. This is because the Supreme Court has replaced the British Privy Council as the highest court of appeal. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Articles 124 to 147 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the organisation, independence, jurisdiction, powers, procedures and so on of the Supreme Court. The Parliament is also authorised to regulate them.

Q 2.B

- The President is an integral part of the Parliament of India, and **enjoys the following legislative powers.**
 - **He nominates 12 members of the Rajya Sabha from amongst persons having special knowledge or practical experience in literature, science, art and social service. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - Earlier, he could nominate two members to the Lok Sabha from the Anglo- Indian Community. **But, the Constitutional (104th Amendment) Act, 2019 effectively abolished the practice of the President of India (Governor in the states) nominating two members of the Anglo-Indian Community (one in the state) on the recommendation of the Prime Minister of India (CM in states).**
 - **He lays the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General, Union Public Service Commission, Finance Commission, and others, before the Parliament. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - He can summon or prorogue the Parliament and dissolve the Lok Sabha. He can also summon a joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament, which is presided over by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
 - He can address the Parliament at the commencement of the first session after each general election and the first session of each year
 - He can send messages to the Houses of Parliament, whether with respect to a bill pending in the Parliament or otherwise.

Q 3.C

- While disease outbreaks and other acute public health risks are often unpredictable and require a range of responses, the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) provide an overarching legal framework that defines countries' rights and obligations in handling public health events and emergencies that have the potential to cross borders.
- **The IHR are an instrument of international law that is legally binding on 196 countries, including the 194 WHO Member States. Hence statement 2 is correct.**

- **The International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 is an agreement of countries to build the capability to detect and report potential public health emergencies worldwide.** IHR require that all countries have the ability to detect, assess, report, and respond to public health events. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- They create rights and obligations for countries, including the requirement to report public health events. The Regulations also outline the criteria to determine whether or not a particular event constitutes a “public health emergency of international concern”.

Q 4.B

- **The Constitution does not specify the size of the state council of ministers or the ranking of ministers. They are determined by the chief minister according to the exigencies of the time and requirements of the situation.**
- However, the **91st Amendment to the Constitution (2003) inserted a new article to Article 164 i.e. Article 164(1A)** which states that the total number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a State shall not exceed fifteen percent of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly of that State; **provided that the number of Ministers, including Chief Minister in a State, shall not be less than twelve. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Like at the Centre, in the states too, the council of ministers consists of **three categories of ministers, namely, cabinet ministers, ministers of state, and deputy ministers.** The difference between them lies in their respective ranks, emoluments, and political importance. At the top of all these ministers stands the chief minister—the supreme governing authority in the state.
- **The cabinet ministers** head the important departments of the state government like home, education, finance, agriculture, and so forth. They are members of the cabinet, attend its meetings and play an important role in deciding policies. Thus, their responsibilities extend over the entire gamut of state government.
- **The ministers of state** can either be given independent charge of departments or can be attached to cabinet ministers. However, they are not members of the cabinet and do not attend the cabinet meetings unless specially invited when something related to their departments is considered by the cabinet.
- **Next in rank are the deputy ministers.** They are not given independent charge of departments. They are attached to the cabinet ministers and assist them in their administrative, political and parliamentary duties. They are not members of the cabinet and do not attend cabinet meetings.
- **At times, the council of ministers may also include a deputy chief minister. The deputy chief ministers are appointed mostly for local political reasons.**
- **The advice tendered by Ministers to the President shall not be inquired into in any court. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Q 5.C

- Recently, the Centre for Science and Environment and National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Tanzania have jointly released a report on managing the water quality of Lake Victoria.
- Lake Victoria, also called Victoria Nyanza, largest lake in Africa and the chief reservoir of the Nile. It is the second-largest freshwater lake in the world after lake Superior. Lake Victoria has been suffering from a variety of unsustainable human activities over the last five decades.
- Lake Victoria and its flora and fauna support the livelihoods of about 45 million people. **The ecologically unique water body is shared by three countries — Tanzania (51 per cent), Uganda (44 per cent) and Kenya (5 per cent). Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 6.A

- The term Panchayati Raj in India signifies the system of rural local self-government. It has been established in all the states of India by the Acts of the state legislatures to build democracy at the grass root level. It is entrusted with rural development. It was constitutionalized through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992. **This act has added a new Part-IX to the Constitution of India. This part is entitled ‘The Panchayats’ and consists of provisions from Articles 243 to 243 O. In addition, the act has also added a new Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution. Hence option 1 is correct.**
- **Article 40 of the constitution under Directive Principles of State Policy (part IV) states that the State shall take steps to organize village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government. Hence option 4 is correct.**
- **Under Article 280, the Finance Commission is entrusted with the duty to give recommendations on the measures needed to augment the consolidated fund of a state to supplement the resources of the**

panchayats and the municipalities in the state on the basis of the recommendations made by the state finance commission. Hence option 5 is correct.

- Under Article 324, the Election Commission of India has the responsibility of the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President and Vice President. **For elections of the Panchayati Raj institutions, a separate State Election Commission has to be set up. Hence option 3 is not correct.**
- The Fundamental Rights are enshrined in Part III of the Constitution (Articles 12-35). They have no express provisions regarding the Panchayati Raj institutions. **Hence, option 2 is not correct.**

Q 7.B

- According to the directions of the Supreme Court, the Election Commission made provision in the ballot papers/EVMs for the None of the Above (NOTA) option so that the voters who come to the polling booth and decide not to vote for any of the candidates in the fray, are able to exercise their right not to vote for such candidates while maintaining the secrecy of their ballot. The provision for NOTA has been made since the General Election to State Legislative Assemblies of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, NCT of Delhi and Rajasthan in 2013 and continued in the General Election to State Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim in 2014 along with the General Elections to the Sixteenth Lok Sabha (2014).
- **The votes polled against the NOTA option are not taken into account for calculating the total valid voters polled by the contesting candidates for the purpose of the return of security deposits to candidates. Even if the number of electors opting for NOTA options is more than the number of votes polled by any of the candidates, the candidate who secures the largest number of votes has to be declared elected. Hence, statement 1 is not correct and statement 2 is correct.**
- In 2001, the ECI sent a proposal to the Government to amend the law so as to provide for a neutral vote provision for the electors who did not wish to vote for any of the candidates. In 2004, PUCL (People's Union for Civil Liberties) filed a petition seeking a direction to provide the necessary provision in ballot papers and EVMs for the protection of the right to not vote for any candidate, secretly. The Supreme Court in 2013 held that the ECI may provide for the None of the Above (NOTA) option on EVMs and ballot papers.

Q 8.B

- **Under the Constitution**, a person shall be **disqualified** for being elected as a member of Parliament:
 - if he holds any office of profit under the Union or state government (except that of a minister or any other office exempted by Parliament). **Hence option 1 is correct.**
 - **if he is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a court.**
 - **if he is an undischarged insolvent. Hence option 2 is correct.**
 - if he is not a citizen of India or has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign state or is under any acknowledgement of allegiance to a foreign state; and
 - if he is so disqualified under any law made by Parliament.
- The **Parliament** has laid down the following **additional disqualifications** in the **Representation of People Act (1951)**:
 - He must not have been found guilty of certain election offences or corrupt practices in the elections.
 - He must not have been convicted for any offence resulting in imprisonment for two or more years. But, the detention of a person under a preventive detention law is not a disqualification.
 - He must not have failed to lodge an account of his election expenses within the time.
 - He must not have any interest in government contracts, works or services.
 - He must not be a director or managing agent nor hold an office of profit in a corporation in which the government has at least 25 per cent share.
 - He must not have been dismissed from government service for corruption or disloyalty to the State.
 - He must not have been convicted for promoting enmity between different groups or for the offence of bribery.
 - **He must not have been punished for preaching and practising social crimes such as untouchability, dowry and Sati. Hence, option 3 is not correct.**

Q 9.B

- **Speaker of the Assembly**
 - The Assembly elects the Speaker from amongst its members. Usually, the Speaker remains in office during the life of the Assembly. However, he vacates his office earlier in the following cases:

- If he ceases to be a member of the Assembly.
- If he resigns by writing to the Deputy Speaker. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- **If he is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the assembly. Such a resolution can only be moved after giving 14 days advance notice. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The powers of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly are similar to those of the Lok Sabha.
- **The speaker after the election does not resign from party membership but he refrains from active politics. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Powers and Function:**
 - The important function of the speakers is to preside over the sessions of the Legislative assembly and to maintain order and discipline within the house.
 - The Speaker does not take part in the debate and usually does not vote except to break a tie.
 - When the assembly meets the speaker calls House to order to maintain discipline in the house.
 - He may adjourn the session or sitting of the House.
 - He may suspend or expel members of the House for unruly behavior.
 - Within the House, the Speaker is the master who decides whether a bill is a money bill or not. The Speaker's decision cannot be challenged in the Court of Law. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha presides over the joint sessions of the Parliament. **The constitution does not provide for joint sessions of the State Legislatures even where the State Legislatures are bicameral.**
- **Deputy Speaker of Assembly**
 - The Deputy Speaker is also directly elected by the Assembly from amongst its members. He is elected after the election of the Speaker has taken place. Usually, he remains in office during the
 - life of the Assembly. However, he vacates his office earlier in the following cases:
 - If he ceases to be a member of the Assembly.
 - If he resigns by writing to the Speaker.
 - If he is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the assembly. Such a resolution can only be moved after giving 14 days advance notice.

Q 10.C

- **Privileges of the state legislature (Article:194)**
 - Privileges of a state legislature are a sum of special rights, immunities, and exemptions **enjoyed by the Houses of the state legislature, their committees, and their members.** They are necessary in order to secure the independence and effectiveness of their actions. Without these privileges, the Houses can neither maintain their authority, dignity, and honor nor can protect their members from any obstruction in the discharge of their legislative responsibilities.
 - The Constitution has also extended the privileges of the state legislature to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a House of the state legislature or any of its committees. **These include the advocate-general of the state and state ministers.**
 - It must be clarified here that the **privileges of the state legislature do not extend to the governor** who is also an integral part of the state legislature. **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**
 - The privileges of a state legislature can be classified into two broad categories—those that are enjoyed by each House of the state legislature collectively, and those that are enjoyed by the members individually.
 - **Collective Privileges:** The privileges belonging to each House of the state legislature collectively are:
 - It has the right to publish its reports, debates, and proceedings and also the right to prohibit others from publishing the same.
 - It can exclude strangers from its proceedings and hold secret sittings to discuss some important matters.
 - It can make rules to regulate its own procedure and the conduct of its business and to adjudicate upon such matters.
 - It can punish members as well as outsiders for breach of its privileges or its contempt by reprimand, admonition, or imprisonment (also suspension or expulsion, in the case of members).
 - It has the right to receive immediate information on the arrest, detention, conviction, imprisonment, and release of a member.
 - It can institute inquiries and order the attendance of witnesses and send relevant papers and records.
 - The courts are prohibited to inquire into the proceedings of a House or its Committees.
 - No person (either a member or outsider) can be arrested, and no legal process (civil or criminal) can be served within the precincts of the House without the permission of the presiding officer.

- **Individual Privileges:** The privileges belonging to the members individually are:
 - They cannot be arrested during the session of the state legislature and 40 days before the beginning and 40 days after the end of such session. This privilege is available only in civil cases and not in criminal cases or preventive detention cases.
 - They have freedom of speech in the state legislature. No member is liable to any proceedings in any court for anything said or any vote given by him in the state legislature or its committees. This freedom is subject to the provisions of the Constitution and to the rules and standing orders regulating the procedure of the state legislature.
 - They are exempted from jury service. They can refuse to give evidence and appear as a witness in a case pending in a court when the state legislature is in session.

Q 11.D

- **JURISDICTION AND POWERS OF THE SUPREME COURT**
- The Constitution has conferred very extensive jurisdiction and vast powers on the Supreme Court.
- It is not only a Federal Court like the American Supreme Court but also a final court of appeal like the British House of Lords (the Upper House of the British Parliament).
- It is also the final interpreter and guardian of the Constitution and guarantor of the fundamental rights of the citizens. Further, it has advisory and supervisory powers.
- **The jurisdiction and powers of the Supreme Court can be classified into the following:**
- **Appellate Jurisdiction**
 - As mentioned earlier, the Supreme Court has not only succeeded the Federal Court of India but also replaced the British Privy Council as the highest court of appeal.
 - The Supreme Court is primarily a court of appeal and hears appeals against the judgements of the lower courts. It enjoys a wide appellate jurisdiction which can be classified under four heads:
 - Appeals in constitutional matters.
 - Appeals in civil matters.
 - Appeals in criminal matters.
 - ✓ The Supreme Court hears appeals against the judgement in a criminal proceeding of a high court if the high court
 - ❖ has on appeal reversed an order of acquittal of an accused person and sentenced him to death; or
 - ❖ has taken before itself any case from any subordinate court and convicted the accused person and sentenced him to death; or
 - ❖ **certifies that the case is a fit for appeal to the Supreme Court.**
 - ✓ **In the first two cases, an appeal lies to the Supreme Court as a matter of right (ie, without any certificate of the high court).**
 - ✓ But if the high court has reversed the order of conviction and has ordered the acquittal of the accused, there is no right to appeal to the Supreme Court.
 - **Appeals by special leave.**
 - ✓ **The Supreme Court is authorised to grant in its discretion special leave to appeal from any judgement in any matter passed by any court or tribunal in the country (except military tribunal and court-martial). Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ✓ This provision contains four aspects as under:
 - ❖ It is a discretionary power and hence, cannot be claimed as a matter of right.
 - ❖ It can be granted in any judgement whether final or interlocutory.
 - ❖ It may be related to any matter—constitutional, civil, criminal, income-tax, labour, revenue, advocates, etc.
 - ❖ It can be granted against any court or tribunal and not necessarily against a high court (of course, except a military court).
 - ✓ Thus, the scope of this provision is very wide and it vests the Supreme Court with a plenary jurisdiction to hear appeals.
 - ✓ On the exercise of this power, the Supreme Court itself held that ‘being an exceptional and overriding power, it has to be exercised sparingly and with caution and only in special extraordinary situations. Beyond that, it is not possible to fetter the exercise of this power by any set formula or rule.
- **Advisory Jurisdiction**
 - The Constitution (Article 143) authorises the president to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court in two categories of matters:
 - **On any question of law or fact of public importance which has arisen or which is likely to arise.**

- On any dispute arising out of any pre-constitution treaty, agreement, covenant, engagement, sanad or other similar instruments.
- **In the first case, the Supreme Court may tender or may refuse to tender its opinion to the president. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- But, in the second case, the Supreme Court ‘must’ tender its opinion to the president. In both cases, the opinion expressed by the Supreme Court is only advisory and not a judicial pronouncement. Hence, it is not binding on the president; he may follow or may not follow the opinion. However, it facilitates the government to have an authoritative legal opinion on a matter to be punished for contempt not only of itself but also of high courts, subordinate courts and tribunals functioning in the entire country.
- **Power of Judicial Review**
 - Judicial review is the power of the Supreme Court to examine the constitutionality of legislative enactments and executive orders of both the Central and state governments. On examination, if they are found to be violative of the Constitution (ultra-vires), they can be declared illegal, unconstitutional and invalid (null and void) by the Supreme Court. Consequently, they cannot be enforced by the Government.
- **Constitutional Interpretation**
 - The Supreme Court is the ultimate interpreter of the Constitution. It can give the final version of the spirit and content of the provisions of the constitution and the verbiage used in the constitution.
 - While interpreting the constitution, the Supreme Court is guided by a number of doctrines.
- **Other Powers**
 - Besides the above, the Supreme Court has numerous other powers:
 - It decides the disputes regarding the election of the president and the vice president. In this regard, it has the original, exclusive and final authority.
 - It enquires into the conduct and behaviour of the chairman and members of the Union Public Service Commission on a reference made by the president. If it finds them guilty of misbehaviour, it can recommend to the president for their removal. The advice tendered by the Supreme Court in this regard is binding on the President.
 - **It has the power to review its own judgement or order. Thus, it is not bound by its previous decision and can depart from it in the interest of justice or community welfare. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - In brief, the Supreme Court is a self-correcting agency. For example, in the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973), the Supreme Court departed from its previous judgement in the Golak Nath case (1967).
 - It is authorised to withdraw the cases pending before the high courts and dispose of them by itself. It can also transfer a case or appeal pending before one high court to another high court.
 - Its law is binding on all courts in India. Its decree or order is enforceable throughout the country. All authorities (civil and judicial) in the country should act in aid of the Supreme Court.
 - It has the power of judicial superintendence and control over all the courts and tribunals functioning in the entire territory of the country.
 - The Supreme Court’s jurisdiction and powers with respect to matters in the Union list can be enlarged by the Parliament.
 - Further, its jurisdiction and powers with respect to other matters can be enlarged by a special agreement between the Centre and the states.

Q 12.C

- **The First Movers Coalition is a global initiative harnessing the purchasing power of companies to decarbonize seven “hard to abate” industrial sectors** that currently account for 30% of global emissions: Aluminium, Aviation, Chemicals, Concrete, Shipping, Steel, and Trucking; along with innovative Carbon Removal technologies. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **The 50+ companies who make up the Coalition seek to send a powerful market signal to commercialize zero-carbon technologies.** The First Movers Coalition’s unique approach assembles ambitious corporate purchasing pledges across the heavy industry and long-distance transport sectors responsible for a third of global emissions. For these sectors to decarbonize at the speed needed to keep the planet on a 1.5-degree pathway, they require low-carbon technologies that are not yet competitive with current carbon-intensive solutions but must reach commercial scale by 2030 to achieve net-zero emissions globally by 2050.
- To jump-start the market, the coalition’s members commit in advance to purchasing a proportion of the industrial materials and long-distance transportation they need from suppliers using near-zero or zero-carbon solutions, despite the premium cost.

- **India participated in the First Movers Coalition (FMC) Leadership Meeting of the World Economic Forum which deliberated on the world need for clean energy technologies** to confront the climate crisis globally. Industry leaders appreciated India's fight against COVID leveraging digital technologies and also expressed their appreciation for the Government partnering with industry in its fight. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Q 13.B

- **The organizational structure, jurisdiction, and nomenclature of the subordinate judiciary are laid down by the states. Hence, they differ slightly from state to state. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- For example, at the lowest level, on the civil side, is the Court of Munsiff, and on the criminal side, is the Court of Judicial Magistrate. The munsiff possesses limited jurisdiction and decides civil cases of small pecuniary stake. The judicial magistrate tries criminal cases which are punishable with imprisonment for a term of up to three years. In some metropolitan cities, there are city civil courts (chief judges) on the civil side and the courts of metropolitan magistrates on the criminal side
- The Panchayat courts function in civil and criminal areas under various regional names like Nyaya Panchayat, Panchayat Adalat, Gram Kutchery, etc.
- **Munsiff's courts are next-level civil courts, the jurisdictions of which are determined by High Courts. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Above Munsiffs are subordinate judges who have unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction and act as first appeals from munsiffs.

Q 14.C

- Recently, Madhya Pradesh has notified its PESA Rules on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on 15th November, 2022. At the State Level Janjatiya Gaurav Divas Sammelan at Shahdol in Madhya Pradesh, Governor of Madhya Pradesh Shri Mangubhai Patel handed over the first copy of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA Act) Manual to the President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu.
- The provisions of Part IX of the constitution relating to the Panchayats are not applicable to the Fifth Schedule areas. However, the Parliament may extend these provisions to such areas, subject to such exceptions and modifications as it may specify. Under this provision, the Parliament enacted the "Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act", 1996, popularly known as the PESA Act or the Extension Act.
- **Presently, 10 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana, have Fifth Schedule Areas in their respective States.**
- **Out of the ten PESA States, eight States namely; Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana have framed and notified their State PESA Rules under their respective State Panchayati Raj Acts. Nine PESA States, except Rajasthan, have incorporated the provisions of PESA 1996 in their respective State Panchayati Raj Acts. The tenth State, Rajasthan, has notified "The Rajasthan Panchayat Raj (Modification of Provisions in their Application to the Scheduled Areas) Act 1999".**
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 15.A

- **Prime Minister advises the president with regard to the appointment of important officials like attorney general of India, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, chairman and members of the UPSC, election commissioners, chairman and members of the finance commission and so on.**
- **Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi judicial body. It is constituted by the president of India every fifth year or at such earlier time as he considers necessary.** The Finance Commission consists of a chairman and four other members to be appointed by the president. **They hold office for such period as specified by the president in his order.** They are eligible for reappointment. **Hence option 1 is correct.**
- The Election Commission shall consist of the chief election commissioner and such 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 option 2 is correct.**
- The Constitution (Article 76) has provided for the office of the Attorney General for India. He is the highest law officer in the country. **The Attorney General (AG) is appointed by the president. In addition to the AG, there are other law officers of the Government of India. They are the solicitor general of India and additional solicitor general of India.** They assist the AG in the fulfilment of his

official responsibilities. It should be noted here that only the office of the AG is created by the Constitution. In other words, **Article 76 does not mention about the solicitor general and additional solicitor general. Hence option 3 is not correct.**

- **The solicitor general of India is appointed to assist the attorney general along with four additional solicitors general by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.** The proposal for appointment of Solicitor General, Additional Solicitor General is generally moved at the, level of Joint secretary/Law Secretary in the Department of Legal Affairs and after obtaining the approval of the Minister of Law & Justice, the proposal is sent to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet for its approval.

Q 16.A

- In each House of Parliament, there is the '**Leader of the Opposition**'.
- The **leader of the largest Opposition party having not less than one-tenth seats of the total strength of the House** is recognized as the leader of the Opposition in that House. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In a parliamentary system of government, the leader of the opposition has a significant role to play. His main functions are to provide constructive criticism of the policies of the government and to provide an alternative government. Therefore, the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were accorded **statutory recognition in 1977. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- They are also entitled to the **salary, allowances, and other facilities equivalent** to that of a **cabinet minister. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Q 17.A

- **SUPREME COURT ADVOCATES**
 - Three categories of Advocates are entitled to practice law before the Supreme Court. They are:
 - ✓ **Senior Advocates**
 - ❖ **These are Advocates who are designated as Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court of India or by any High Court. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ❖ The Court can designate any Advocate, with his consent, as Senior Advocate if in its opinion by virtue of his ability, standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law the said Advocate is deserving of such distinction.
 - ❖ **A Senior Advocate is not entitled to appear without an Advocate-on-Record in the Supreme Court or without a junior in any other court or tribunal in India. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ❖ He is also not entitled to accept instructions to draw pleadings or affidavits, advise on evidence or do any drafting work of an analogous kind in any court or tribunal in India or undertake conveyancing work of any kind whatsoever but this prohibition shall not extend to settling any such matter as aforesaid in consultation with a junior.
 - ✓ **Advocates-on-Record**
 - ❖ **Only these advocates are entitled to file any matter or document before the Supreme Court. They can also file an appearance or act for a party in the Supreme Court. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ✓ **Other Advocates**
 - ❖ These are advocates whose names are entered on the roll of any State Bar Council maintained under the Advocates Act, 1961 and they can appear and argue any matter on behalf of a party in the Supreme Court but they are not entitled to file any document or matter before the Court.

Q 18.A

- The maximum strength of the Rajya Sabha is fixed at 250, out of which, 238 are to be the representatives of the states and union territories (elected indirectly) and 12 are nominated by the president.
- At present, the Rajya Sabha has 245 members. Of these, 229 members represent the states, 4 members represent the union territories and 12 members are nominated by the president.
- The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the states and union territories. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - **Representation of States:** The representatives of states in the Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected members of state legislative assemblies. The election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. **The seats are allotted to the states in the Rajya Sabha on the basis of population.** Hence, the number of representatives varies from state to state. For example, Uttar Pradesh has 31 members while Tripura has 1 member only. However, in the USA, all states are given equal representation in the Senate irrespective of their

population. The USA has 50 states and the Senate has 100 members—2 from each state. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- **Representation of Union Territories:** The representatives of each union territory in the Rajya Sabha are indirectly elected by members of an electoral college specially constituted for the purpose. This election is also held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. Out of the nine union territories, only three (Delhi, Puducherry, and Jammu & Kashmir) have representation in Rajya Sabha. The populations of the other six union territories are too small to have any representative in the Rajya Sabha.
- **Nominated Members:** The president nominates 12 members to the Rajya Sabha from people who have special knowledge or practical experience in art, literature, science, and social service. The rationale behind this principle of nomination is to provide eminent persons a place in the Rajya Sabha without going through the process of election. It should be noted here that the American Senate has no nominated Members.

Q 19.C

- **Composition of Council (Article 171)**

- **Strength:** Unlike the members of the legislative assembly, the members of the legislative council are indirectly elected. The maximum strength of the council is fixed at one-third of the total strength of the assembly and the minimum strength is fixed at 406. It means that the size of the council depends on the size of the assembly of the concerned state.
- This is done to ensure the predominance of the directly elected House (assembly) in the legislative affairs of the state. Though the Constitution has fixed the maximum and the minimum limits, the actual strength of a Council is fixed by Parliament.
- **Manner of Election:** Of the total number of members of a legislative council:
 - 1/3 are elected by the members of local bodies in the state like municipalities, district boards, etc.,
 - 1/12 are elected by graduates of three years standing and residing within the state,
 - 1/12 are elected by teachers of three years standing in the state, not lower in standard than secondary school,
 - 1/3 are elected by the members of the legislative assembly of the state from amongst persons who are not members of the assembly, **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**
 - and the remainder is nominated by the governor from persons who have a special knowledge or practical experience of literature, science, art, cooperative movement, and social service.
 - Thus, 5/6 of the total number of members of a legislative council are indirectly elected and 1/6 are nominated by the governor. The members are elected in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote. The bonafide or propriety of the governor's nomination, in any case, cannot be challenged in the courts.
- This scheme of the composition of a legislative council as laid down in the Constitution is tentative and not final. The Parliament is authorized to modify or replace the same. However, it has not enacted any such law so far.

Q 20.C

- The Metropolitan Planning Committee is established by **Article 243ZE** of the Constitution. Every metropolitan area shall have a metropolitan planning committee to prepare a draft development plan. **The state legislature may make provisions with respect to the following:**
 - **The composition of such committees;**
 - The manner of election of members of such committees;
 - The representation in such committees of the Central government, state government and other organizations;
 - The functions of such committees in relation to planning and
 - coordination for the metropolitan area; and
 - The manner of election of chairpersons of such committees. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **The act lays down that two-thirds of the members of a metropolitan planning committee should be elected by the elected members of the municipalities and chairpersons of the panchayats in the metropolitan area from amongst themselves.** The representation of these members in the committee should be in proportion to the ratio between the population of the municipalities and the panchayats in that metropolitan area. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **The chairpersons of such committees shall forward the development plan to the state government.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- In preparing the draft development plan, a metropolitan planning committee shall have to regard to
 - The plans prepared by the Municipalities and the Panchayats in the Metropolitan area;
 - Matters of common interest between the Municipalities and Panchayats, including co-ordinated spatial planning of the area sharing of water and other physical and natural resources, t integrated development of infrastructure and environment conservation;
 - The overall objectives and priorities set by the Government of India and the government of the state;
 - The extent and nature of investments likely to be made in the Metropolitan area by agencies of the Government of India and the Government of the State and other available resources whether financial or otherwise; and
- Also, the Metropolitan Planning Committee shall consult such institutions and organizations as the Governor may specify.

Q 21.D

- Governor can promulgate **ordinances when the state legislature is not in session. These ordinances must be approved by the state legislature within six weeks from its reassembly.** He can also withdraw an ordinance anytime. This is the most important legislative power of the governor.
- **He cannot make an ordinance without the instructions from the President in three cases:**
 - If a bill containing the same provisions would have required the previous sanction of the President for its introduction into the state legislature.
 - If he would have deemed it necessary to reserve a bill containing the same provisions for the consideration of the President.
 - if an Act of the Legislature of the State containing the same provisions would under this Constitution have been invalid unless, having been reserved for the consideration of the President, it had received the assent of the President.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 22.D

- **Article 72 of the Constitution empowers the President to grant pardons to persons who have been tried and convicted of any offence** in all cases where the:
 - Punishment or sentence is for an offence against a Union Law;
 - Punishment or sentence is by a court martial (military court);
 - Sentence is a sentence of death.
- **The pardoning power of the President is independent of the Judiciary;** it is an executive power. But, the President while exercising this power, does not sit as a court of appeal.
- The pardoning power of the President includes the following:
 - Pardon removes both the sentence and the conviction and completely absolves the convict from all sentences, punishments and disqualifications.
 - **Commutation denotes the substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form.** For example, a death sentence may be commuted to rigorous imprisonment, which in turn may be commuted to a simple imprisonment. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
 - **Remission implies reducing the period of sentence without changing its character.** For example, a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for two years may be remitted to rigorous imprisonment for one year. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
 - **Respite denotes awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded due to some special fact,** such as the physical disability of a convict or the pregnancy of a woman offender. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
 - Reprieve implies a stay of the execution of a sentence (especially that of death) for a temporary period. Its purpose is to enable the convict to have time to seek pardon or commutation from the President.

Q 23.D

- **INDEPENDENCE OF SUPREME COURT**
- The Supreme Court has been assigned a very significant role in the Indian democratic political system. It is a federal court, the highest court of appeal, the guarantor of the fundamental rights of the citizens and the guardian of the Constitution.
- Therefore, its independence becomes very essential for the effective discharge of the duties assigned to it. It should be free from the encroachments, pressures and interferences of the executive (council of ministers) and the Legislature (Parliament). It should be allowed to do justice without fear or favour.

- **The Constitution has made the following provisions to safeguard and ensure the independent and impartial functioning of the Supreme Court:**
 - **Mode of Appointment**
 - The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President (which means the cabinet) in consultation with the members of the judiciary itself (ie, judges of the Supreme Court and the high courts). This provision curtails the absolute discretion of the executive as well as ensures that the judicial appointments are not based on any political or practical considerations.
 - **Security of Tenure**
 - The judges of the Supreme Court are provided with the Security of Tenure. They can be removed from office by the President only in the manner and on the grounds mentioned in the Constitution. This means that they do not hold their office at the pleasure of the President, though they are appointed by him. This is obvious from the fact that no judge of the Supreme Court has been removed (or impeached) so far.
 - **Fixed Service Conditions**
 - The salaries, allowances, privileges, leave and pension of the judges of the Supreme Court are determined from time to time by the Parliament. They cannot be changed to their disadvantage after their appointment except during a financial emergency. Thus, the conditions of service of the judges of the Supreme Court remain the same during their term of Office.
 - **Expenses Charged on Consolidated Fund**
 - The salaries, allowances and pensions of the judges and the staff as well as all the administrative expenses of the Supreme Court are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India. Thus, they are non-votable by the Parliament (though they can be discussed by it).
 - **The conduct of Judges cannot be Discussed**
 - The Constitution prohibits any discussion in Parliament or in a State Legislature with respect to the conduct of the judges of the Supreme Court in the discharge of their duties, except when an impeachment motion is under consideration of the Parliament.
 - **Ban on Practice after Retirement**
 - The retired judges of the Supreme Court are prohibited from pleading or acting in any Court or before any authority within the territory of India. This ensures that they do not favour anyone in the hope of future favour. **Hence, option 3 is correct.**
 - **Power to Punish for its Contempt**
 - The Supreme Court can punish any person for its contempt. Thus, its actions and decisions cannot be criticised and opposed by anybody. This power is vested in the Supreme Court to maintain its authority, dignity and honour. **Hence, option 1 is correct.**
 - **Freedom to Appoint its Staff**
 - The Chief Justice of India can appoint officers and servants of the Supreme Court without any interference from the executive. He can also prescribe their conditions of service. **Hence, option 2 is correct.**
 - **Its Jurisdiction cannot be Curtailed**
 - The Parliament is not authorised to curtail the jurisdiction and powers of the Supreme Court. The Constitution has guaranteed to the Supreme Court, the jurisdiction of various kinds. However, the Parliament can extend the same. **Hence, option 4 is correct.**
 - **Separation from Executive**
 - The Constitution directs the State to take steps to separate the Judiciary from the Executive in public services. This means that the executive authorities should not possess judicial powers. Consequently, upon its implementation, the role of executive authorities in judicial administration came to an end.

Q 24.B

- **The judicial powers and functions of the governor are:**
 - He can grant pardons, reprieves, respites and remissions of punishment or suspend, remit and commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the state extends.
 - **He is consulted by the president while appointing the judges of the concerned state high court.**
 - **He makes appointments, postings and promotions of the district judges in consultation with the state high court.**
 - He also appoints persons to the judicial service of the state (other than district judges) in consultation with the state high court and the State Public Service Commission.

- **Appointment of Judges of High Court**
 - The judges of a high court are appointed by the President. The chief justice is appointed by the President after consultation with the chief justice of India and the governor of the state concerned. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - For appointment of other judges, the chief justice of the concerned high court is also consulted. In case of a common high court for two or more states, the governors of all the states concerned are consulted by the president.
- **The appointment, posting and promotion of district judges in a state are made by the governor of the state in consultation with the high court. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Q 25.D

- **The Constitution does not contain any specific procedure for the selection and appointment of the Chief Minister. Article 164 only says that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the governor.** However, this does not imply that the governor is free to appoint any one as the Chief Minister. In accordance with the conventions of the parliamentary system of government, the governor has to appoint the leader of the majority party in the state legislative assembly as the Chief Minister.
- But, when no party has a clear majority in the assembly, then the governor may exercise his personal discretion in the selection and appointment of the Chief Minister. In such a situation, the governor usually appoints the leader of the largest party or coalition in the assembly as the Chief Minister and ask him to seek a vote of confidence in the House within a month.
- **The Constitution does not require that a person must prove his majority in the legislative assembly before he is appointed as the Chief Minister.** The governor may first appoint him as the Chief Minister and then ask him to prove his majority in the legislative assembly within a reasonable period. This is what has been done in a number of cases. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- **A person who is not a member of the state legislature can be appointed as Chief Minister for six months, within which time, he should be elected to the state legislature, failing which he ceases to be the Chief Minister. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 26.C

- Consultative committees are attached to various ministries/departments of the Central Government. They consist of members of both Houses of Parliament. The Minister / Minister of State in charge of the Ministry concerned acts as the chairman of the consultative committee of that ministry.
- **These committees provide a forum for informal discussions between the ministers and the members of Parliament on policies and programs of the government and the manner of their implementation. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **These committees are constituted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.** The guidelines regarding the composition, functions, and procedures of these committees are formulated by this Ministry. The Ministry also makes arrangements for holding their meetings both during the session and the inter-session period of Parliament. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **The membership of these committees is voluntary and is left to the choice of the members and the leaders of their parties.** The maximum membership of a committee is 30 and the minimum is 10. These committees are normally constituted after the new Lok Sabha is constituted, after General Elections for the Lok Sabha. In other words, these committees shall stand dissolved upon the dissolution of every Lok Sabha and shall be reconstituted upon the constitution of each Lok Sabha.
- This committee regulates the program and timetable of the House. It allocates time for the transaction of legislative and other business brought before the House by the government. The Lok Sabha committee consists of 15 members including the Speaker as its chairman. In the Rajya Sabha, it has 11 members including the Chairman as its ex-officio chairman.

Q 27.A

- The provisions of the 73rd Amendment Act can be grouped into two categories— compulsory and voluntary. The compulsory (mandatory or obligatory) provisions of the act have to be included in the state laws creating the new panchayati raj system. The voluntary provisions, on the other hand, may be included at the discretion of the states. Thus the voluntary provisions of the act ensure the right of the states to take local factors like geographical, politico-administrative and others, into consideration while adopting the new panchayati raj system. Some of the compulsory provisions are given below.
- **Compulsory Provisions:**
 - **Organization of Gram Sabha in a village or group of villages.**
 - **Establishment of panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels.**

- Direct elections to all seats in panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels.
- Indirect elections to the post of chairperson of panchayats at the intermediate and district levels.
- Voting rights of the chairperson and other members of a panchayat elected directly or indirectly.
- 21 years to be the minimum age for contesting elections to panchayats.
- Reservation of seats (both members and chairpersons) for SCs and STs in panchayats at all three levels.
- **Reservation of one-third of seats (both members and chairpersons) for women in panchayats at all three levels.**
- Fixing tenure of five years for panchayats at all levels and holding fresh elections within six months in the event of supersession of any panchayat.
- **Establishment of a State Election Commission for conducting elections to the panchayats.**
- Constitution of a State Finance Commission after every five years to review the financial position of the panchayats.
- **Voluntary Provisions:**
 - Endowing the Gram Sabha with powers and functions at the village level.
 - Determining the manner of election of the chairperson of the village panchayat.
 - Giving representation to the chairpersons of the village panchayats in the intermediate panchayats or in the case of a state not having intermediate panchayats, in the district panchayats.
 - Giving representation to the chairpersons of the intermediate panchayats in the district panchayats.
 - **Giving representation to members of the Parliament (both the Houses) and the state legislature (both the Houses) in the panchayats at different levels falling within their constituencies.**
 - **Providing reservation of seats (both members and chairpersons) for backward classes in panchayats at any level.**
 - Granting powers and authority to the panchayats to enable them to function as institutions of self-government (in brief, making them autonomous bodies).
 - Devolution of powers and responsibilities upon panchayats to prepare plans for economic development and social justice; and to perform some or all of the 29 functions listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.
 - **Granting financial powers to the panchayats, that is, authorizing them to levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees.**
 - Assigning to a panchayat the taxes, duties, tolls and fees levied and collected by the state government.
 - Making the grants-in-aid to the panchayats from the consolidated fund of the state.
 - Providing for the constitution of funds for crediting all money of the panchayats. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 28.D

- Municipal corporations are created for the administration of big cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bangalore and others. They are established in the states by the acts of the concerned state legislatures, and in the union territories by the acts of the Parliament of India. There may be one common act for all municipal corporations in a state or a separate act for each municipal corporation.
- A municipal corporation has three authorities, namely, the council, the standing committees and the commissioner.
- **The Council is the deliberative and legislative wing of the corporation. It consists of the Councillors directly elected by the people, as well as a few nominated persons having knowledge or experience in municipal administration. In brief, the composition of the Council including the reservation of seats for SCs, STs and women is governed by the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 . Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Council is headed by a Mayor. He is assisted by a Deputy Mayor. He is elected in a majority of the states for a one-year renewable term. He is basically an ornamental figure and a formal head of the corporation. His main function is to **preside over the meetings of the Council. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The standing committees are created to facilitate the working of the council, which is too large in size. They deal with public works, education, health, taxation, finance and so on. They take decisions in their fields.
- **The municipal commissioner is responsible for the implementation of the decisions taken by the council and its standing committees. Thus, he is the chief executive authority of the corporation. He is appointed by the state government and is generally a member of the IAS. Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Q 29.B

- **Fast Track Courts (FTCs) are additional Session Courts set up for speeding up the trials of long pending cases**, particularly those involving under trials.
- Fast Track Courts were initially established for a period of five years (2000-2005).
- The 11th Finance Commission recommended for establishment of 1734 FTCs for expeditious disposal of cases pending in lower courts.
- **FTCs were established by state governments in consultation with respective high courts. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Judges of these FTCs were appointed on an ad-hoc basis** and they were selected by the High Court of respective states. **Hence statement 2 is correct.** There are primarily three sources of recruitment:• by promoting members from amongst the eligible judicial officers;• by appointing retired high court judges and• recruited from amongst the member of the bar of the respected state.
- The cases are disposed of within a given time frame.
- **In 2005, the Supreme Court directed the central government to continue with the FTC scheme, which was extended until 2010-2011.**
- Subsequently, the government discontinued the FTC scheme in March 2011 due to financial problems and stopped financing FTCs. But as state governments enjoyed the liberty to continue if they want, some states like Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala decided to continue with FTCs, while Haryana and Chhattisgarh discontinued.

Q 30.D

- **Vacation of Seats**
 - In the following cases, a member of the state legislature vacates his seat:
 - **Double Membership:** A person cannot be a member of both Houses of the state legislature at one and the same time. If a person is elected to both Houses, his seat in one of the houses falls vacant as per the provisions of a law made by the state legislature.
 - **Disqualification:** If a member of the state legislature becomes subject to any of the disqualifications, his seat becomes vacant.
 - **Resignation:** A member may resign his seat by writing to the Chairman of the legislative council or Speaker of the legislative assembly, as the case may be. **The seat falls vacant when the resignation is accepted.**
 - **Absence:** A House of the state legislature can declare the seat of a member vacant if he absences himself from all its meeting for a period of **sixty days without its permission. Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**
 - **Other Cases:** A member has to vacate his seat in the either House of the state legislature,
 - if his election is declared void by the court,
 - if he is expelled by the House,
 - if he is elected to the office of president or office of vice-president, and
 - If he is appointed to the office of governor of a state.

Q 31.B

- **The President is the head of the Indian State.** He is the first citizen of India and acts as the symbol of unity, integrity and solidarity of the nation.
- The President is elected not directly by the people but by **members of electoral college** consisting of:
 - **the elected members of both the Houses of Parliament;**
 - **the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states, and**
 - **the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry**
- Thus, **the nominated members of both of Houses of Parliament**, the nominated members of the state legislative assemblies, the members (both elected and nominated) of the state legislative councils (in case of the bicameral legislature) and **the nominated members of the Legislative Assemblies of Delhi and Puducherry do not participate in the election of the President.**
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 32.D

- **Parliament's legislative power on subjects included in the State List**
 - Further, under special conditions, the Parliament can legislate on subjects included in the State List, under some specific circumstances, which are as follows:

- **In the National Interest (Art.249)** - If the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) declares that it is necessary for the Centre to legislate upon a subject in the State list, in the national interest, and passes a resolution to this effect, with a majority of at least 2/3rd of members present and voting. This resolution remains in force for a year and can be renewed any number of times, but for not more than one year at a time. The laws so made do not have any effect six months after the resolution has ceased to be in force. At the same time, the State can also legislate upon the same subject, but in case of any inconsistency, laws of the Centre prevail. This particular feature makes the entire legislative process federal in nature. **Hence option 1 is correct.**
- **By Agreement between States (Art. 252)** - When two or more State Legislatures pass a resolution, requesting the Parliament to legislate upon a subject in the State List. The law passed by Union Parliament shall be applicable only to the States, which demanded such legislation. Any other State may later adopt it by passing a resolution to that effect. In this case, States cease to have the power to legislate upon that subject and only the Parliament can amend or repeal such a law. In past, laws have been made using this provision, some of them are The Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972, and the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act. **Hence option 2 is correct.**
- **To Implement International Treaties and Agreements (Art. 253)** - This provision enables the central government to fulfil its international obligations. The Lokpal and the Lokayuktas Bill, 2011 was introduced in the Parliament through the provisions of this particular article. **Hence, option 3 is correct.**
- **Under Proclamation of National Emergency (Article 352)** - During a national emergency, the Parliament can legislate upon any subject in the State List. Such a law becomes inoperative on the expiration of six months after the emergency has ceased to operate. However, at the same time, the State can also legislate upon the same subject, but in case of any inconsistency, the laws of the Centre prevail.
- **Under Proclamation of President's Rule (Art.356)** - During President's rule in a State, the Parliament can make laws with respect to any subject in the State list, in relation to that state. Such a law continues to be operative even after the President's rule. But it can be repealed, altered or re-enacted later by the State Legislature.
- The Centre cannot make a law on a subject in the state list when a model code of conduct has been implemented due to state legislative elections. **Hence option 4 is not correct.**

Q 33.A

- The Governor can promulgate an ordinance only when the legislative assembly (in case of a unicameral legislature) is not in session or (in case of a bi- cameral legislature) when both the Houses of the state legislature are not in session or when either of the two Houses of the state legislature is not in session.
- **His ordinance-making power is co-extensive with the legislative power of the state legislature. This means that he can issue ordinances only on those subjects on which the state legislature can make laws. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- An ordinance issued by him is subject to the same limitations as an act of the state legislature. This means that an ordinance issued by him will be invalid to the extent it makes any provision which the state legislature cannot make.
- **His ordinance-making power is not a discretionary power.** This means that he can promulgate or withdraw an ordinance only on the advice of the council headed by the chief minister. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **An ordinance issued by him ceases to operate on the expiry of six weeks from the reassembly of the state legislature.** It may cease to operate even earlier than the prescribed six weeks, if a resolution disapproving it is passed by the legislative assembly and is agreed to by the legislative council (in case of a bicameral legislature). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 34.C

- **Sarkaria Commission**
 - The Central government appointed a three-member Commission in 1983 on the Centre-State relationship under the Chairmanship of R S Sarkaria, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court. The Commission submitted its report in October 1987 with 247 recommendations. Its important recommendations were:
 - **A permanent Inter-State Council called the Inter-Governmental Council should be set up under Article 263. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**
 - Article 356 (President's rule) should be used very sparingly, in extreme cases as a last resort when all the available alternatives fail.

- The institution of All-India Services should be further strengthened and some more such services should be created.
- The residuary power of taxation should continue to remain with the parliament, while the other residuary powers should be placed in the concurrent list.
- When the President withholds his assent to the state bills, the reason should be communicated to the state government.
- The Zonal Councils should be constituted afresh and reactivated to promote the spirit of federalism.
- The Centre should have powers to deploy its armed forces, even without the consent of states. However, it is desirable that the states should be consulted.
- The Centre should consult the states before making a law on a subject of the Concurrent List.
- The procedure of consulting the Chief Minister in the appointment of State Governor should be prescribed in the Constitution itself.
- The Governor's term of five years in a state should not be disrupted except for extremely compelling reasons.

Q 35.A

- Choudhary Rehmat Ali can be credited with coining the "term" Pakistan, styling himself as the "Founder of the Pakistan National Movement". On January 28, 1933, he released a pamphlet titled "Now or Never: Are we to live or perish forever". In it he made a vehement "appeal on behalf of the thirty million Muslims of PAKISTAN, who live in the five Northern Units of India, for the recognition of their national status, as distinct from the other inhabitants of India, by the grant to Pakistan of a separate Federal Constitution on religious, social and historical grounds." **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- In 1940, the famous Lahore Resolution was passed, advocating that the "geographical contiguous units" in the Muslim-majority areas in India's "North-Western and Eastern Zones of India, should be grouped to constitute Independent States in which the constituent units shall be autonomous and sovereign." While this resolution did not mention "Pakistan," Jinnah's ideas echoed Rahmat Ali's. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- Rehmat Ali was not a politician. Nor did he stay in the subcontinent for much of the 1930s and 1940s when the struggle for Pakistan was taking shape. His contribution to Pakistan are solely limited to his writings and ideas.
- Unlike Allama Iqbal, more popularly known as the philosopher behind Pakistan's creation, Ali's work remained restricted to a far smaller audience.

Q 36.B

- The 73rd amendment gave constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj institutions. It brought in uniformity with the three-tier Panchayati Raj structure. At the base is the 'Gram Panchayat'. A Gram Panchayat covers a village or group of villages. The intermediary level is the Mandal (also referred to as Block or Taluka). These bodies are called Mandal or Taluka Panchayats. The intermediary level body need not be constituted in smaller States. At the apex is the Zilla Panchayat covering the entire rural area of the District.
- The act provides for a Gram Sabha as the foundation of the Panchayati raj system. It is a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls of a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level. **Thus, it is a village assembly consisting of all the registered voters in the area of a panchayat. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **It may exercise such powers and perform such functions at the village level as the legislature of a state determines. Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Q 37.C

- The human genome is made up of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), a long, winding molecule that contains the instructions needed to build and maintain cells. These instructions are spelled out in the form of "base pairs" of four different chemicals, organized into 20,000 to 25,000 genes. For the instructions to be carried out, DNA must be "read" and transcribed - in other words, copied - into RNA (ribonucleic acid). These gene readouts are called transcripts, and a transcriptome is a collection of all the gene readouts present in a cell.
- The entire RNA landscape is known collectively as the transcriptome, and mapping this allows researchers to better understand an individual's gene expression. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **Ribonucleic acid (abbreviated RNA) is a nucleic acid present in all living cells that has structural similarities to DNA. RNA's most commonly recognized function is to translate DNA into**

proteins, but scientists now understand that the vast majority of RNA does not make proteins, but instead can play roles such as influencing cell structure or regulating genes. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

- In a new paper published in the journal Nature Methods, researchers at the University of California, Santa Cruz, have proposed a “pantranscriptome,” which combines a transcriptome and a pangenome -- a reference that contains genetic material from a cohort of diverse individuals, rather than just a single linear strand.
- The pantranscriptome-concept builds on the emerging concept of “pangenomics” in the genomics field. Typically, when evaluating an individual’s genomic data for variation, scientists compare the individual’s genome to that of a reference made up of a single, linear strand of DNA bases. Using a pangenome allows researchers to compare an individual’s genome to that of a genetically diverse cohort of reference sequences all at once, sourced from individuals representing a diversity of biogeographic ancestry. This gives the scientists more points of comparison for which to better understand an individual’s genomic variation.

Q 38.A

- **Recently it was reported that the necropolis of noblemen dating from the Asaf Jahi era known as Paigah Tombs Complex in Santosh Nagar is set to be restored with funding from the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation.**
- Paigah Tombs or Maqbara Shams al-Umara, are the tombs belonging to the nobility of the Paigah family, who were fierce loyalists of the Nizams. The Paigah tombs are among the major wonders of Hyderabad State which are known for its architectural excellence. These tombs are 200 years old and represent the final resting places of several generations of the Paigah Nobles.
- **One of the best examples of Indo-Saracenic architecture, the tombs present a beautiful blend of Asaf Jah and Rajputani styles of architecture.** Built of white marble, Paigah tombs captivate visitors with intricately designed interiors. **Paigahs who married daughters of the Nizams were the highest-ranking nobles in the princely state of Hyderabad, after the family of Nizams. Paigahs were the only noble family who was permitted by the Sultan to have their private army. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
- These tombs are magnificent structures, decorated in stucco work, and represent the Mughal, Greek, Persian, Asaf Jahi, Rajasthani, and Decani styles of architecture. Stucco or render is a construction material made of aggregates, a binder, and water. Stucco is applied wet and hardens to a very dense solid. It is used as a decorative coating for walls and ceilings, exterior walls, and as a sculptural and artistic material in architecture. The famous ‘Jali’ work makes it even more attractive. Each Tomb has been designed differently, ensuring a unique style and design.

Q 39.A

- The Darling 58 is a genetically engineered American chestnut tree. The tree was created by American Chestnut Research & Restoration Program at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (**United States of America**), to restore the American chestnut to the forests of North America. **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
- Native un-modified trees are killed from the ground up by the blight, and only the root system survives. The roots then continue to send up shoots that are once again attacked by the blight and die back before they reach maturity, repeating the cycle. Darling-58 trees survive to reach maturity, produce chestnuts, and multiply to restore the American Chestnut tree to the forests of North America. These Darling-58 trees are attacked by chestnut blight but survive.
- More than a century after the American chestnut tree became functionally extinct, the United States is weighing whether to allow a genetically engineered (GE) version to spread in the wild.

Q 40.C

- **Writ Jurisdiction of High Courts**
 - Article 226 of the Constitution empowers a high court to issue writs including habeas corpus, mandamus, certiorari, prohibition and quo warranto for the enforcement of the fundamental rights of the citizens and for any other purpose.
 - The phrase ‘for any other purpose’ refers to the enforcement of an ordinary legal right.
 - **The high court can issue writs to any person, authority and government not only within its territorial jurisdiction but also outside its territorial jurisdiction if the cause of action arises within its territorial jurisdiction.**
 - The writ jurisdiction of the high court (under Article 226) is not exclusive but concurrent with the writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court (under Article 32).

- It means, when the fundamental rights of a citizen are violated, the aggrieved party has the option of moving either the high court or the Supreme Court directly.
- However, the writ jurisdiction of the high court is wider than that of the Supreme Court.
- **This is because, the Supreme Court can issue writs only for the enforcement of fundamental rights and not for any other purpose, that is, it does not extend to a case where the breach of an ordinary legal right is alleged. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **In the Chandra Kumar case (1997), the Supreme Court ruled that the writ jurisdiction of both the high court and the Supreme Court constitute a part of the basic structure of the Constitution. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Hence, it cannot be ousted or excluded even by way of an amendment to the Constitution.

Q 41.B

- **Article 161 mentions the pardoning power of the Governor.** It states that the Governor of a State shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites, or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offense against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **He cannot pardon a death sentence.** Even if a state law prescribes for death sentence, the power to grant pardon lies with the President and not the governor. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

Q 42.C

- **Qualifications of Judges**
 - A person to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court should have the following qualifications:
 - He should be a citizen of India.
 - He should have been a judge of a High Court (or high courts in succession) for five years; or
 - **He should have been an advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years, or**
 - He should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president.
 - **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - **From the above, it is clear that the Constitution has not prescribed a minimum age for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.**
 - **Salaries and Allowances**
 - The salaries, allowances, privileges, leave, and pension of the judges of the Supreme Court are determined from time to time by the Parliament.
 - They cannot be varied to their disadvantage after their appointment except during a financial emergency. In 2018, the salary of the chief justice was increased from ₹1 lakh to ₹2.80 lakh per month and that of a judge from ₹90,000 to ₹2.50 lakh per month.
 - They are also paid a sumptuary allowance and provided with free accommodation and other facilities like medical, car, telephone, etc.
 - The retired chief justice and judges are entitled to 50 per cent of their last drawn salary as a monthly pension.
 - **Tenure of Judges**
 - **The Constitution has not fixed the tenure of a judge of the Supreme Court. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - However, it makes the following three provisions in this regard:
 - ✓ He holds office until he attains the age of 65 years. Any question regarding his age is to be determined by such authority and in such manner as provided by Parliament.
 - ✓ He can resign his office by writing to the president.
 - ✓ He can be removed from his office by the President on the recommendation of the Parliament.

Q 43.B

- Recently, DRDO carried out the test of the Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle off the coast of Odisha. India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested an indigenously-developed **hypersonic technology demonstrator vehicle (HSTDV) powered by a scramjet engine. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- The air-breathing scramjet engine was successfully flight-tested at hypersonic speed within the atmosphere. The test paves the way for development of many more critical technologies, materials and hypersonic vehicles.

- Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) is an unmanned scramjet demonstration aircraft for hypersonic speed flight. HSTDV is not a weapon itself but is being developed as a carrier vehicle for hypersonic and long-range cruise missiles. The HSTDV cruise vehicle is mounted on a solid rocket motor, which takes it to a required altitude. Once it attains certain mach numbers for speed, the cruise vehicle is ejected out of the launch vehicle.
- A scramjet engine is an improvement over the ramjet engine because the former operates efficiently at hypersonic speeds and allows supersonic combustion. Ramjets, in contrast, operate well at supersonic speeds around Mach 3 but their efficiency drops at hypersonic speeds.
- **The HSTDV has an air-breathing scramjet engine which means that it uses atmospheric oxygen for propulsion.** Launch vehicles use combustion of propellants consisting of oxidiser and fuel for deriving energy. Air breathing propulsion systems use atmospheric oxygen, which is available up to about 50 km of earth's surface to burn the fuel stored on-board thereby making the system much lighter, more efficient and cost effective. Air breathing propulsion is a solution for a powered long return cruise flight necessary for reusable launch vehicles. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Q 44.A

- The Constitution lays down the **following conditions of the President's office:**
 - He should not be a member of either House of Parliament or a House of the state legislature. If any such person is elected as President, he is deemed to have vacated his seat in that House on the date on which he enters upon his office as President.
 - He should not hold any other office of profit.
 - He is entitled, without payment of rent, to the use of his official residence (the Rastrapathi Bhavan).
 - **He is entitled to such emoluments, allowances and privileges as may be determined by Parliament. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **The President holds office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office.** The President can hold office beyond his term of five years until his successor assumes charge. **He is also eligible for re-election to that office. He may be elected for any number of terms.** However, in USA, a person cannot be elected to the office of the President more than twice. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The veto power enjoyed by the executive in modern states can be classified into the following four types:
 - Absolute veto, that is, withholding of assent to the bill passed by the legislature.
 - Qualified veto, which can be overridden by the legislature with a higher majority.
 - Suspensive veto, which can be overridden by the legislature with an ordinary majority.
 - Pocket veto, that is, taking no action on the bill passed by the legislature.
- Of the above four, **the President of India is vested with three– absolute veto, suspensive veto and pocket veto. There is no qualified veto in the case of Indian President; it is possessed by the American President. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 45.C

- **FireAid initiative:** Wildfire severity, spread and frequency have all increased as a result of climate change. Wildfires pose a particular threat to forest ecosystems as well as high-risk rural areas.
- Critical services and resources such as health and safety, forestry, natural disaster and emergency relief agencies, and rural planning are also overburdened, and existing hazard management systems would likely struggle to respond to the increased number of fires. Their most important need is technological innovation on two fronts: prediction and better firefighting, where AI can help to predict locations at risk, and the best possible strategy to extinguish the fire.
- **To address this global issue, the World Economic Forum's Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Platform, in collaboration with the C4IR Network, Koç Holding and the Turkish Ministry of Forestry (TMF), has launched a FireAid initiative to mitigate wildfire risks using AI systems.**
- The Initiative includes:
 - A dynamic wildfire risk map that ranks the likelihood of forest fires based on seasonal variables
 - Resource allocation that is optimal based on many data sources and the wildfire risk map
 - A first-response proposal using pre-optimized resources and maps in the event of a forest fire
- The FireAid initiative of using artificial intelligence to effectively manage wildfires had a successful pilot run since it was launched in January 2022 by the World Economic Forum (WEF). **Hence statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

Q 46.C

- In the scheme of parliamentary system of government provided by the Constitution, the governor is the nominal executive authority (de jure executive) and the **Chief Minister is the real executive authority (de facto executive)**. In other words, the governor is the head of the state while the Chief Minister is the head of the government.
- **The Chief Minister performs many functions.** Some of them are listed below:
 - **He is the chairman of the State Planning Board. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - He acts as a vice-chairman of the concerned zonal council by rotation, holding office for a period of one year at a time.
 - **He is a member of the Inter-State Council and the Governing Council of NITI Aayog, both headed by the prime minister. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - He is the chief spokesman of the state government.
 - He is the crisis manager-in-chief at the political level during emergencies.
 - As a leader of the state, he meets various sections of the people and receives memoranda from them regarding their problems, and so on.
 - He is the political head of the services.
 - **He advises the governor with regard to the appointment of important officials like advocate general, chairman and members of the state public service commission, state election commissioner, and so on.**
- **The Constitution (Article 76) has provided for the office of the Attorney General for India. He is the highest law officer in the country. In addition to the AG, there are other law officers of the Government of India. They are the solicitor general of India and additional solicitor general of India.**
 - They assist the AG in the fulfilment of his official responsibilities. It should be noted here that only the office of the AG is created by the Constitution.
 - In other words, **Article 76 does not mention about the solicitor general and additional solicitor general. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Recently, The NITI Aayog, the think-tank at the Central level, will help each state to set up similar bodies, replacing their outdated state planning boards, for faster and inclusive economic growth, in tandem with the national vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.**
 - The move is in recognition of the fact that except for sectors like defence, railways and highways, the national gross domestic product (GDP) growth is an aggregation of states' rates of growth.
 - The Niti Aayog and the proposed SITs will play a critical role in India achieving goals set for 2047, the 100th year of independence.
 - Four states — Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Assam — have already begun work in this regard while Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat will likely commence work soon.

Q 47.C

- Though constitutional status was given to Panchayati Raj institutions by the 73rd amendment, the idea of Panchayati Raj was discussed and considered important since the independence and constitutional assembly debated the issue. Beginning with Balwantrai Mehta Committee, many committees were formed to give shape to local governance in India.
- **In December 1977, the Janata Government appointed a committee on Panchayati raj Institutions under the chairmanship of Ashok Mehta.** It submitted its report in August 1978 and made 132 recommendations to revive and strengthen the declining Panchayati raj system in the country. Due to the collapse of the Janata Government before the completion of its term, no action could be taken on the recommendations of the Ashok Mehta Committee at the central level. However, the three states of Karnataka, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh took steps to revitalize the Panchayati raj, keeping in view some of the recommendations of the Ashok Mehta Committee.
- **The Committee to review the existing Administrative Arrangements for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Programmes under the chairmanship of G.V.K. Rao was appointed by the Planning Commission in 1985.** The Committee came to the conclusion that the developmental process was gradually bureaucratised and divorced from the Panchayati Raj. This phenomenon of bureaucratization of development administration as against the democratization weakened the Panchayati Raj institutions resulting in what is aptly called as 'grass without roots'.
- **In 1986, the Rajiv Gandhi government appointed a committee to prepare a concept paper on 'Revitalisation of Panchayati Raj Institutions for Democracy and Development' under the chairmanship of L.M. Singhvi.** It recommended that the Panchayati Raj institutions should be given constitutional status.

- In 1988, a sub-committee of the Consultative Committee of Parliament was constituted under the chairmanship of P.K. Thungan to examine the political and administrative structure in the district for the purpose of district planning. This committee suggested the strengthening of the Panchayati Raj system.
- The Committee on Policy and Programmes was constituted in 1988 by the Congress party under the chairmanship of V.N. Gadgil. This committee was asked to consider the question of “how best Panchayati Raj institutions could be made effective”. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

Q 48.D

- The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to the panchayats shall be vested in the state election commission. It consists of a state election commissioner to be appointed by the governor. His conditions of service and tenure of office shall also be determined by the governor. He shall not be removed from the office except in the manner and on the grounds prescribed for the removal of a judge of the state high court. His conditions of service shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.
- The state legislature may make provisions with respect to all matters relating to elections to the panchayats.
- The State government is required to appoint a State Election Commissioner who would be responsible for conducting elections to the Panchayati Raj institutions. Earlier, this task was performed by the State administration which was under the control of the State government. Now, the office of the State Election Commissioner is autonomous like the Election Commissioner of India. However, the State Election Commissioner is an independent officer and is not linked to nor is this officer under the control of the Election Commission of India. Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

Q 49.C

- The 73rd Amendment Act provides for a five-year term of office to the panchayat at every level. However, it can be dissolved before the completion of its term. Further, fresh elections to constitute a panchayat shall be completed
 - Before the expiry of its duration of five years; or
 - In case of dissolution, before the expiry of a period of six months from the date of its dissolution.
 Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- But, where the remainder of the period (for which the dissolved panchayat would have continued) is less than six months, it shall not be necessary to hold any election for constituting the new panchayat for such a period. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Moreover, a panchayat constituted upon the dissolution of a panchayat before the expiration of its duration shall continue only for the remainder of the period for which the dissolved panchayat would have continued had it not been so dissolved. In other words, a panchayat reconstituted after premature dissolution does not enjoy the full period of five years but remains in office only for the remainder of the period. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Q 50.A

- Under the Constitution, the Parliament of India consists of three parts viz, the President, the Council of States, and the House of the People.
- The President of India is not a member of either House of Parliament and does not sit in the Parliament to attend its meetings, he is an integral part of the Parliament. This is because a bill passed by both Houses of Parliament cannot become law without the President's assent. Hence, A and R both are true, and R is the correct explanation for A.
- He also performs certain functions relating to the proceedings of the Parliament, for example, he summons and prorogues both Houses, dissolves the Lok Sabha, addresses both Houses, issues ordinances when they are not in session, and so on.

Q 51.B

- India and USA announced the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) in May 2022 to elevate and expand our strategic technology partnership and defense industrial cooperation between the governments, businesses, and academic institutions of our two countries. Hence statement 1 is not correct.
- Under iCET, the both countries have identified six areas of cooperation which would include co-development and co-production. The six areas for cooperation are scientific research and development;

quantum and artificial intelligence, defense innovation, space, advanced telecom which would include things like 6G and semiconductors.

- iCET initiative is led by the Indian National Security Council Secretariat and the US National Security Council. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- It would forge closer linkages between government, academia and industry of the two countries. The launch of the ambitious iCET dialogue is seen as “an alignment of strategic, commercial and scientific approaches” in the field of technology.

Q 52.D

- Articles 233 to 237 in Part VI of the Constitution make the following provisions to regulate the organization of subordinate courts and to ensure their independence from the executive.
- The expression ‘district judge’ includes the judge of a
 - city civil court,
 - **additional district judge,**
 - **joint district judge,**
 - assistant district judge,
 - **the chief judge of a small cause court,**
 - **chief presidency magistrate,**
 - additional chief presidency magistrate,
 - **sessions judge,**
 - additional sessions judge and assistant sessions judge.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 53.D

Jurisdiction of Gram Nyayalaya:

- **The Gram Nyayalaya is a mobile court and exercises the powers of both Criminal and Civil Courts.**
- The seat of the Gram Nyayalaya is located at the headquarters of the intermediate Panchayat, but they go to villages, work there and dispose of the cases.
- **The Gram Nyayalayas try criminal cases (where the alleged offence attracts a punishment of not more than 2 years or when the value of the property involved in a criminal case is not more than 20000 rupees), civil suits (cases over the cattle trespassing act, minimum wages act, protection of women from domestic violence act and property disputes, etc.), claims or disputes. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Gram Nyayalayas can follow special procedures in civil matters, in a manner it deems just and reasonable in the interest of Justice. They, in the first instance, allow for conciliation of the dispute and settlement of the same.
- **The Gram Nyayalayas are not strictly bound by the rules of evidence provided in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 but are guided by the principles of natural justice and subject to any rule made by the High Court. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 54.D

- **The Constitution lays down the following conditions for the the governor’s office:**
 - He should not be a member of either House of Parliament or a House of the state legislature. If any such person is appointed as governor, he is deemed to have vacated his seat in that House on the date on which he enters upon his office as the governor.
 - He should not hold any other office of profit. He is entitled without payment of rent to the use of his official residence (the Raj Bhavan).
 - **He is entitled to such emoluments, allowances and privileges as may be determined by Parliament. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - **When the same person is appointed as the governor of two or more states, the emoluments and allowances payable to him are shared by the states in such proportion as determined by the president. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - His emoluments and allowances cannot be diminished during his term of office.

Q 55.D

- After every census, a readjustment is to be made in
 - the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha to the states, and
 - the division of each state into territorial constituencies.
- Parliament is empowered to determine the authority and the manner in which it is to be made. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**

- Accordingly, the Parliament enacted the Delimitation Commission Acts in 1952, 1962, 1972, and 2002 for this purpose.
- The **42nd Amendment Act of 1976** froze the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha to the states and the division of each state into territorial constituencies till the year 2000 at the 1971 level. This ban on readjustment was extended for another 25 years (ie, up to the year 2026) by the 84th Amendment Act of 2001, with the same objective of encouraging population limiting measures.
- The **84th Amendment Act of 2001** also empowered the government to undertake readjustment and rationalization of territorial constituencies in the states on the basis of the population figures of the 1991 census.
- Later, the **87th Amendment Act of 2003** provided for the delimitation of constituencies on the basis of the 2001 census and not the 1991 census. However, this can be done without altering the number of seats allotted to each state in the Lok Sabha. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 56.B

- As the Constitution of India provides for a parliamentary system of government in the states on the Union pattern, **the council of ministers headed by the chief minister is the real executive authority in the politico-administrative system of a state.** The council of ministers in the states is constituted and function in the same way as the council of ministers at the Centre.
- **Article 163–Council of Ministers to aid and advise Governor:**
 - There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister as the head to aid and advise the Governor in the exercise of his functions, except in so far as he is required to exercise his functions in his discretion.
 - **If any question arises whether a matter falls within the Governor’s discretion or not, decision of the Governor shall be final,** and the validity of anything done by the Governor shall not be called in question on the ground that he ought or ought not to have acted in his discretion. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The advice tendered by Ministers to the Governor shall not be inquired into in any court.
- **Article 177–Rights of Ministers as Respects the Houses**
 - Every minister shall have the **right to speak and take part in the proceedings** of the Assembly (and also the Council where it exists) and any Committee of the State Legislature of which he may be named a member. **But he shall not be entitled to vote. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

Q 57.D

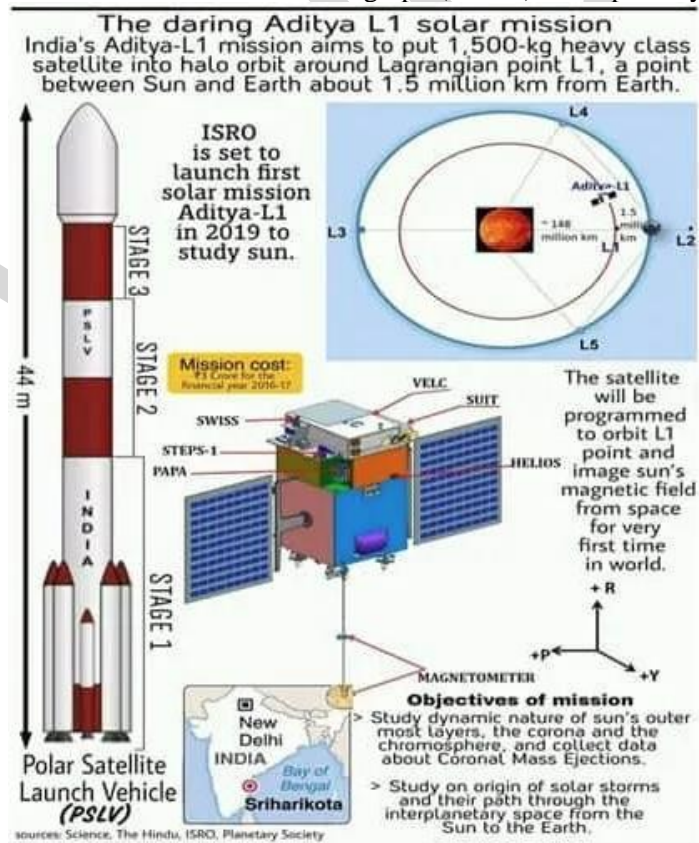
- Twenty-nine subjects, which were earlier in the State list of subjects, are identified and listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. These subjects are to be transferred to the Panchayati Raj institutions. These subjects were mostly linked to development and welfare functions at the local level. The actual transfer of these functions depends upon the State legislation. Each State decides how many of these twenty-nine subjects would be transferred to the local bodies.
- Under the Eleventh Schedule of the constitution, there are **29 functional items** placed within the purview of panchayats, Some of the important functions are mentioned below :
 - **Agriculture, including agricultural extension**
 - Land improvement, **implementation of land reforms**, land consolidation and soil conservation
 - Minor irrigation, water management and watershed development
 - Fisheries
 - Social forestry and farm forestry
 - Minor forest produce
 - **Small-scale industries, including food processing industries**
 - Khadi, village and cottage industries
 - Rural housing
 - Rural electrification, including the distribution of electricity
 - Education, including primary and secondary schools
 - **Technical training and vocational education**
 - Health and sanitation including hospitals, primary health centers and dispensaries
 - Women and child development.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 58.D

- Various committees and commissions have examined our electoral system, election machinery as well as election process and suggested reforms to improve the processes and system.
- **The Vohra Committee Report on Criminalisation of Politics** was constituted to identify the extent of the politician-criminal nexus and recommend ways in which the menace can be combated. Chapter 4 of the report of the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution cites the Vohra report as follows: “The nexus between the criminal gangs, police, bureaucracy and politicians has come out clearly in various parts of the country” and that “some political leaders become the leaders of these gangs/armed senas and over the years get themselves elected to local bodies, State assemblies, and the national parliament.
- **The Indrajit Gupta Committee on State Funding of Elections, 1998**, backed the idea of state funding of elections on principle, stating that “The Committee sees full justification constitutional, legal as well as on the ground of public interest, for grant of State subvention to political parties, so as to establish such conditions where even the parties with modest financial resources may be able to compete with those who have superior financial resources.” **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**
- **Tankha Committee (Core Committee)** was appointed in 2010 to look into the whole gamut of election laws and electoral reforms.
- **Justice J.S. Verma Committee** was constituted to recommend amendments to the Criminal Law so as to provide for quicker trial and enhanced punishment for criminals accused of committing sexual assault against women. The Committee submitted its report on January 23, 2013.

Q 59.D

- Recently it was reported that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to launch the Aditya-L1 mission by June or July this year.
- **Aditya-L1 is the first observatory-class space-based solar mission from India. The spacecraft will be placed in a halo orbit around the first Lagrange point, L1, of the Sun-Earth system.** A satellite around the L1 point has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without occultation/eclipses. **Hence statement 1 and statement 2 are correct.**
- This position provides a greater advantage of observing solar activities continuously. **Aditya-L1 carries seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere, and the outermost layers of the Sun (the corona) using electromagnetic and particle detectors. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Four payloads directly view the Sun from the unique vantage point of L1, and the remaining three payloads carry out in-situ studies of particles and fields at the Lagrange point L1.
- Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) is the primary payload in this mission.



Q 60.B

- In 2018, the central government notified the Electoral Bond Scheme. This scheme was announced in the 2017 budget. It is touted as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties. It is aimed at bringing clean money and substantial transparency into the system of political funding. The salient features of the scheme are:
 - The electoral bond means a bond issued in the nature of a promissory note which is a bearer banking instrument and does not carry the name of the buyer or payee.
 - The electoral bonds may be purchased by a citizen of India or entities incorporated or established in India.
 - **The electoral bonds can be used for making donations to only those registered political parties which have secured not less than one percent of the votes polled in the last general election to the Lok Sabha or the State Legislative Assembly. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**
 - The electoral bonds can be encashed by an eligible political party only through a bank account with the authorized bank.
 - The electoral bonds are issued in the denomination of ₹1,000, ₹10,000, ₹1,00,000, ₹10,00,000 and ₹1,00,00,000.
 - The information furnished by the buyer is treated as confidential by the authorized bank and is not to be disclosed to any authority for any purposes, except when demanded by a competent court or upon registration of a criminal case by any law enforcement agency.

Q 61.B

- **The Kawal Tiger Reserve is located in the North Eastern part (Old Adilabad district) of Telangana State** along the banks of river Godavari, forming part of the Deccan peninsula-central highlands. **The reserve is nestled in the Sahyadri Mountain Ranges**, and has diverse habitat comprising of dense forests, grasslands, open areas, rivers, streams and water bodies.
- **Geographically the reserve is situated in the southern-most tip of the Central Indian Tiger Landscape**, having linkages with the Tadoba-Andhari (Maharashtra) and Indravati (Chhattisgarh) tiger reserves. Thus, the habitat has tremendous significance for tiger conservation in the region. It is also a major catchment of river Godavari and local rivulets like Peddavagu and Kadam.
- **Zoo-geographically, the reserve comes under the Indo-Malayan region, and the major wild animals include: nilgai, chousinga, chinkara, black buck, sambar spotted deer, wild dog, wolf, jackal, fox, tiger, leopard and the jungle cat.**
- The reserve has a low tiger density at present but has a tremendous potential as a source area with stepped up protection and habitat amelioration under Project Tiger.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 62.A

The salient features of the Family Courts Act, of 1984 are as follows:

- **It provides for the establishment of Family Courts by the State Governments in consultation with the High Courts. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It makes it obligatory on the State Governments to set up a Family Court in every city or town with a population exceeding one million.
- **It enables the State Governments to set up Family Courts in other areas also if they deem it necessary.**
- It makes it obligatory on the part of the Family Court to endeavour, in the first instance to effect a reconciliation or a settlement between the parties to a family dispute. During this stage, the proceedings will be informal and rigid rules of procedure shall not apply.
- It provides for the association of social welfare agencies, counsellors, etc., during the conciliation stage and also secures the service of medical and welfare experts.
- It provides that the parties to a dispute before a Family Court shall not be entitled, as of right, to be represented by a legal practitioner. However, the court may, in the interest of justice, seek the assistance of a legal expert as amicus curiae.
- It simplifies the rules of evidence and procedure so as to enable a Family Court to deal effectively with a dispute.
- **It provides for only one right of appeal which shall lie to the High Court. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 63.D

- **Ottanthullal (or Thullal, in short) is a recite-and-dance art-form of Kerala that is famous for its humour and social satire, and marked by its simplicity as opposed to more complex dance-forms like Kathakali and Koodiyattam. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Ottan thullal is the combination of storytelling along with singing and dancing. It is an example of a famous proverb, “Old is Gold,” as this performing art is almost 300 years old, created by poet Kunchan Nambiar in the 18th century. The poet Kunchan Nambiar performed this art instead of another similar art called “Chakyar Koothu” as a protest against society’s social, economic, and prejudicated behaviour. It is also a colourful representation of social criticism through humour. The facial expression of the artist and involvement of dance is the main attraction for the viewers.
- Ottan Thullal, paryan thullal, and seethagan thullal are the three forms of Thullals. Each Thullal delivers a different kind of performance. For example, Ottan Thullal’s presentation involves more body movement and a different way of singing than the other two. Also, its costume is considered to be the most attractive one. Mostly, the performances take place outside the temple during religious event. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 64.D

- **A notified area committee is created for the administration of two types of areas—a fast developing town due to industrialisation, and a town which does not yet fulfil all the conditions necessary for the constitution of a municipality, but which otherwise is considered important by the state government. Since it is established by notification in the government gazette, it is called as notified area committee. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Though it functions within the framework of the State Municipal Act, only those provisions of the act apply to it which are notified in the government gazette by which it is created. It may also be entrusted to exercise powers under any other act. Its powers are almost equivalent to those of a municipality.
- **But unlike the municipality, it is an entirely nominated body, that is, all the members of a notified area committee including the chairman are nominated by the state government. Thus, it is neither an elected body nor a statutory body. Hence, statement 1 is not correct and statement 2 is correct.**

Q 65.B

- **A High-Level Committee, under the Chairmanship of Justice B. N. Srikrishna, to review the institutionalization of the arbitration mechanism recommended:**
- **Setting up an Autonomous Body, styled the Arbitration Promotion Council of India (APCI), having representatives from all stakeholders for grading arbitral institutions in India.**
- The APCI may recognize professional institutes providing for the accreditation of arbitrators.
- The APCI may also hold training workshops and interact with law firms and law schools to train advocates with an interest in arbitration and with a goal to create a specialist arbitration bar comprising advocates dedicated to the field.
- Creation of a specialist Arbitration Bench to deal with such Commercial disputes, in the domain of the Courts.
- Changes have been suggested to make arbitration speedier and more efficacious and incorporate international best practices.
- The Committee is also of the opinion that the **National Litigation Policy (NLP) must promote arbitration in Government Contracts.**
- The committee recommended declaring the **International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ICADR) working under the aegis of the Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Legal Affairs as an Institution of national importance** and takeover of the institution by a statute as revamped ICADR has the potential be a globally competitive institution.
- **Creation of the post of an ‘International Law Adviser’ (ILA).** It shall advise the Government and coordinate dispute resolution strategy for the Government in disputes arising out of its international law obligations particularly disputes arising out of BITs.
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 66.A

- As part of the holistic development of the Great Nicobar Islands, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) has invited Expression of Interest for building an International Container Transshipment Port at Galathea Bay.
- In 2021, the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has de-notified Galathea Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, an important nesting site of leatherback sea turtles in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists leatherback turtles among the vulnerable species as their numbers are decreasing. Extremely vulnerable to temperature extremes, the leatherback turtles are the world's largest turtles and the only species without scales and a hard shell. They are named after their tough rubbery skin and have existed in their current form since the age of the dinosaurs. Leatherbacks are migratory and some of them swim over 10,000 miles a year between nesting and foraging grounds.
- The National Board for Wildlife has suggested the implementation of a mitigation plan to facilitate the nesting of turtles as well as connectivity between the Galathea river and the Bay of Bengal.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 67.A

- **Article 74 deals with the status of the council of ministers while Article 75 deals with the appointment, tenure, responsibility, qualification, oath and salaries and allowances of the ministers.**
- Article 75 says
 - The Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.
 - The ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.
 - **The council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.**
 - **The President shall administer the oaths of office and secrecy to a minister.**
 - **The salaries and allowances of ministers shall be determined by the Parliament.**
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 68.C

- 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, the single transferable vote system and the 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. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**
- Though some members of the Constituent Assembly had advocated the system of proportional representation for the election of members to the Lok Sabha, the Constitution has not adopted the system due to two reasons.
 - Difficult for the voters to understand the system (which is complicated) due to the low literacy scale in the country.
 - Unsuitability to the parliamentary government due to the tendency of the system to multiply political parties leading to instability in government.
- Additionally, the system of proportional representation has the following demerits:
 - It is highly expensive.
 - It does not give any scope for organizing by-elections.
 - It eliminates intimate contact between voters and representatives.
 - It promotes minority thinking and group interests.
 - It increases the significance of party system and decreases that of voter.

Q 69.B

- The **Constitution** lays down the following **qualifications** for a person to be chosen as a member of the Parliament:
 - He must be a citizen of India.
 - He must make and subscribe to an oath or affirmation before the person authorized by the election commission for this purpose.
 - He must be not less than 30 years of age in the case of the Rajya Sabha and not less than 25 years of age in the case of the Lok Sabha.
 - He must possess other qualifications prescribed by Parliament.
- The **Parliament** has laid down the following **additional qualifications** in the **Representation of People Act (1951)**.
 - He must be registered as an elector for a parliamentary constituency. This is the same in the case of both, the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha. The **requirement that a candidate contesting an election to the Rajya Sabha from a particular state should be an elector in that particular state was dispensed with in 2003**. In 2006, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of this change. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**

- He must be a member of a scheduled caste or scheduled tribe in any state or union territory if he wants to contest a seat reserved for them. However, **a member of scheduled castes or scheduled tribes can also contest a seat not reserved for them. Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Q 70.C

- **Original Jurisdiction**
 - As a federal court, the Supreme Court decides the disputes between different units of the Indian Federation.
 - **More elaborately, any dispute:**
 - **Between the Centre and one or more states; or**
 - **Between the Centre and any state or states on one side and one or more other states on the other side; or**
 - **Between two or more states. Hence, option 2 is correct.**
 - **In the above federal disputes, the Supreme Court has exclusive original jurisdiction.** Exclusive means, no other court can decide such disputes and original means, the power to hear such disputes in the first instance, not by way of appeal.
 - With regard to the exclusive original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, two points should be noted.
 - One, the dispute must involve a question (whether of law or fact) on which the existence or extent of a legal right depends. Thus, questions of political nature are excluded from it.
 - Two, any suit brought before the Supreme Court by a private citizen against the Centre or a state cannot be entertained under this.
 - **Further, original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court does not extend to the following:**
 - **A dispute arising out of any pre-Constitution treaty, agreement, covenant, engagement, sanad or other similar instruments. Hence, option 3 is not correct.**
 - A dispute arising out of any treaty, agreement, etc., which specifically provides that the said jurisdiction does not extend to such a dispute.
 - **Interstate water disputes. Hence option 1 is not correct.**
 - Matters referred to the Finance Commission.
 - Adjustment of certain expenses and pensions between the Centre and the states.
 - Ordinary dispute of Commercial nature between the Centre and the states.
 - **Recovery of damages by a state against the Centre. Hence, option 4 is not correct.**
 - In 1961, the first suit, under the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, was brought by West Bengal against the Centre.
 - The State Government challenged the Constitutional validity of the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957, passed by the Parliament. However, the Supreme Court dismissed the suit by upholding the validity of the Act.

Q 71.A

- Recently, the Union government conducted a successful test of '**BharOS**', the **recently-unveiled indigenous mobile operating system developed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT). Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- BharOS is an Indian government-funded project to develop a free and open-source operating system (OS). The project aims to reduce the dependence on foreign OS in smartphones and promote the use of locally developed technology.
- **BharOS is based on the Android Open Source Project (AOSP).** This makes it somewhat similar to Google's Android operating system. iOS is Apple's proprietary OS and BharOS has no similarity with it per se. BharOS can run virtually on all Android apps.
- **The big difference between Android and BharOS is that the latter does not come with any Google services or apps.** BharOS just does not have any pre-installed apps. This gives users the flexibility to download any app of their choice. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- The BharOS has been developed by JandK Operations Private Limited (JandKops), which has been incubated by IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation, a Section 8 (Not for Profit) Company established by IIT Madras. The Foundation is funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, under its National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NMICPS).

Q 72.A

- When the Lok Sabha is dissolved, all business including bills, motions, resolutions, notices, petitions and so on pending before it or its committees lapse. They (to be pursued further) must be reintroduced in the newly-constituted Lok Sabha. However, some pending bills and all pending assurances that are to be examined by the Committee on Government Assurances do not lapse on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.
- The position with respect to lapsing of bills is as follows:
 - A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses (whether originating in the Lok Sabha or transmitted to it by the Rajya Sabha).
 - A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses. **Hence option 1 is correct.**
 - A bill not passed by the two Houses due to disagreement and if the president has notified the holding of a joint sitting before the dissolution of Lok Sabha, does not lapse.
 - A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha does not lapse. **Hence option 3 is not correct.**
 - **A bill passed by both Houses but pending assent of the President does not lapse. Hence option 2 is not correct.**
 - A bill passed by both Houses but returned by the president for reconsideration of Houses does not lapse.

Q 73.C

- Basmati is a variety of long, slender-grained aromatic rice which is traditionally grown in India, Pakistan, and Nepal. As of 2019, India accounted for 65% of the international trade in basmati rice, while Pakistan accounted for the remaining 35%.
- **Basmati rice is cultivated in the Himalayan foothills of the Indian subcontinent. The specific agro-climatic conditions, processing techniques such as harvesting and ageing are said to make this rice unique. In India, rice grown in specific parts of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir can be labelled as basmati. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Basmati rice is just one of the thousands of rice varieties available in India. However, this fragrant rice has invited the most controversy.
- In 2020, India's application for a geographical indication tag recognised in the European Union market was put on hold after Pakistan opposed the move.
- **In a bid to promote the business around basmati rice, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) notified standards for basmati rice January 12, 2023. They will be enforced from August 1, 2023. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- FSSAI hopes that the standards would protect consumer interest and ensure the basmati rice sold in the market has the characteristic fragrance identified with this variety and is free from artificial fragrances and colouring.
- The authority has also set standards on parameters such as average size of grains and their elongation ratio after cooking. It has set the maximum limits for moisture, amylose content, uric acid, damaged grains and presence of non-basmati rice.
- The standards are applicable to brown basmati rice, milled basmati rice, parboiled brown basmati rice and milled parboiled basmati rice.

Q 74.D

- A cantonment board is established for municipal administration for the civilian population in the cantonment area. **A cantonment area is a delimited area where the military forces and troops are permanently stationed. It is set up under the provisions of the Cantonments Act of 2006—legislation enacted by the Central government.** It works under the administrative control of the defense ministry of the Central government. Thus, unlike the above four types of urban local bodies, which are created and administered by the state government, a cantonment board is created as well as administered by the Central government.
- A cantonment board consists of partly elected and partly nominated members. The elected members hold office for a term of five years while the nominated members (i.e., ex-officio members) continue so long as they hold the office in that station. **The military officer commanding the station is the ex-officio president of the board and presides over its meetings. The vice-president of the board is elected by the elected members from amongst themselves for a term of five years. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**
- The functions performed by a cantonment board are similar to those of a municipality. These are statutorily categorized into obligatory functions and discretionary functions. The sources of income include both, tax revenue and non-tax revenue.

- **The executive officer of the cantonment board is appointed by the President of India.** He implements all the resolutions and decisions of the board and its committees. He belongs to the central cadre established for the purpose.

Q 75.C

- In the scheme of parliamentary system of government provided by the constitution, the President is the nominal executive authority (de jure executive) and Prime Minister is the real executive authority (de facto executive). In other words, **President is the head of the State while Prime Minister is the head of the government.**
- **The salary and allowances of the Prime Minister are determined by the Parliament from time to time.** He gets the salary and allowances that are payable to a member of Parliament. Additionally, he gets a sumptuary allowance, free accommodation, travelling allowance, medical facilities, etc. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **The term of the Prime Minister is not fixed and he holds office during the pleasure of the president. However, this does not mean that the president can dismiss the Prime Minister at any time.** So long as the Prime Minister enjoys the majority support in the Lok Sabha, he cannot be dismissed by the President. However, if he loses the confidence of the Lok Sabha, he must resign or the President can dismiss him. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Since the Prime Minister stands at the head of the council of ministers, the other ministers cannot function when the Prime Minister resigns or dies. In other words, **the resignation or death of an incumbent Prime Minister automatically dissolves the council of ministers and thereby generates a vacuum. The resignation or death of any other minister, on the other hand, merely creates a vacancy which the Prime Minister may or may not like to fill. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Q 76.A

- The ongoing bird flu outbreak in the US is now the longest and deadliest on record. It is caused by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5N1).
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) A(H5N1) virus occurs mainly in birds and is highly contagious among them. H5N1 can infect number of mammals including humans. H5N1 has a frighteningly high mortality rate.
- For any pathogen to have the potential to cause a human pandemic, it has to have three important qualities. It must spread easily among humans, particularly through the air. It must cause human disease. And it must be something that most of our immune systems haven't encountered before — that is, it must be novel.
- H5N1 doesn't meet all of these criteria. H5N1 doesn't easily bind to cells in airways of humans. Flu viruses that can't cause infection in humans' airways are much harder to transmit among humans — and therefore, they can't cause a pandemic. Unless something changes.
- If there's anything concerning about the current bird flu, it's that it could mutate and evolve. Influenza viruses are incredibly changeable. Like other viruses, H5N1 picks up small mutations as it replicates within a host; over time, that can give the virus certain benefits. But influenza viruses can also undergo much bigger and more consequential shifts through a process called reassortment.
- **Reassortment is the formation of a hybrid virus containing parts from the genomes of two distinct viruses in a mixed infection.** In simple terms, Reassortment is like something out of science fiction: When two influenza viruses infect the same cell in the same host, they can trade entire chunks of their genomes with each other, yielding a variety of Franken-flus. **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
- It's a red flag for researchers when avian flu spreads among animals that can also easily get sick with other kinds of influenza. Pigs, for example, have flu receptors in their respiratory systems that both human and bird viruses easily bind to, so they can get infected with both. Should these two viruses meet inside these animals, they might swap parts, producing an avian flu that can more easily infect mammals.

Q 77.C

- Before entering upon his office, the governor has to make and subscribe to an **oath or affirmation**. In his oath, the governor swears
 - to faithfully execute the office;
 - to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law; and
 - to devote himself to the service and well-being of the people of the state.
- **The oath of office to the governor is administered by the chief justice of the concerned state high court and in his absence, the senior-most judge of that court available.** Every person discharging the functions of the governor also undertakes the similar oath or affirmation.
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 78.A

- During the election campaign, the political parties and contesting candidates are expected to abide by a Model Code of Conduct evolved by the Election Commission on the basis of a consensus among political parties. It is intended to maintain the election campaign on healthy lines, avoid clashes and conflicts between political parties or their supporters and to ensure peace and order during the campaign period and thereafter, until the results are declared.
- The Model Code of Conduct for the guidance of political parties and candidates is a set of norms that has been **evolved with the consensus of political parties** who have consented to abide by the principles embodied in the said code and also binds them to respect and observe it in its letter and spirit. The model code also prescribes guidelines for the ruling party either at the Centre or in the state to ensure that a level field is maintained and that no cause is given for any complaint that the ruling party has used its official position for the purposes of its election campaign
- The Commission normally announces the schedule of elections in a major press conference a few weeks before the formal process is set in motion. **The Model Code of Conduct for the guidance of candidates and political parties comes immediately into effect after such an announcement.**
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 79.C

- **National Lok Adalat: National Level Lok Adalats are held at regular intervals on a single day throughout the nation**, in every one of the courts, from the Supreme Court to the Taluk Levels, wherein the cases are disposed of in huge numbers.
- **They are held every two months across the country to dispose of the pending cases.** According to the statistics of the Ministry of Law, more than 50 lakh cases are disposed of annually on average by these courts.
- **Permanent Lok Adalat:** It was established according to Section 22 B of the Legal Service Authorities Act, 1987. These are **permanent bodies with a Chairman and two members giving an obligatory pre-litigation system** for conciliation and settlement of cases pertaining to public utility services. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- In these courts, even if there is a failure in reaching a settlement, the Permanent Lok Adalat has the jurisdiction to decide the matter, provided, the dispute does not relate to any offense.
- **The award given by the Permanent Lok Adalat is the last and official for every one of the parties. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **Portable Lok Adalats:** These are mobile dispute settlement bodies and are set up in different parts of the country to resolve matters by encouraging the resolution of disputes and easing the burden on the formal judiciary.

Q 80.A

- In addition to the members of a House, every minister and the **attorney general of India** have the **right to speak and take part in the proceedings of either House, any joint sitting of both the Houses, and any committee of Parliament of which he is a member**, without being entitled to vote. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- There are two reasons underlying this constitutional provision:
 - A minister can participate in the proceedings of a House, of which he is not a member of. In other words, a minister belonging to the Lok Sabha can participate in the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha and vice-versa.
 - **A minister, who is not a member of either House, can participate in the proceedings of both Houses.** It should be noted here that a person can remain a minister for six months, without being a member of either House of Parliament. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 81.C

- Recently, the Centre established three Grievance Appellate Committees based on the recently amended Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 ("IT Rules 2021").
- The IT rules 2021 provide for creating avenues for grievance redressal apart from Courts and ensure that the Constitutional rights of Indian citizens are not contravened by any Big-tech Platform.
- **The Grievance Appellate Committees (GACs) set up by the government to look into users' complaints against large social media companies such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram will commence operation from March 1, 2023. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- As per the notification, three Grievance Appellate Committees have been constituted with three members each.

- Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) is a critical piece of overall policy and legal framework to ensure that Internet in India is Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable. The need for GAC was created due to large numbers of grievances being left unaddressed or unsatisfactorily addressed by Internet Intermediaries. GAC is expected to create a culture of responsiveness amongst all Internet Platforms and Intermediaries towards their consumers.
- **The GAC will be a virtual Digital platform that will operate only online and digitally** - wherein the entire appeal process, from filing of appeal to the decision thereof, shall be conducted digitally. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Q 82.B

- The China-U.S. trade war and the COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the need for companies to diversify supply chains outside of China. **This has given rise to the “China plus one” strategy, in which multinational firms are moving to other countries, in addition to China.** Some Asian countries have put forward plans to attract overseas investment as companies look for another center of production or distribution. These include Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam, which have introduced preferential policies for overseas firms investing in the country. **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
- For now, the “China plus one” strategy is working for some companies. One key determinant of how sustainable the trend will be is how quickly infrastructure can be built to accommodate more firms moving into other nations. However, companies that do choose to diversify into Southeast Asian nations will continue to be able to take advantage of the varied and easily accessible suppliers from other Asian nations. In addition, the recently signed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) will allow firms with supply chains distributed among several Asian nations to take advantage of common rules of origin for the entire bloc. This will allow RCEP countries to use only a single certificate of origin.
- As a result, the “China plus one” strategy, with firms venturing into other Asian nations, has become a popular trend that is likely to continue over the long run, even if some firms focus production more on China in the short run. In particular, Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam will continue to appeal to multinational firms, especially as these countries continue to build up infrastructure and production capacity.

Q 83.D

- **Appointment of District Judges (Art.233)**
- The appointment, posting, and promotion of district judges in a state are made by the Governor of State, in consultation with the High Court. The qualifications of a person for appointment to the post are:1. He should not already be in the service of the central or state government.2. He should have been an advocate or pleader for not less than seven years3. He should be recommended by the high court for appointment.
- From the above, it is clear that the **Constitution has not prescribed a minimum age for appointment as a district judge.**
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 84.A

- **Immune Imprinting:** It is a tendency of the body to repeat its immune response based on the first variant it encountered through infection or vaccination. Imprinting acts as a database for the immune system, helping it put up a better response in order to repeat infections. The concept was first observed in 1947. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **Issues with Immune Imprinting**
 - After our body is exposed to a virus for the first time, it produces memory B cells which circulate in the bloodstream and quickly produce antibodies. When a similar or variant of virus enters the body, the immune system, rather than generating new B cells, activates memory B cells, which in turn produce antibodies which bind to features found in both the old and new strains, known as cross-reactive antibodies. Although the cross-reactive antibodies do offer some protection against the new strain, they aren't as effective as the ones produced by the B cells when the body first came across the original virus. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Adaptive Immune System**
 - Adaptive immune responses are carried out by white blood cells also called lymphocytes. There are two broad classes of such responses: antibody responses and cell-mediated immune responses, and they are carried out by certain different classes of lymphocytes, called B cells and T cells, respectively
 - B cells mature in the bone marrow (therefore the name “B cell”).
 - Cells which eventually become T cells travel from the bone marrow to the thymus by way of our bloodstream where they mature (hence the name “T cell”).The thymus is present just above the heart behind the sternum, or breastbone.

Q 85.C

- **Money bills can be introduced in the state legislature only with the Governor's prior recommendation.**
- Every money bill, after it is passed by the state legislature (unicameral or bicameral), is presented to the governor for his assent. He has three alternatives:
 - He may give his assent to the bill, the bill then becomes an act.
 - He may withhold his assent to the bill, and the bill then ends and does not become an act.
 - He may reserve the bill for the consideration of the president.
- Thus, **the governor cannot return a money bill for reconsideration by the state legislature.** Normally, the governor gives his assent to a money bill as it is introduced in the state legislature with his previous permission. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **When the governor reserves a money bill for the consideration of the President, he will not have any further role in the enactment of the bill.** If the President gives his assent to the bill, it becomes an Act. This means that the assent of the governor is no longer required. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Q 86.B

- The **Zonal Councils are the statutory (and not the constitutional) bodies.** They are established by the States Reorganisation Act of 1956. The act divided the country into **five zones (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western, and Southern) and provided a zonal council for each zone.** However, the North-Eastern Council was created by a separate Act of Parliament—the North-Eastern Council Act of 1971. The **Union Home Minister** is the common chairman of all the zonal councils. **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
- The Broad Objectives of Zonal Councils are:
 - The zonal councils aim at promoting cooperation and coordination between states, union territories, and the Centre.
 - They discuss and make recommendations regarding matters like economic and social planning, linguistic minorities, border disputes, interstate transport, and so on.
- They are only deliberative and advisory bodies. As per Section 17(1) of the States Re-organisation Act, each Zonal Council shall meet at such time as the Chairman of the Council may decide. Punchhi Commission recommended that the Zonal Councils should meet at least twice a year with an agenda proposed by states concerned to maximize coordination and promote harmonization of policies and actions having inter-state ramifications.

Q 87.C

- **In 2003, the facility to opt to vote through proxy was provided to the service voters belonging to the Armed Forces and members belonging to a Force to which provisions of the Army Act apply.** Such service voters who opt to vote through proxy have to appoint a proxy in a prescribed format and intimate the Returning Officer of the constituency. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **In 1999, a provision was made for voting by certain classes of persons through postal ballot.** Thus, any class of persons can be notified by the **Election Commission, in consultation with the government,** and the persons belonging to such notified class can give their votes by postal ballot, and not in any other manner, at elections in their constituency or constituencies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Q 88.C

- The Vice-President occupies the second highest office in the country. He is accorded a rank next to the President in the official warrant of precedence. **This office is modelled on the lines of the American Vice-President.**
- The Vice-President, like the president, is elected not directly by the people but by the method of indirect election. **He is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the members of both Houses of Parliament.** Thus, this electoral college is different from the electoral college for the election of the President in the following two respects:
 - It consists of both elected and nominated members of the Parliament (in the case of president, only elected members).
 - **It does not include the members of the state legislative assemblies (in the case of President, the elected members of the state legislative assemblies are included).** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Vice-President holds office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office. However, he can resign from his office at any time by addressing the resignation letter to the President. He can also be removed from the office before completion of his term. **A formal impeachment is not required for his removal. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- **He can be removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the Rajya Sabha and agreed to by the Lok Sabha. This means that this resolution should be passed in the Rajya Sabha by an effective majority and in the Lok Sabha by a simple majority.** It must be noted here that the effective majority in India is only a type of special majority and not a separate one. Further, this resolution can be introduced only in the Rajya Sabha and not in the Lok Sabha.

Q 89.D

- The Rajya Sabha (first constituted in 1952) is a continuing chamber, that is, it is a permanent body and not subject to dissolution. However, one-third of its members retire every second year. Their seats are filled up by fresh elections and presidential nominations at the beginning of every third year. The retiring members are eligible for re-election and renomination any number of times.
- The **Constitution has not fixed the term of office of members of the Rajya Sabha and left it to the Parliament.** Accordingly, the Parliament in the Representation of the People Act (1951) provided that the term of office of a member of the Rajya Sabha shall be six years. The act also empowered the president of India to curtail the term of members chosen in the first Rajya Sabha. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- In the first batch, it was decided by lottery as to who should retire. Further, the act also authorized the President to make provisions to govern the order of retirement of the members of the Rajya Sabha.
- Unlike the Rajya Sabha, the Lok Sabha is not a continuing chamber. Its normal term is five years from the date of its first meeting after the general elections, after which it automatically dissolves. **The Speaker cannot dissolve the Lok Sabha.** However, the **President is authorized to dissolve the Lok Sabha at any time even before the completion of five years and this cannot be challenged in a court of law. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Further, the term of the Lok Sabha can be extended during a period of national emergency by a law of Parliament for one year at a time for any length of time. However, this extension cannot continue beyond a period of six months after the emergency has ceased to operate.

Q 90.C

- **The Table of Precedence is related to the rank and order of the officials of the Union and State Governments.** But, the order in this Table is meant for state and ceremonial occasions and has no application in the day-to-day business of Government. The updated version of the Table, containing all the amendments made therein so far (2019), is given below:
 - President
 - Vice-President
 - **Prime Minister**
 - **Governors of states within their respective states**
 - **Former presidents**
 - 5A. Deputy Prime Minister
 - Chief Justice of India; Speaker of Lok Sabha
 - **Cabinet Ministers of the Union**, Chief Ministers of States within their respective States Vice-Chairperson, NITI Aayog Former Prime Ministers Leaders of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha 7A. Holders of Bharat Ratna decoration
 - Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and High Commissioners of Commonwealth countries accredited to India, Chief Ministers of States outside their respective States Governors of States outside their respective States
 - Judges of Supreme Court 9A. Chairperson, Union Public Service Commission, Chief Election Commissioner, Comptroller & Auditor General of India
 - Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Deputy Chief Ministers of States Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Members of the NITI Aayog
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 91.B

- **Article 75 clearly states that the council of ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.** This means that all the ministers own joint responsibility to the Lok Sabha for all their acts of omission and commission. They work as a team and swim or sink together. When the Lok Sabha passes a no-confidence motion against the council of ministers, all the ministers have to resign including those ministers who are from the Rajya Sabha. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The principle of collective responsibility also means that the Cabinet decisions bind all cabinet ministers (and other ministers) even if they differed in the cabinet meeting. It is the duty of every minister to stand by cabinet decisions and support them both within and outside the Parliament. If**

any minister disagrees with a cabinet decision and is not prepared to defend it, he must resign. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- Article 75 also contains the **principle of individual responsibility. It states that the ministers hold office during the pleasure of the president**, which means that the President can remove a minister. even at a time when the council of ministers enjoys the confidence of the Lok Sabha. However, the President removes a minister only on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- In Britain, every order of the King for any public act is countersigned by a minister. If the order is in violation of any law, the minister would be held responsible and would be liable in the court. The legally accepted phrase in Britain is, "The king can do no wrong." Hence, he cannot be sued in any court.
 - **In India, on the other hand, there is no provision in the Constitution for the system of legal responsibility of a minister. It is not required that an order of the President for a public act should be countersigned by a minister. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Q 92.B

- The Deputy Speaker has one special privilege, that is, **whenever he is appointed as a member of a parliamentary committee, he automatically becomes its chairman.** Like the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, while presiding over the House, cannot vote in the first instance; he can only exercise a casting vote in the case of a tie. Further, when a resolution for the removal of the Deputy Speaker is under consideration by the House, he cannot preside at the sitting of the House, though he may be present. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Like the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker is also elected by the Lok Sabha itself from amongst its members. He is elected after the election of the Speaker has taken place. **The date of election of the Deputy Speaker is fixed by the Speaker.** Whenever the office of the Deputy Speaker falls vacant, the Lok Sabha elects another member to fill the vacancy. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Deputy Speaker performs the duties of the Speaker's office when it is vacant. He also acts as the Speaker when the latter is absent from the sitting of the House. In both cases, he assumes all the powers of the Speaker. He also presides over the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament, in case the Speaker is absent from such a sitting.
- It should be noted here that the **Deputy Speaker is not subordinate to the Speaker.** He is **directly responsible to the House. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 93.A

- **Business Advisory Committee:** This committee regulates the program and timetable of the House. It allocates time for the transaction of legislative and other business brought before the House by the government. The Lok Sabha committee consists of 15 members including the Speaker as its chairman. In the Rajya Sabha, it has 11 members including the Chairman as its ex-officio chairman. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**
- **Rules Committee:** This committee considers the matters of procedure and conduct of business in the House and recommends necessary amendments or additions to the rules of the House. The Lok Sabha committee consists of 15 members including the Speaker as its ex-officio chairman. In the Rajya Sabha, it consists of 16 members including the Chairman as its ex-officio chairman.
- **General Purpose Committee:** This committee considers and advises on matters concerning affairs of the House, which do not fall within the jurisdiction of any other parliamentary committee. In each House, this committee consists of the presiding officer (Speaker / Chairman) as its ex-officio chairman, Deputy Speaker (Deputy Chairman in the case of Rajya Sabha), members of panel of chairpersons (panel of vice chairpersons in the case of Rajya Sabha), chairpersons of all the departmental standing committees of the House, leaders of recognised parties and groups in the House and such other members as nominated by the presiding officer.
- **Ethics Committee:** This committee was constituted in Rajya Sabha in 1997 and in Lok Sabha in 2000. It enforces the code of conduct of members of Parliament. It examines the cases of misconduct and recommends appropriate action. Thus, it is engaged in maintaining discipline and decorum in Parliament.

Q 94.B

- The Prime Minister is appointed by the President, while the other ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. This means that the **President can appoint only those persons as ministers who are recommended by the Prime minister. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Usually, the members of Parliament, either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha, are appointed as ministers. **A person who is not a member of either House of Parliament can also be appointed as a minister.** But, within six months, he must become a member (either by election or by nomination) of either House of Parliament, otherwise, he ceases to be a minister. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

Q 95.C

- **Recently theorists have finally explained the superconductivity of mercury, the first superconductor ever discovered—gaining insights that could be relevant to the search for room-temperature superconductors.**
- Superconductivity is a set of physical properties observed in certain materials where electrical resistance vanishes and magnetic flux fields are expelled from the material.
- Superconductors are separated into two main categories: Low-temperature superconductors (LTS), also known as conventional superconductors and High-temperature superconductors (HTS) also called unconventional superconductors.
- LTS can be described by the Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer (BCS) theory to explain how the electrons form Cooper pairs. HTS use other microscopic methods to achieve zero resistance.
- The origins of HTS are one of the major unsolved problems of modern-day physics. Most of the historical research on superconductivity has been in the direction of LTS, because those superconductors are much easier to discover and study, and almost all applications of superconductivity involve LTS. HTS, in contrast, are an active and exciting area of modern-day research.
- Anything that works as a superconductor above 70 Kelvin (-203°C) is generally considered an HTS. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- In 1911, Dutch physicist Heike Kamerlingh Onnes discovered superconductivity in mercury. He found that at a very low temperature, called the threshold temperature (around -270°C), solid mercury offers no resistance to the flow of electric current. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Q 96.C

- **The Constitution lays down only two qualifications for the appointment of a person as a governor.** These are:
 - He should be a citizen of India.
 - He should have **completed the age of 35 years.** **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Additionally, **two conventions have also developed in this regard over the years.**
 - First, **he should be an outsider**, that is, he should not belong to the state where he is appointed so that he is free from local politics. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
 - Second, while appointing the governor, **the president is required to consult the chief minister of the state concerned**, so that the smooth functioning of the constitutional machinery in the state is ensured. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
 - However, both conventions have been violated in some cases.

Q 97.A

- **The Prime Minister is the leader of the Lower House.** In this capacity, he enjoys the following powers:
 - He advises the President with regard to summoning and proroguing of the sessions of the Parliament.
 - He can recommend dissolution of the Lok Sabha to President at any time.
 - **He announces government policies on the floor of the House.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Constitutionally, the Prime Minister may be a member of any of the two Houses of parliament.** For example, three Prime Ministers, Indira Gandhi (1966), Deve Gowda (1996) and Manmohan Singh (2004), were members of the Rajya Sabha. In United Kingdom, on the other hand, the Prime Minister should definitely be a member of the Lower House (House of Commons). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **The Prime Minister has various roles.**
 - He is the chairman of the NITI Ayog (which succeeded the planning commission), National Integration Council, Inter State Council, National Water Resources Council and some other bodies.
 - He plays a significant role in shaping the foreign policy of the country.
 - **He is the chief spokesman of the Union government.** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - **He is leader of the party in power.**

Q 98.A

- **Representation of the People Act, 1950** makes the following provisions relating to the elections:
 - Allocation of seats in the House of the People, the State Legislative Assemblies and the State Legislative Councils.
 - Delimitation of Parliamentary, Assembly and Council Constituencies.
 - Election officers like chief electoral officers, district election officers, electoral registration officers and so on.
 - **Electoral rolls for Parliamentary, Assembly and Council constituencies.**
 - Manner of filling seats in the Council of States to be filled by representatives of union territories.

- Local authorities for purposes of elections to the State Legislative Councils.
- Barring the jurisdiction of civil courts. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**
- **Representation of the People Act, 1951** provides for the actual conduct of elections to the Houses of Parliament and to the House or Houses of the Legislature of each State, the qualifications and disqualifications for the membership of these Houses, the corrupt practices and other election offenses, and the decision of election disputes.
- **Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act**, declares that certain offices of profit under the Government shall not disqualify the holders thereof for being chosen as (or for being) members of Parliament.
- **Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections Act, 1952** regulates certain matters relating to or connected with elections to the offices of the President and Vice-President of India.

Q 99.C

- **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs):** The MLATs in criminal matters are the bilateral treaties entered between the countries for providing international cooperation and assistance. These agreements allow for the exchange of evidence and information in criminal and related matters between the signing countries. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **Nodal Agency in India:** The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry and the Central authority for seeking and providing mutual legal assistance in criminal law matters. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.** The Ministry of External Affairs may be involved in this process when such requests are routed through diplomatic channels by these Ministries.
- **Legal Basis:**
- **Section 105 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC)** speaks of reciprocal arrangements to be made by the Central Government with the Foreign Governments with regard to the service of summons/warrants/judicial processes. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.** India has entered into Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties/Agreements with 42 countries (November 2019).

Q 100.C

- The World Economic Forum, mostly known for its **annual summit in Davos, Switzerland, is a non-governmental lobbying organisation.** According to the WEF website, “The Forum strives in all its efforts to demonstrate entrepreneurship in the global public interest while upholding the highest standards of governance.” **Klaus Schwab founded the WEF in 1971** and has been its chairperson since then. The WEF was envisioned as a forum that would bring Schwab’s vision of capitalism to life by engaging with foremost political and business leaders of the world.
- **The WEF is largely funded by its partnering corporations. These are generally global enterprises with annual turnover greater than \$ 5 billion. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **The reason behind choosing Davos as location for annual meet**
- Davos was the setting for Thomas Mann’s novel The Magic Mountain. The book is the story of a young man who goes to Davos to stay at a sanatorium for three weeks and ends up spending seven years. A TIME review of the novel stated: “In the sanatorium, a high and chilly retreat, the perspective of life changes ... With death for a background, massive and eccentric as the high Alps, the caperings of man seem puny by comparison. The idiotic decadence, the absurdly microscopic preoccupations of humanity are emphasized by their isolation.”
- WEF’s “magical meeting place” seeks to have a philosophical significance on world leaders. Relaxed in its serene environs, it seeks to cut through the many distractions of global politics to succeed in its mission to create a more prosperous global economy.
- Its salience goes far beyond discussions on economic issues. **In the past, it has been used as a location for pivotal international diplomacy as leaders are able to break tensions in the town. For instance, in 1988 Greece and Turkey avoided war, when the two signed the now famous Davos Declaration. Hence statement 2 is correct.**