



PRELIMS MISSION TEST-12 (06-03-2024)

EXPLANATION

1. Consider the following statements about Electoral Bonds

1. They are introduced as finance bill during the 2017 budget session
2. There is no cap on number bonds, a individual/company can purchase
3. All political parties are allowed to receive donations through electoral bonds
4. All unclaimed donations will be deposited into the Prime Minister's Relief Fund

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c (Only three)

Statement 1 is correct: The electoral bonds scheme was first introduced by former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley during the 2017 budget session, framed as an initiative to 'cleanse the system of political funding in the country' and make political donations transparent through the Finance Act of 2017. Prior to the introduction of the scheme, political parties were required to make all donations above ₹ 20,000 public, and no corporate company was allowed to make donations amounting to more than 10% of their total revenue.

Statement 2 is correct: Electoral bonds are money instruments like promissory notes that can be bought by companies and individuals in India from authorised branches of the State Bank of India (SBI). Such bonds are sold in multiples of ₹1,000, ₹10,000, ₹1 lakh, ₹10 lakh, and ₹1 crore and can be bought through a KYC-compliant account and donated to a political party, which can then encash them. The name and other details of the donor are not entered on the instrument and thus electoral bonds are, in effect, anonymous. There is also no cap on the number of electoral bonds that a person or company can purchase.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Every political party registered under Section 29A of the RP Act which secured at least 1% of the votes polled in the most recent Lok Sabha or State elections is allotted a verified account by the Election Commission of India

(ECI) in which the bond amounts can be deposited within 15 days of their issue.

Statement 4 is correct: If a party does not encash any bonds within this period, the SBI deposits them into the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The bonds are usually made available for purchase for a period of ten days each at the beginning of every quarter, i.e. in January, April, July, and October, besides an additional 30-day period specified by the Central Government during Lok Sabha election years.

2. Consider the following statements about Electoral Bonds Scheme

1. Only profit making company shall contribute any amount of money as political donation through electoral bonds
2. It is mandatory to an individual and a company to disclose the political contributions made through Electoral Trusts
3. Income received by political parties from individuals is not considered as income and not forms the part of taxable income
4. Political parties are exempted from reporting on amount of funds received through electoral bonds

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c (Only three)

Statement 1 is incorrect: Section 182 of Companies Act: 2013 prohibits the companies from disclosing information about Electoral bonds.

Section 182: Prohibitions and restrictions regarding political contributions.—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provision of this Act, a company, other than a Government company and a company which has been in existence for less than three financial years, may contribute any amount directly or indirectly to any political party:

Statement 2 is correct: Electoral Trusts Scheme was notified in January 2013. Under the scheme, any company registered under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956, can form an electoral trust. Under Section 17CA of the Income-tax Act, 1961,



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any citizen of India, a company registered in India, or a firm or Hindu Undivided Family or association of persons living in India, can donate to an electoral trust. These electoral trusts must donate 95% of contributions received in a financial year to political parties registered under the Representation of the People Act, 1951. However, the individual and the companies are mandated to disclose the information about these donations.

Statement 3 is correct: Section 13A of Income Tax Act: 1961 excluded the income received by political parties from reporting as a taxable income.

13A. Special provision relating to incomes of political parties.—Any income of a political party which is chargeable under the head 3 *** “Income from house property” or “Income from other sources” or 4 [Capital gains or] any income by way of voluntary contributions received by a political party from any person shall not be included in the total income of the previous year of such political party:

Statement 4 is correct: Under Section 29C of RPA: 1951 excluded the political parties from disclosing information about donors of funds to them

Section 29C. Declaration of donation received by the political parties.—(1) The treasurer of a political party or any other person authorised by the political party in this behalf shall, in each financial year, prepare a report in respect of the following namely:—

(a) the contribution in excess of twenty thousand rupees received by such political party from any person in that financial year; (b) the contribution in excess of twenty thousand rupees received by such political party from companies other than Government companies in that financial year. 2 [Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall apply to the contributions received by way of an electoral bond

3. Consider the following offences, which form the ground for disqualification under Representation of People’s Act: 1951

1. Promoting enmity between different groups on the grounds of caste
2. Involved in hoarding or profiteering activities

3. If a candidate subsists a contract entered into by him in course of his trade with the appropriate government

4. If a candidate is a managing director of a company in which government has more than 10% of equity share

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b (Only two)

Statement 1 is incorrect: Section 8 of RPA: 1951: Offence of promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony.

Statement 2 is correct: Section 8(2) of RPA: A person convicted for the contravention of—

- Any law providing for the prevention of hoarding or profiteering
- Any law relating to the adulteration of food or drugs;
- Any provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act

Statement 3 is correct: Section 9A of RPA: 1951: 9A. Disqualification for Government contracts, etc.—A person shall be disqualified if, and for so long as, there subsists a contract entered into by him in the course of his trade or business with the appropriate Government for the supply of goods to, or for the execution of any works undertaken by that Government. Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, where a contract has been fully performed by the person by whom it has been entered into with the appropriate Government, the contract shall be deemed not to subsist by reason only of the fact that the Government has not performed its part of the contract either wholly or in part.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Section 10 of RPA: 1951: Disqualification for office under Government company.—A person shall be disqualified if, and for so long as, he is a managing agent, manager or secretary of any company or corporation (other than a co-operative society) in the capital of which the appropriate Government has not less than twenty-five per cent share.



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4. Consider the following statements

1. According to the Representation of the People Act 1951, a person cannot contest from more than two constituencies for a Lok Sabha elections
2. A person shall not vote at any election if he is under Preventive detention.
3. Acceptance of money to vote for a candidate is not an offense under the Indian Penal Code.
4. If somebody is convicted for some offense and is sentenced to imprisonment for 3 years, he cannot contest the election.

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b (Only two)

Statement 1 is correct: According to Section 33(7) of the Representation of People's Act, a candidate can contest in any election from up to two constituencies. This provision was introduced in 1996, before which there was no bar on the number of constituencies from which a candidate could contest.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Proviso to sub-Section (5) of Section 62 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 confers voting rights on the electors subjected to preventive detention. As per Rule 18 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, the electors under preventive detention are entitled to cast their votes by post.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Acceptance of money to vote for a candidate is a corrupt practice of bribery under Section 123 (1) of the RPA, 1951. It is also an offense under section 171-B of the Indian Penal Code and is punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term that may extend to one year or with a fine or both.

Statement 4 is correct: According to Section 8 (3) of the Representation of People Act, 1951) A person cannot contest any election if he/she is sentenced to jail for 2 or more years.

5. Consider the following statements with reference to elections and the representation of people

1. There can be no democracy without holding elections.
2. All countries that hold elections are necessarily democratic.
3. All methods of election provide a fair representation to all sections of the populace

Which of the statements given above are incorrect?

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

Ans: c (Only three)

Statement 1 is incorrect: Democracy is a form of government in which the people elect the rulers. Elections are the central institution of democratic representative governments. All modern Democratic countries hold elections. Ex: The Greek idea of democracy differed from present-day democracy, where the people are called to make a collective decision and the idea of representation came later. Thus, Elections to select representatives emerged later. Thus, Elections are not compulsory for the country to be democratic.

Statement 2 is incorrect: All modern Democratic countries hold elections, but not all countries that hold elections are democratic. Ex: In Right-wing Dictatorships, Marxist regimes and Single- party governments, they hold elections in which only one candidate or a list of candidates are allowed to contest, and the people has no other alternative choices; they have to select the person from that party. It violates the idea of democracy; these elections are not democratic. Thus, All countries that hold elections need not be democratic.

Statement 3 is incorrect: An Electoral system is to elect the member of the legislature. An electoral system practised in India is First Past The Post (FPTP) is a 'plurality' voting system: the candidate who wins the most votes in each Constituency is elected. In this case, only the certain population is represented. The voters who voted for other candidates are not represented in the Parliament. Whereas In the case of Proportional representation, the seats in parliament should be in proportion to the votes cast. Thus, Not all methods of election provide



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for a fair representation to all sections of the population.

6. In the context of General Elections in India, which of the following rights are available to a Citizen of India?

1. Right to contest from anywhere in India
2. Right to vote from anywhere in India
3. Right to canvass anywhere in India
4. Right to form political party anywhere in India

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b (Only two)

Statement 1 is incorrect: India is the world's largest democracy. It has a quasi-federal government selected directly by citizens through elections held every 5 years. The Representation of the People Acts 1950 and the Representation of the People Act 1951 deal with all aspects of the conduct of elections and post-election disputes. To contest an election, a person must be registered as a voter. Sec 4 (d) of the Representation People Act, 1951 precludes a person from contesting unless he is an elector in any parliamentary constituency. Section 5 (c) of R. P. Act, 1951 has a similar provision for Assembly Constituencies. An Indian Citizen can contest an election from any Constituency in the country except the Autonomous Districts of Assam, Lakshadweep and Sikkim. As per Section 33(7) of the Representation of People Act, 1951, A person cannot contest from more than two constituencies at a general election of Lok Sabha (House of People) / Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly)

Statement 2 is incorrect: Any Indian citizen (who resides in the country) can vote in any state election. But this doesn't mean that one can vote in multiple elections. Election commission officers check all documents before adding names to the voters' list, so if a resident of Delhi moves to Chennai and wants to vote in Chennai, then they will have to get their name removed from Delhi's electoral roll and then get their name added to Chennai's electoral role. Thus, Only a

voter who is registered in the constituency can vote in the constituency.

Statement 3 is correct: Canvassing is an activity which tries to persuade people to vote for a particular person or party in an election. Section 130 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 prohibits canvassing in or near polling stations on the day of the polling. The right to canvass anywhere in India is a right available to the citizens of India except on the Day of the poll, Canvassing for votes within a distance of one hundred meters of polling stations is prohibited under the RPA Act, 1951.

Statement 4 is correct: A political party is an organized group of citizens who hold common views on governance and act as a political unit that seeks to obtain control of the government to further the agenda and policy they profess. The Indian Constitution elaborately deals with cooperative societies. The right to form cooperative societies is a fundamental right under Article 19 (1)(c), but the right to form political parties is not a Fundamental Right. But it is considered as a political right which is available to Indian Citizens.

7. Consider the following statements about National Political Parties

1. To recognise as a national party, the party must win at-least 2% of votes from not less than three states
2. The party should be recognised as state party in at-least four states
3. Only one proposer is required to file nomination for a recognised national party candidate
4. The election symbol of that party cannot be used by any other political party in polls across India.

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c (Only three)

Statement 1 is incorrect and Statement 2 is correct: Conditions for recognition as a National Party. A political party shall be eligible to be



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recognized as National party, if, and only if, any of the following conditions is fulfilled:

- The candidates set up by the party, in any four or more States, at the last general election to the House of the People, or to the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned, have secured not less than six percent of the total valid votes polled in each of those States at that general election; and, in addition, it has returned at least four members to the House of the People at the aforesaid last general election from any State or States; or
- At the last general election to the House of the People, the party has won at least two percent of the total number of seats in the House of the People, any fraction exceeding half being counted as one; and the party's candidates have been elected to that House from not less than three States
- The party is recognized as State party in at least four States.

Statements 3 & 4 are correct: Recognition as a national party ensures:

- The election symbol of that party cannot be used by any other political party in polls across India.
- Recognized 'National' party requires only one proposer to file a nomination.
- The recognized National Parties are given two sets of electoral rolls free of cost by the Election Commission. In addition to this the candidates contesting on the ticket of National or state party get a copy of the electoral roll free of cost during the general elections.
- The National parties receive land or building from the government to establish their party office.
- The National parties can have upto 40 star campaigners.
- National Parties get the time slot on the national and state television & Radio to address the people and convey their message to the mass people.

8. Consider the following statements about 'State Political Party'

1. To recognise as a state party, the party should secure at least 6% of valid votes polled in the last general elections to the Lok Sabha/State Legislative Assembly
2. The party should won at least 3% of seats in Legislative Assembly or at-least three seats in that Assembly whichever is more
3. The Symbol of the recognised state party shall not be used by any party in any state
4. They are entitled to give inputs in setting up of electoral rules and regulations by the Election Commission

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b (Only two)

Statement 1 is incorrect and Statement 2 is correct: Conditions for recognition as a State Party – A political party shall be eligible for recognition as a State party in a State, if, and only if, any of the following conditions is fulfilled:

- (i) At the last general election to the Legislative Assembly of the State, the candidates set up by the party have secured not less than six percent of the total valid votes polled in the State; and, in addition, the party has returned at least two members to the Legislative Assembly of that State at such general election
- (ii) At the last general election to the House of the People from that State, the candidates set up by the party have secured not less than six percent of the total valid votes polled in the State; and, in addition, the party has returned at least one member to the House of the People from that State at such general election
- (iii) At the last general election to the Legislative Assembly of the State, the party has won at least three percent of the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly, (any fraction exceeding half being counted as one), or at least three seats in the Assembly, whichever is more; or
- (iv) At the last general election to the House of the People from the State, the party has returned at least one member to the House of the People for every 25



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members or any fraction thereof allotted to that State;] or 3

(v) At the last general election to the House of the People from the State, or at the last general election to the Legislative Assembly of the State, the candidates set up by the Party have secured not less than eight percent of the total valid votes polled in the State.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The symbol allotted to recognised state party shall not be used in that state not in all other states. However, the symbol of recognised national party shall not be used by any party throughout India.

Statement 4 is correct: A recognised political party enjoys privileges like a reserved party symbol, free broadcast time on State-run television and radio, consultation in the setting of election dates, and giving input in setting electoral rules and regulations.

9. Consider the following statements about Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)

1. He assists the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament.
2. Finance minister represents the CAG in the Lok Sabha
3. He can be removed by the president only in accordance with the procedure mentioned in the Constitution.
4. A retired CAG can be appointed as a governor of a state

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c (Only three)

Statement 1 is correct: The Constitution of India (Article 148) provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). He is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department. He is the guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels the Centre and the state. o He assist the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Parliament. In fact, the CAG acts as a guide, friend and philosopher of the committee.

Statement 2 is incorrect: No minister can represent the CAG in Parliament (both Houses) and no minister can be called upon to take any responsibility for any actions done by him.

Statement 3 is correct: He holds office for a period of six years or upto the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. He can resign any time from his office by addressing the resignation letter to the President. He can also be removed by the president on same grounds and in the same manner as a judge of the Supreme Court. In other words, he can be removed by the president only in accordance with the procedure mentioned in the Constitution. Thus, he does not hold his office till the pleasure of the president, though he is appointed by him.

Statement 4 is correct: Yes, according to the Indian Constitution, a retired Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) can be appointed as a governor of a state. The Constitution does not explicitly prohibit such an appointment, and it is not uncommon for retired civil servants, including former CAGs, to be appointed as governors of Indian states.

10. Which of the following languages were added through an amendment to the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

1. Sindhi
2. Santhali
3. Maithili
4. Konkani

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: d (All four)

Explanation: Eighth Schedule: Originally, it had 14 languages but presently there are 22 languages. They are: Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri (Dongri), Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Mathili (Maithili), Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

- Sindhi was added by the 21st Amendment Act of 1967



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- Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added by the 71st Amendment Act of 1992;
- Bodo, Dongri, Maithili and Santhali were added by the 92nd Amendment Act of 2003. Oriya was renamed as 'Odia' by the 96th Amendment Act of 2011.

11. With reference to the process of social audit in India, consider the following statements

1. The details of both the financial and non-financial resources used for the development process by a public agency are disclosed under the purview of social audit
2. Social audits were given statutory status for the first time under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c (Both 1 and 2)

Statement 1 is correct: A Social Audit is defined as a process in which details of the resources, both financial and nonfinancial used by the Public Agency for the development initiatives, are shared with the public through a public platform. It is a legally mandated process where potential and existing beneficiaries evaluate the implementation of a programme by comparing official records with ground realities. This aspect allows the clientele to enforce transparency and accountability by scrutinizing the development activities which also enables them to participate in the development process.

Statement 2 is correct: Meghalaya became the first state in the country to operationalise a law, The Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act, 2017, which makes social audit of State-run schemes mandatory. Many states have set up an independent Social Audit Unit (SAU) and some have even begun to facilitate Social Audit in other programmes, including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme,

Midday Meal Scheme and Public Distribution System.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was the first law to mandate social audit as a statutory requirement. MGNREGA Audit of Schemes Rules was passed by the Central Government, in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in 2011. Under MGNREGA scheme rules, apart from the ongoing process of social audit, it has mandated to convene Social Audit Forum once in every six months, which will serve as an institutional forum where people can conduct details public audit of all MGNREGA works that have been carried out in their area in the preceding six months.

12. Consider the following statements about the Consumer Protection Act: 2019

1. The Central Consumer Protection Authority under the act can suo-moto inquire and investigate violations of consumer rights.
2. Redressal against unfair or restrictive trade practices is recognized as one of the right of consumer under the act
3. State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission can hear a cases where value is more than 10 crore but less than 100 crore
4. Product liability can be applicable only against manufacturer of the product

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b (Only two)

Statement 1 is correct: Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies are quasi-judicial bodies established under the Act to provide simple, speedy, and inexpensive redressal to the grievances of consumers. These have been established at three levels: District, State, and National, known as District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission or District Commission, State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission or State Commission, and National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission or National Commission. The Central Authority i.e.



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the Central Consumer Protection Authority may inquire or cause an inquiry or investigation to be made into violations of Consumer Rights, either suo-moto or on a complaint received or on the directions from the Central Government.

Statement 2 is correct: Rights of consumers: Six consumer rights have been defined in the Bill, including the right to: (i) be protected against marketing of goods and services which are hazardous to life and property; (ii) be informed of the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard and price of goods or services; (iii) be assured of access to a variety of goods or services at competitive prices; and (iv) seek redressal against unfair or restrictive trade practices.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Jurisdiction of CDRCs: The District CDRC will entertain complaints where value of goods and services does not exceed Rs one crore. The State CDRC will entertain complaints when the value is more than Rs one crore but does not exceed Rs 10 crore. Complaints with value of goods and services over Rs 10 crore will be entertained by the National CDRC.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Product liability: Product liability means the liability of a product manufacturer, service provider or seller to compensate a consumer for any harm or injury caused by a defective good or deficient service. To claim compensation, a consumer has to prove any one of the conditions for defect or deficiency, as given in the Bill.

13. Consider the following statements about One Nation One Ration Card Scheme

1. The families coming under the category of below poverty line (BPL) only are eligible under the programme
2. Annavitran portal was launched to register/record the inter-state transactions
3. Government has launched the “MERA RATION” mobile app to ease the process for migrant workers
4. This programme will help the country to achieve the SDG 1, 2 and 3

How many statements given above are correct?

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

(c) Only three

(d) All four

Ans: b (Only two)

Statement 1 is incorrect: NFSA covers up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority households. While AAY households, which constitute the poorest of the poor are entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains per family per month, priority households are entitled to 5 kg per person per month. Through the OROC program, all eligible ration card holders/ beneficiaries covered under NFSA can access their entitlements from anywhere in the country and not just the BPL category.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IMPDS) will provide the technology platform for the portability of inter-state ration cards. This will enable migrant workers to purchase food grains from any FPS across the country. The Annavitran portal will be the other website which will contain the information and data for the distribution of food through the E-POS system and devices within the state.

The Annavitran portal will help the families of the migrant workers and migrants themselves to avail the benefits of the Public Distribution System within their state but outside their district as well. The migrant worker can buy his or her share of food grain as per their entitlement under the National Food Security Act, the family of the migrant workers can avail subsidised food grain from their ration dealer in their hometown.

Statement 3 is correct: The government has launched a mobile app, namely ‘MERA RATION’ for acquiring the maximum benefit of the ONORC plan. The mobile app shall provide the user with real-time information. It is available in 13 languages. As per the official website of National Food Security Portal, there are more than 20 crores Ration Cards issued through more than 4.5 lakh POS enabled Fair Price Shops.

Statement 4 is correct: One Nation One Ration Card Scheme will help the country to achieve SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 3: Good Health and Well being.



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14. Consider the following statements about Tribunals in India

1. The provisions with respect to the tribunals existed as a part of the original Constitution.
2. The Parliament is empowered to establish tribunals for the adjudication of disputes related to the public services of local bodies.
3. State legislature has the power to create tribunals to resolve industrial and labour disputes
4. As per the constitution, appeals against the decision of tribunals shall be filled only in Supreme Court of India

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b(Only two)

Statement 1 is incorrect: The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to the tribunals. The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution. This part is entitled as 'Tribunals' and consists of only two Articles: Article 323-A dealing with administrative tribunals and Article 323-B dealing with tribunals for other matters.

Statement 2 is correct: Article 323-A empowers the Parliament to provide for the establishment of administrative tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services of the Centre, the states, local bodies, public corporations, and other public authorities. In other words, Article 323-A enables the Parliament to take out the adjudication of disputes relating to service matters from the civil courts and the high courts and place it before the administrative tribunals.

Statement 3 is correct: Under Article 323-B, the Parliament and the state legislatures are authorised to provide for the establishment of tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to the following matters subjected to their territorial jurisdiction and distribution of powers:

- Taxation o Foreign exchange, import and export

- Industrial and labour
- Land reforms
- Ceiling on urban property
- Elections to Parliament and state legislatures
- Food stuff
- Rent and tenancy rights

Statement 4 is correct: This tribunals are created to provide speed justice to the parties and thus exclude the jurisdiction of local and high courts and the appeals against these decisions can be filed only in Supreme Court of India but after Chandra Kumar case 1997 Supreme Court said immediate appeals from decision of tribunals lie with High Courts.

15. Consider the following statements about National Legal Services Authority (NLASA)

1. It implements the directive principle contained under Article 39A
2. It disburses funds to State Legal Services Authorities to implement legal aid programs.
3. It provides women to free legal aid irrespective of their income or financial status.
4. Serving or retired judge of the supreme court can be appointed as Executive Chairman of (NLASA)

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: d (All four)

Statement 1 is correct: Equal Justice and Free Legal Aid: The State shall secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice, on a basis of equal opportunity, and shall, in particular, provide free legal aid, by suitable legislation or schemes or in any other way, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.

Statement 2 is correct: National Legal Services Authority is the apex body constituted to lay down policies and principles for making legal services available under the provisions of the Act and to frame the most effective and economical schemes for legal services. It also disburses funds and grants to State



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Legal Services Authorities and NGOs for implementing legal aid schemes and programs.

Statement 3 is correct: Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 prescribes the criteria for giving legal services to eligible persons., they are:

- Member of Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe or victim of human trafficking or a beggar
- Woman or child; or if the individual suffers from any disability. A woman is entitled to free legal aid irrespective of her income or financial status while a child is eligible for free legal aid till the age of majority i.e. 18 years.
- Victim of mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake, industrial disaster an industrial workman;
- Person in custody, including protective custody;
- Facing a charge which might result in imprisonment.
- A person in receipt of annual income less than the amount prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a Court other than the Supreme Court, and less than Rs 5 Lakh, if the case is before the Supreme Court.

Statement 4 is correct: Constitution of the National Legal Services Authority.—(1) The Central Government shall constitute a body to be called the National Legal Services Authority to exercise the powers and perform the functions conferred on, or assigned to, the Central Authority under this Act. (2) The Central Authority shall consist of— (a) the Chief Justice of India who shall be the Patron-in-Chief; (b) a serving or retired Judge of the Supreme Court to be nominated by the President, in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, who shall be the Executive Chairman

16. Consider the following statements about Enforcement Directorate (ED)

1. It is a statutory body established under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

2. It functions under Department of Financial Resources, Ministry of Finance

3. An Enforcement Directorate investigating officer can arrest an accused without prior intimation.

4. It is the only central investigative agency that does not require permission from the government to summon or prosecute politicians or government officials for inquiry into economic offences and financial crimes.

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b (Only two)

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Directorate of Enforcement or the ED is a multi-disciplinary organization mandated to investigate economic crimes and violations of foreign exchange laws. The origin of this Directorate goes back to 1st May 1956, when an 'Enforcement Unit' was formed in the Department of Economic Affairs for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 (FERA '47). Further, in tune with the International Anti-Money Laundering regime, the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) was enacted, and ED was entrusted with its enforcement w.e.f. 1st July 2005. Recently, with the increase in the number of cases relating to economic offenders taking shelter in foreign countries, the Government has passed the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA), and ED is entrusted with its enforcement with effect from 21st April 2018.

Statement 2 is incorrect: It functions under Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Statement 3 is correct: ED can start an investigation against anyone without complaint or application. An ED officer does not even have to file a First Information Report (FIR). The FIR is a mandatory provision under the Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Penal Code. Without an FIR, an investigating officer does not have the authority to proceed with an investigation. However, under the PMLA, an officer



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just needs to file an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) which is for internal use and need not be shared with the accused. The PMLA gives authority to an investigating officer to arrest an accused without prior intimation, even without sharing the ECIR. An investigating officer can also issue summons without giving any specific reason.

Statement 4 is correct: The ED is the only central investigative agency that does not require permission from the government or any authority to summon or prosecute politicians or government officials for inquiry into economic offenses and financial crimes like money laundering.

17. Which one of the following will be the result in a constituency where the highest number of votes polled are NOTA (None Of The Above)?

- (a) Fresh polls will be held without fielding of candidates rejected by voters.
- (b) The constituency will be merged with any of the adjacent constituencies.
- (c) Governor will nominate a candidate after consulting the Chief Electoral Officer
- (d) Candidate securing the highest number of votes will be declared elected

Ans: d (Candidate securing the highest number of votes will be declared elected)

Explanation: None of the Above (NOTA) is a ballot option designed to allow voters to indicate disapproval of all of the candidates in a voting system without violation of the secrecy of their decision. The Supreme Court of India on September 27, 2013, ruled that the right to register a 'none of the above' vote in elections should apply while ordering the Election Commission of India (ECI) to provide a button for the same in the electronic voting machines. The NOTA option was first used in the 2013 assembly elections held in four states -- Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh, and the Union Territory, Delhi. NOTA is not right to reject i.e. candidate with maximum votes wins the election irrespective of the number of NOTA votes polled. Election Commission also has clarified that even though votes cast as NOTA are counted, they are considered invalid votes so they will not change the outcome of election process.

18. Consider the following statements about National e-Governance Plan (NeGP)

- 1. The National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) was launched under the Digital India Mission in 2015 by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- 2. State data centres and common service centres form the core infrastructure components of the National e Governance Plan.
- 3. UMANG and BharatNet Projects are taken up under this initiative

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c (2 and 3 only)

Statement 1 is incorrect: National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) was formulated in 2006 by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (ME&IT), and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions. The ultimate objective is to bring public services closer home to citizens, as articulated in the Vision Statement of NeGP. The Government approved the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP), comprising of 27 Mission Mode Projects and 8 components, on May 18, 2006. In the year 2011, 4 projects - Health, Education, PDS and Posts were introduced to make the list of 27 MMPs to 31 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs).

Statement 2 is correct: The major core infrastructure components of the National e-Governance Plan are State Data Centres (SDCs), State Wide Area Networks (S.W.A.N), Common Services Centres (CSCs) and middleware gateways i.e. National e-Governance Service Delivery Gateway (NSDG), State e-Governance Service Delivery Gateway (SSDG), and Mobile e-Governance Service Delivery Gateway (MSDG).

Statement 3 is correct: NeGP 2.0: NeGP 2.0 or e-Kranti was introduced by the government in March 2015 under the Digital India program to utilise emerging technologies such as cloud, mobile platforms (like smartphones and tablets) and



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geospatial information systems. Projects like UMANG, BharatNet, COWIN app are developed.

19. Consider the following statements about Cabinet Secretariat

1. It functions directly under the President of India
2. It is responsible for the administration of the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961.
3. It is headed by Cabinet Secretary, who is the ex-officio chairman of the Civil Services Board
4. It ensures that the President, the Vice President, and Ministers are kept informed of the major activities of all ministries/departments

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c (Only three)

Statement 1 is incorrect and Statement 3 is correct: The Cabinet Secretariat functions directly under the Prime Minister. The administrative head of the Secretariat is the Cabinet Secretary who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board.

Statement 2 is correct: The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 and Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 facilitating smooth transaction of business in Ministries/ Departments. The main functions of the body is to

- Secretarial assistance to Cabinet and Cabinet committees
- Carrying on Rules of Business

Statement 4 is correct: The Cabinet Secretariat ensures that the President, the Vice President and Ministers are kept informed of the major activities of all Ministries/Departments by means of monthly summary of their activities. Management of major crisis situations in the country and coordinating activities of various Ministries in such a situation is also one of the functions of the Cabinet Secretariat.

20. Consider the following statements about Postal Ballot

1. Mediapersons on duty are authorized to cast their vote using postal ballot facility.
2. Any voter opting for a postal ballot facility cannot cast a vote at the polling station.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c (Both 1 and 2)

Statement 1 is correct: A restricted set of voters can exercise postal voting. Through this facility, a voter can cast her vote remotely by recording her preference on the ballot paper and sending it back to the election officer before counting. Any absentee voter wishing to vote by postal ballot has to make an application to the returning officer in Form-12D, giving all required particulars, and get the application verified by the nodal officer appointed by the organization concerned. Recently, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has allowed journalists to cast their votes through a postal ballot facility. Currently, the following voters are also allowed to cast their votes through postal ballot: Service voters (armed forces, the armed police force of a state, and government servants posted abroad), Voters on election duty, Voters above 80 years of age or Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and Voters under preventive detention.

Statement 2 is correct: ECI has clarified that any voter opting for a postal ballot would not be able to cast a normal vote at a polling station.

21. Consider the following statements about National Investigation Agency (NIA)

1. It is constitutional body established after 2008 Mumbai Terror attacks
2. It can't investigate offenses committed outside India.
3. It has power to take suo-moto cognizance of terror activities.
4. It can investigate offenses related to human trafficking

How many statements given above are correct?



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

Ans: b (Only two)

Statement 1 is incorrect: NIA is not a constitutional body rather it is statutory body setup by passing National Investigation Agency Act: 2008, just after the deadly 2008 Mumbai Terror Attacks

Statement 2 is incorrect: NIA is working as the Central Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency in India. According to National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Act, 2019, officers of the NIA will have the power to investigate scheduled offenses committed outside India, subject to international treaties and domestic laws of other countries.

Statement 3 is correct: National Investigation Agency Act 2008 gives the NIA powers to take suo-moto cognizance of terror activities in any part of India and register a case, to enter any state without permission from the state government, and to investigate and arrest people.

Statement 4 is correct: National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Act, 2019 has allowed the NIA to investigate, additional cases related to

- Human trafficking
- Counterfeit currency or banknotes,
- Manufacture or sale of prohibited arms,
- Cyber-terrorism, and
- Offenses under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908

22. Consider the following statements about Lokpal and Lokayukta

1. Lokpal can suo-moto proceed against any public servant.
2. Jurisdiction of Lokpal include all council of minister excluding Prime Minister of India
3. Chairperson of Lokpal is appointed by the President based on the recommendations of a committee headed by Prime Minister
4. All expenses related to Lokpal are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India

How many statements given above are correct?

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

- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Ans: b (Only two)

Statement 1 is incorrect: Lokpal cannot suo-moto proceed against any public servant. Anonymous complaints are not allowed – Can't just make a complaint on plain paper and drop it in a box with supporting documents

Statement 2 is incorrect: The jurisdiction of Lokpal includes the Prime Minister, Ministers, Members of Parliament, and Groups A, B, C, and D officers and officials of the Central Government.

Statement 3 is correct: The Lokpal to consists of a Chairperson with a maximum of 8 members of which 50% shall be judicial members. The chairperson is appointed by the president based on the recommendations of a committee consisting of

- Prime Minister: Chairperson
- Speaker of House of People: Member
- Leader of Opposition in House of People: Member
- Chief Justice of India (or) Any judge of Supreme Court of India nominated by him
- One eminent jurist, recommended by chairperson

Statement 4 is correct: Section 13 of Lokpal and Lokayukta Act provides for the expenses of Lokpal
13. Expenses of Lokpal to be charged on Consolidated Fund of India.—The administrative expenses of the Lokpal, including all salaries, allowances and pensions payable to or in respect of the Chairperson, Members or Secretary or other officers or staff of the Lokpal, shall be charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India and any fees or other moneys taken by the Lokpal shall form part of that Fund.

23. Consider the following statements about Competition Commission of India (CCI)

1. It is a statutory body responsible for enforcing the Companies Act, 2013
2. Only a person who is qualified to be a judge of a High Court can be appointed as its Chairperson
3. One of the objective of CCI is to promote the benefit and welfare of consumers



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4. It prohibits the Anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position and combinations

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: a (Only one)

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body of the Government of India responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002 and works under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Statement 2 is incorrect: Under Section 8(2) of the Competition Act, 2002, the Chairperson and every other Member shall be a person of ability, integrity and standing and who, has been, or is qualified to be a judge of a High Court, or, has special knowledge of, and professional experience of not less than fifteen years in international trade, economics, business, commerce, law, finance, accountancy, management, industry, public affairs, administration or in any other matter which, in the opinion of the Central Government, may be useful to the Commission

Statement 3 is correct: To achieve its objectives, the Competition Commission of India endeavors to do the following:

- Make the markets work for the benefit and welfare of consumers.
- Ensure fair and healthy competition in economic activities in the country for faster and inclusive growth and development of the economy.
- Implement competition policies with an aim to effectuate the most efficient utilization of economic resources.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The Competition Act, 2002 prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and **regulates combinations not completely prohibits** (acquisition, acquiring of control and mergers & acquisitions), which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India.

24. Consider the following statements about Good Governance Index

- 1. It is launched by NITI Aayog
- 2. It evaluate the performance of 20 sectors

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: d (Neither 1 nor 2)

Statement 1 is incorrect: Good Governance Index is a comprehensive and implementable framework to assess the State of Governance across the States and UTs which enables the ranking of States/Districts. The objective of GGI is to create a tool which can be used uniformly across the States to assess the impact of various interventions taken up by the Central and State Governments including UTs. • Following the recommendation of the GoS on Governance, the Department of Administration Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), the Government of India launched the Good Governance Index (GGI) Framework and published the ranking for the States and Union Territories (UTs) for 2019 on the occasion of Good Governance Day, i.e., 25 December 2019.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The GGI 2019 encompassed 10 Governance Sectors and 50 Governance Indicators. For GGI 2020-21, the same 10 Governance Sectors were retained while indicators have been revised to 58. They are

- 1. Agriculture and Allied Sectors
- 2. Commerce & Industries
- 3. Human Resource Development
- 4. Public Health
- 5. Public Infrastructure & Utilities
- 6. Economic Governance
- 7. Social Welfare & Development
- 8. Judicial & Public Security
- 9. Environment
- 10. Citizen-Centric Governance.

25. Consider the following statements about Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs)

- 1. Ballot papers and EVMs must carry the picture of the candidate with his or her name, educational qualifications, and party symbol.



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2. EVMs were used for the first time in the general elections in 2004.
3. The Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) were first time used in 2017 Goa Assembly Elections

Which of the statements given above are incorrect?

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

Ans: d (1, 2 and 3)

Statement 1 is incorrect: According to the Election Commission of India order, in any election being held after May 1, 2015, the Ballot papers and EVMs will carry the picture of the candidate with his or her name and party symbol (not educational qualifications) to avoid confusion among the electorates in constituencies where the namesakes are contesting.

Statement 2 is incorrect: First-time use of EVMs occurred in a by-election for the Legislative Assembly of Kerala in May 1982.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Voter-verifiable paper audit trail was first used in an election in India in September 2013 in Noksen (Assembly Constituency) in Nagaland. VVPAT along with EVMs was used on a large-scale for the first time in India, in 10 assembly seats out of 40 in 2013 Mizoram Legislative Assembly election. VVPAT -fitted EVMs was used in entire Goa state in the 2017 assembly elections, which was the first time that an entire state in India saw the implementation of VVPAT.

26. Consider the following statements about Central Information Commission (CIC)

1. It is a statutory body constituted under the Information Technology Act, 2000.
2. The Chairperson is appointed by the Central government
3. Public Information officer is shall provide information within 30 days of application
4. Raj Narain Vs. State of Uttar Pradesh case, Supreme Court has identified Right to Information as fundamental right

How many statements given above are correct?

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

(c) Only three

(d) All four

Ans: b (Only two)

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Central Information Commission was established by the Central Government in 2005. It was constituted through an Official Gazette Notification under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005). The Commission falls under Department of Personal and Training.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Central Information Commission is a high-powered independent body which inter alia looks into the complaints made to it and decide the appeals. It entertains complaints and appeals pertaining to offices, financial institutions, public sector undertakings, etc., under the Central Government and the Union Territories. The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners. They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.

Statement 3 is correct: Section 7 of Right to Information Act: 2005: **Disposal of request.**—(1) Subject to the proviso to sub-section (2) of section 5 or the proviso to sub-section (3) of section 6, the Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, on receipt of a request under section 6 shall, as expeditiously as possible, and in any case **within thirty days** of the receipt of the request, either provide the information on payment of such fee as may be prescribed or reject the request for any of the reasons specified in sections 8 and 9.

Statement 4 is correct: In 1976, in the Raj Narain vs the State of Uttar Pradesh case, the Supreme Court ruled that Right to information will be treated as a fundamental right under article 19.

27. Consider the following pairs about various portals and their purpose

Portal	Purpose
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e-Nivaran	To ensure faster and easier resolution to tax-related complaints
PRAGATI	An integrated platform through which the Prime Minister oversees the implementation of various government schemes and projects
CPGRAMS	Single portal connecting all ministries for 24x7 grievance redressal

How many pairs given above are correct?

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

Ans: c (Only three)

Pair 1 is correctly matched: Previously, the grievance redressal mechanism of the Income Tax Department was very cumbersome. The process to file a complaint used to move from helpline centres to websites to file online complaints. In the year 2016, the Income Tax Department changed this grueling process. In place of this, the Income Tax Department comes up with a paperless process to address all the grievances of Income Taxpayers at a single place. The name of the system is e-Nivaran. It is a joint initiative by the Finance Ministry and the Income Tax Department. The system is a merger of both offline and online complaints and becomes one central complaint resolution system.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: PRAGATI is a unique integrated and interactive platform through which the Hon'ble Prime Minister oversees the implementation of various government schemes, grievances, state and central related projects & programmes by directly interacting with all stakeholders through Videoconferencing on a single platform. PRAGATI is aimed for a culture of Pro-Active Governance through online video conferencing & meetings and Timely Implementation of projects and schemes. It is also a robust system for bringing e-transparency and e-accountability with real-time presence and exchange among the key stakeholders.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: The Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System

(CPGRAMS) is an online platform available to the citizens 24x7 to lodge their grievances to the public authorities on any subject related to service delivery. It is a single portal connected to all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India and States. Every Ministry and states have role-based access to this system. GRAMS also provides an appealing facility to the citizens if they are not satisfied with the resolution by the Grievance Officer. After the closure of the grievance, if the complainant is not satisfied with the resolution, he/she can provide feedback. If the rating is 'Poor' the option to file an appeal is enabled.

28. Consider the following statements about Governance Knowledge Centre

1. It is a repository of practical solutions to day-to-day challenges to assist civil servants.
2. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog in collaboration with IIT Delhi.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: a (Only 1)

Statement 1 is correct: The Governance Knowledge Centre (GKC) Portal aims to assist civil servants to seek practical and implementable solutions to the day-to-day challenges they face. It serves as a platform for collaborative knowledge exchange for the improvement of governance. It also offers a widespread and reputed lot of governance knowledge that civil society can utilize to understand the nuances of civil service practices and reforms.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India as part of its mandate to document and disseminate good-governance initiatives launched a Web Portal, namely, Governance Knowledge Centre (GKC) in 2005. From 2005 to 2009, the designing and maintenance of the portal, and the creation and uploading of the content, were being done through outsourced agencies. On behalf of DARPG, One World re-launched the portal



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and managed it till 2013. Since then, DARPG has been maintaining the portal on its own.

29. Consider the following statements about State Public Service Commission (SPCS)

1. Appointment and Removal of chairperson and members of SPCS are done by governor of a state.
2. The recommendations made by it are only advisory in nature and not binding on the state government.
3. The Constitution authorises the governor to determine the conditions of services of members of SPCS
4. The chairman of a SPSC is not eligible for any other appointment under the Government of India or the state.

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b (Only two)

Statement 1 is incorrect: A State Public Service Commission consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the governor of the state. Although the chairman and members of a SPSC are appointed by the governor, they can be removed only by the president (and not by the governor).

Statement 2 is correct: The role of SPSC is not only limited, but also recommendations made by it are only of advisory nature and hence, not binding on the government. It is up to the state government to accept or reject that advice. The only safeguard is the answerability of the government to the state legislature for departing from the recommendation of the Commission. Further, the government can also make rules which regulate the scope of the advisory functions of SPSC.

Statement 3 is correct: Article 318: **Power to make regulations as to conditions of service of members and staff of the Commission**

In the case of the Union Commission or a Joint Commission, the President and, in the case of a State Commission, the Governor of the State may by regulations—

- (a) determine the number of members of the Commission and their conditions of service; and
- (b) make provision with respect to the number of members of the staff of the Commission and their conditions of service:

Provided that the conditions of service of a member of a Public Service Commission shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The chairman of a SPSC (on ceasing to hold office) is eligible for appointment as the chairman or a member of the UPSC or as the chairman of any other SPSC, but not for any other employment under the Government of India or a state.

30. Consider the following statements about Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)

1. He can be removed from office only through a resolution passed by the Parliament
2. The Constitution of India has debarred him from any further appointment by the government.
3. Since independence, the Election Commission is functioning with 3 members
4. The recommendations made by Chief Election Commissioner to remove election commissioners shall be binding on the President

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: a (Only one)

Statement 1 is correct: The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through resolution by Parliament. He cannot be removed from his office except in same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court. In other words, he can be removed by the president on the basis of a resolution passed to that effect by both the Houses of Parliament with special majority, either on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity. Thus, he does not hold his office till the pleasure of the president, though he is appointed by him.



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Statement 2 is incorrect: Though the constitution has sought to safeguard and ensure the independence and impartiality of the Election Commission, some flaws can be noted, viz.,

- The Constitution has not prescribed the qualifications (legal, educational, administrative or judicial) of the members of the Election Commission.
- The Constitution has not specified the term of the members of the Election Commission.
- The Constitution has not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The commission was established in 1950 and originally only had one Chief Election Commissioner. Two additional Commissioners were appointed to the commission for the first time on 16 October 1989 (on the eve of the 1989 General Election), but they had a very short tenure, ending on 1 January 1990. "The Election Commissioner Amendment Act, 1989" was adopted on 1 January 1990 which turned the commission into a multi-member body: a 3-member Commission has been in operation since then and the decisions by the commission are made by a majority vote.

Statement 4 is incorrect: In 2009, just before the 2009 Lok Sabha Elections, Chief Election Commissioner N. Gopalswami sent a recommendation to President Prathibha Patil to remove Election Commissioner Navin Chawla, who was soon to take office as the chief election commissioner and to subsequently supervise the Lok Sabha general election, a potential conflict of interest considering his partisan political party behavior. The President opined that such a recommendation is not binding on the president, and hence rejected it. Subsequently, after Gopalswami's retirement the next month, Chawla became the chief election commissioner and supervised the 2009 Lok Sabha general elections.

31. Consider the following statements about Official Languages

1. Governor is empowered to authorise the use of any language for the official purposes of a state

2. A state can adopt not more than three languages as official languages.
3. In choosing the official language, a state is not bound to choose the languages enumerated in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
4. President can direct a state to use any language spoken in a state as official language to safeguard the interests of linguistic minorities

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b (Only two)

Statement 1 is incorrect: Article 345 provides the power to state legislature to make a law to adopt any one or more languages in use in the state or Hindi as official language for all official purposes

Statement 2 is incorrect: Under Article 345, there is no restriction on the state legislature to adopt any number of official languages.

Statement 3 is correct: Certain north-eastern States like Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have adopted English. Notably, the choice of the state is not limited to the languages enumerated in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Statement 4 is correct: Article 347: **Special provision relating to language spoken by a section of the population of a State.**

On a demand being made in that behalf the President may, if he is satisfied that a substantial proportion of the population of a State desire the use of any language spoken by them to be recognised by that State, direct that such language shall also be officially recognised throughout that State or any part thereof for such purpose as he may specify.

32. Consider the following statements about State Information Commissioner

1. It can suo-moto order inquiry into any matter.
2. The salary, allowances and other service conditions of the State Chief Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioner are determined by the Central Government.



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Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c (Both 1 and 2)

Statement 1 is correct: Section 18 (2) of Right to Information Act Provides for

(2)Where the Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be, is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to inquire into the matter, it may initiate an inquiry in respect thereof.

(3) The Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be, shall, while inquiring into any matter under this section, have the same powers as are vested in a civil court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

Statement 2 is correct: As per the amendment done in 2019 to the Right to Information Act: 2005, the central government has got the power to decide on salary, allowances and other service conditions of the central/state information commissions.

33. Consider the following statements about Finance Commission

1. It has all the powers of a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
2. Recommendations made by it are not binding on the government
3. Only a retired or sitting judge of the Supreme Court can be appointed as its chairman
4. The constitution authorises the parliament to decide upon the qualification of members of the commission

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c (Only three)

Statement 1 is correct: The Commission can determine their procedure and in the performance of their functions can have all the powers of a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908),

while trying a suit in respect of the following matters, namely

- Summoning and enforcing the attendance of witnesses
- Requiring the production of any document
- Requisitioning any public record from any court or office.

Statement 2 is correct: The recommendations made by the Finance Commission are only of advisory nature and hence, not binding on the government. It is up to the Union government to implement its recommendations on granting money to the states.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The chairman should be a person having experience in public affairs and the four other members should be selected from amongst the following:

- A judge of high court or one qualified to be appointed as one.
- A person who has specialised knowledge of finance and accounts of the government.
- A person who has wide experience in financial matters and in administration.
- A person who has special knowledge of economics.

Statement 4 is correct: Article 280: Finance Commission

(1) The President shall, within two years from the commencement of this Constitution and thereafter at the expiration of every fifth year or at such earlier time as the President considers necessary, by order constitute a Finance Commission which shall consist of a Chairman and four other members to be appointed by the President.

(2) Parliament may by law determine the qualifications which shall be requisite for appointment as members of the Commission and the manner in which they shall be selected.

34. Consider the following statements about Star Campaigner

1. Representation of the People Act, 1950 allows a political party to submit a list of star campaigners to the election authorities.
2. Expenditure incurred on electioneering by the star campaigner is added to a candidate's poll expenditure.



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3. When a prime minister or a former prime minister is a star campaigner, the expenditure incurred on security including bullet-proof vehicles will be borne by the government.

How many statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: a (Only one)

Statement 1 is incorrect: A star campaigner is a celebrity vote seeker in an election for a party. This person can be anyone, a politician or even a film star. Section 77 of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**, which relates to a candidate's election expenditure, leaves it to the political parties itself to decide who their "leaders" are and allows every party to submit a list of such 'star campaigners' to the election authorities.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Expenditure incurred on electioneering by the star campaigner is not added to a candidate's poll expenditure giving him/her more scope for expenditure. However, for an individual candidate to get relief from campaign expenditure, the star campaigner has to limit oneself to general campaigning for the party.

Statement 3 is correct: The Model Code of Conduct guidelines say when a prime minister or a former prime minister is a star campaigner, the expenditure incurred on security including on the bullet-proof vehicles will be borne by the government and will not be added to the election expenses of the party or the individual candidate.

35. Consider the following statements about 'Opinion Polls'

- 1. An opinion poll is conducted immediately after people have voted to assess the support for political parties and their candidates
- 2. No restrictions are in place on opinion polls under the provisions of Representation of the People's Act, 1951.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2

- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: b (Only 2)

Statement 1 is incorrect: An opinion poll is a pre-election survey to gather voters' views on a range of election-related issues. An exit poll, on the other hand, is conducted immediately after people have voted, and assesses the support for political parties and their candidates.

Statement 2 is correct: Section 126A of the Representation of the People's Act, 1951 (RPA, 1951), puts a ban on exit polls from the period between the commencements of the poll until half an hour after the closing of the final phase of the poll. However, there are no similar restrictions placed on opinion polls under RPA. Election Commission has held consultations with political parties to revive its demand to restrict pre-election opinion polls as well from the date of notification of elections until the end of polling. But no action has been taken so far.

36. Consider the following statements about the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

- 1. First Public Service Commission in India was setup in 1926 based on the recommendations of Lord Lee commission report
- 2. Experts/who have experience in administration or Human resources management can be recruited as members of UPSC
- 3. After ceases to be a chairman or members they can be appointed as governor of a state

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: d (1, 2 and 3)

Statement 1 is correct: The Royal Commission on the superior Civil Services in India was set up under the chairmanship of Lord Lee of Fareham by the British Government in 1923. With equal numbers of Indian and British members, the commission submitted its report in 1924, recommending setting up of a Public Service Commission. The Lee Commission proposed that 40% of future entrants should be British, 40% Indians directly recruited, and



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20% Indians promoted from the provincial services. This led to the establishment of the first Public Service Commission on 1 October 1926 under the chairmanship of Sir Ross Barker.

Statement 2 is correct: Constitution under Article 316 has provided for the appointment of chairperson and members of UPSC. It also stated that one-half of members shall have 10 years of experience either under the government of India or any state. And it didn't mention about any of the qualifications or requirements for the remaining half. These vacancies can be filled by central government with anyone who have experience in administration or human resource management.

Statement 3 is correct: In 1979, the Supreme Court of India upheld the validity of appointment of A.R Kidwai, a former Chairman of UPSC, as the governor of Bihar. It ruled that the office of the governor is a constitutional office and not an employment under the government.

37. Consider the following statements about the Election Commission of India (ECI)

1. ECI will determine the territorial areas of the electoral constituencies on the basis of Delimitation Commission Act
2. While deciding the splits within political parties, it can refer the internal party constitution
3. It can de-register a political party on the basis of violation of code of conduct
4. ECI has the power to enforce internal democracy of political parties

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b (Only two)

Statement 1 is correct: ECI will determine the territorial areas of the electoral constituencies throughout the country on the basis of the Delimitation Commission Act of Parliament.

Statement 2 is correct: While deciding a case of splits within political parties, ECI can refer the

internal party constitution to decide the which one is the original party

Statement 3 is incorrect: Deregistration of parties - The ECI is not empowered to de-register parties on the grounds of violating the Constitution or breaching the undertaking given to it at the time of registration or violation of code of conduct. It can do so only if

- If its registration was obtained by fraud;
- If it is declared illegal by the Central Government under UAPA 1967
- if a party amends its internal Constitution and notifies the ECI that it can no longer abide by the Indian Constitution.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Currently, there is no express provision for internal democratic regulation of political parties in India and the only governing law is provided by Section 29A of the Representation of the Peoples' Act, 1951 which provides for registration of political parties with the ECI. However, ECI does not have any statutory power to enforce internal democracy in parties or to mandate elections

38. Consider the following statements about the Model Code of Conduct in India

1. The model code was codified first in Kerala
2. Model Code of Conduct will come into effect once the schedule is released by the ECI
3. Government bodies are not to participate in any recruitment process during the electoral process
4. The ruling party ministers should not make any *ad-hoc* appointments of officials

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c (Only three)

Statement 1 is incorrect: The origin of the MCC lies in the Assembly elections of Kerala in 1960, when the State administration prepared a 'Code of Conduct' for political actors. They are just general guidelines between the political parties but never be codified.



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Statement 2 is correct: Model Code of Conduct will come into effect once the schedule for conducting elections is released by the ECI

Statement 3 & 4 are correct: The main points of the code of conduct are:

- The government may not lay any new ground for projects or public initiatives once the Model Code of Conduct comes into force.
- Government bodies are not to participate in any recruitment process during the electoral process.
- The contesting candidates and their campaigners must respect the home life of their rivals and should not disturb them by holding road shows or demonstrations in front of their houses. The code tells the candidates to keep it away
- The ruling party should not use its seat of power for campaign purposes.
- The ruling party ministers should not make any ad-hoc appointments of officials, which may influence the voters to vote in favour of the party in power

39. Consider the following statements about the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)

1. It was created in 1993 as a constitutional body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
2. NCBC is the outcome of the Supreme Court judgement in Indra Sawhney v. Union of India case
3. The commission has the power of a civil court while investigating any complaint in respect of OBCs
4. The Union and State governments shall consult the NCBC on all major policy matters affecting the socially and educationally backward classes

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c (Only three)

Statement 1 is incorrect: Initially NCBC was created in 1993 as a statutory body under the National Commission for Backward Classes Act. However it was given the constitutional status in 2018 through 102nd constitutional amendment act.

Statement 2 is correct: The commission was the outcome of Indra Sawhney & Others v. Union of India. The Supreme Court of India in its Judgement in Indra Sawhney & Ors. Vs. Union of India and Ors., reported in (1992) directed the Government of India, State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to constitute a permanent body in the nature of a Commission or Tribunal for entertaining, examining and recommending upon requests for inclusion and complaints of over-inclusion and under-inclusion in the list of OBCs. The Supreme Court held that the Constitution recognised only social and educational – and not economic – backwardness.

Statement 3 is correct: The Commission, while investigating any matter or enquiring into any complaint has all the powers of a civil court trying a suit.

Statement 4 is correct: Under Article 338-B (9), the Union and State governments shall consult the commission on all major policy matters affecting the socially and educationally backward classes.

40. Consider the following statements about National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCSTs)

1. Chairman of NCST was appointed by the Central government on the recommendations of a committee consisting of Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition and Chief Justice of India
2. To take measures to confer ownership rights in respect of major forest produce to STs
3. To take measure to eliminate the practise of shifting cultivation by tribals
4. Tribal Development Report was released by Ministry of Tribal Affairs annually

How many statements given above are correct?

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



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Ans: a (Only one)

Statement 1 is incorrect: On the 89th Amendment of the Constitution coming into force on 19 February 2004, the National Commission for scheduled Tribes has been set up under Article 338A on bifurcation of erstwhile National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to oversee the implementation of various safeguards provided to Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution.

Article 338A of Indian Constitution provided the establishment, conditions of service and powers and functions of the NCSTs.

Article 338A(3): The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

Statement 2 is incorrect: In 2005, the president specified additional functions to be carried out by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes which includes Measures to be taken over conferring ownership rights in respect of minor forest produce to STs living in forest areas.

Statement 3 is correct: Measures to be taken to reduce and ultimately eliminate the practise of shifting cultivation by tribals that lead to their continuous disempowerment and degradation of land and the environment.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Recently, the Tribal Development Report 2022 was launched by the Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF), which claims to be the first of its kind since 1947. The BRLF was set up by the Union Cabinet in 2013 as an independent society under the Union Ministry of Rural Development to scale up civil society action in partnership with central and state governments.

41. Consider the following statements about the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSCs)

1. NCSC is given constitutional status by the 65th Constitutional Amendment Act
2. The Status of Chairman of NSCS is equal to a Minister of State
3. Both Union and State government shall consult the commission for all major policy matters affecting the Scheduled castes

4. The constitution has included the Anglo-Indian Community with the meaning of Scheduled Castes

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b (Only two)

Statement 1 is incorrect: 65th Constitutional Amended Act amended the Article 338 of the Constitution and replaced the one-member system with a multi-member National Commission for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes(ST). However it is the 89th constitutional amendment act which separated the National Commission for SCs and STs into two separate commissions.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The President appointed all of these members under his hand and seal. The status of the Chairman is of a cabinet minister, and the Vice-Chairman is like the minister of the state.

Statement 3 is correct: Under Article 338 (9), it is mandated that both Union and State governments shall consult the commission for all major policy matters affecting the Scheduled castes

Statement 4 is correct: Under Article 338(10) it is clearly provided that the Anglo-Indian Community will fall under the definition of Scheduled Castes

42. Which of the following Articles of Indian Constitution provides for the Upliftment of Scheduled Castes?

1. Article 15
2. Article 17
3. Article 243D
4. Article 330

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: d (All four)

Statement 1 is correct: Article 15: This article specifically addresses the issue of discrimination based on caste, emphasizing the protection and upliftment of Scheduled Castes (SCs)



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Statement 2 is correct: Article 17: This article abolishes untouchability and prohibits its practice in any form. It seeks to eliminate social discrimination and promote the equality and dignity of all individuals.

Statement 3 is correct: Article 243D(4): This provision mandates the reservation of seats for SCs in Panchayats (local self-government institutions) in proportion to their population in the area.

Statement 4 is correct: Article 330 and Article 332 provide for reservation of seats in favour of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and in the legislative assemblies of the States (respectively).

43. Consider the following statements about the Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC)

1. JSPSC were provided under the Government of India Act: 1935
2. It is a constitutional body
3. JSPSC submit their annual performance report to the President
4. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana were the two states that had a JSPSC

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: a (Only one)

Statement 1 is correct: As provided by the Government of India Act of 1919, a Central Public Service Commission was set up in 1926 and entrusted with the task of recruiting civil servants. The Government of India Act of 1935 provided for the establishment of not only a Federal Public Service Commission but also a Provincial Public Service Commission and Joint Public Service Commission for two or more provinces

Statement 2 is incorrect: JSPSC can be created by an act of Parliament on the request of the state legislature concerned. Thus, a JSPSC is a statutory body and not a constitutional body.

Statement 3 is incorrect: An annual performance report is presented by a Joint State Public Service Commission to each of the concerned state governors.

The report is placed by the governor in front of the state legislature.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Punjab and Chhattisgarh were the two states that initially had a joint state public service commission.

44. Consider the following statements about the State Public Service Commission (SPSC)

1. As per the constitution the strength of SPSC is 5
2. They can resign from their office by addressing to President of India
3. They can also be removed from their office, if they are adjudged in insolvent
4. University Professor can be appointed as a member of a SPSC

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b (Only two)

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Constitution does not specify the Strength of the commission but has left the matter to the discretion of the governor. Further no qualifications are prescribed for the commission's membership.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Chairman or members can resign from their office at any time by addressing their resignation to the governor.

Statement 3 is correct: They can be removed by the president on the following grounds.

- Adjudged an insolvent
- Engaging in paid employment outside his office
- Infirmity of mind or body

Statement 4 is correct: In 1993, the Supreme Court ruled that appointment of a university professor (blind) as a member of a SPSC cannot be set aside on the ground of infirmity of body or mind.

45. Consider the following statements about the Attorney General for India (AG)

1. An eminent jurist can be appointed as a Attorney General for India



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2. He held office during the pleasure of the President
3. Solicitor General, a constitutional body is to assist the AG in discharge of his duties
4. AG is debarred from any private practise when they are in office

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: b (Only two)

Statement 1 is correct: Attorney General is appointed by the president. He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court. In other words, he must be a citizen of India and he must have been a judge of some high court for 5 years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist in the opinion of the president

Statement 2 is correct: The constitution does not contain the procedure and grounds for his removal. He holds office during the pleasure of the president

Statement 3 is incorrect: In addition to AG, there are other law officers of the government of India. They are the solicitor general of India and additional solicitor general of India. Only the office of the AG is created by the constitution. Article 76 does not mention about the solicitor general and additional solicitor general.

Statement 4 is incorrect: He is not debarred from any private legal practice

46. Consider the following statements about duties of CAG

1. He audits the all expenditure from contingency fund of India
2. He is a statutory auditor of the Lokpal
3. He is a statutory auditor for stock accounts
4. Net proceeds of any tax or duty shall be ascertained and certified by the CAG

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c (Only three)

Statement 1 is correct: CAG audits all expenditure from the consolidated fund of India and the public account of India as well as the contingency fund of each state and public account of each state

Statement 2 is correct: The CAG is also the statutory auditor of the Lokpal

Statement 3 is incorrect: He audits receipts, stock accounts and others with the approval of the president or when required by the president

Statement 4 is correct: Under Article 279, he shall ascertain and certify net proceeds of any tax or duty.

(1) In the foregoing provisions of this Chapter, “net proceeds” means in relation to any tax or duty the proceeds thereof reduced by the cost of collection, and for the purposes of those provisions the net proceeds of any tax or duty, or of any part of any tax or duty, in or attributable to any area shall be ascertained and certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, whose certificate shall be final.

47. Which Constitutional Amendment Act provided for the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities?

- (a) 7th Constitutional Amendment Act
- (b) 17th Constitutional Amendment Act
- (c) 27th Constitutional Amendment Act
- (d) 37th Constitutional Amendment Act

Ans: a (7th Constitutional Amendment Act)

Explanation: Original constitution did not make any provision with respect to the special officer for linguistic minorities. Later the states reorganisation commission made a recommendation in this regard. Accordingly the 7th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956 inserted a new Article 350-B in Part XVII of the constitution. In pursuance of the provision of Article 350-B the office of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities was created in 1957.

48. Consider the following statements about the Whistle Blowers Protection Act: 2014

1. The Act clearly defines the who is considered as Whistle Blower
2. The act shall not be applicable to Special Protection Group



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3. Information regarding the proceedings of the Cabinet of the Union and states are exempted from disclosure.
4. Appeals against the decisions of competent authority shall be placed with the High Court within 60 days from the date of orders

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c (Only three)

Statement 1 is incorrect: The act doesn't explicitly define who will come under the definition of Whistle Blower

Statement 2 is correct: The act is not applicable to the Special Protection Group

Statement 3 is correct: Section 8: Certain matters exempt from disclosure.—(1) No person shall be required or be authorised by virtue of provisions contained in this Act to furnish any such information or answer any such question or produce any document or information or render any other assistance in the inquiry under this Act if such question or document or information is likely to prejudicially affect the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign State, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence,— (a) as might involve the disclosure of proceedings of the Cabinet of the Union Government or any Committee of the Cabinet; (b) as might involve the disclosure of proceedings of the Cabinet of the State Government or any Committee of that Cabinet,

Statement 4 is correct: Section 20: Appeal to High Court.—Any person aggrieved by any order of the Competent Authority relating to imposition of penalty under section 14 or section 15 or section 16 may prefer an appeal to the High Court within a period of sixty days from the date of the order appealed against: Provided that the High Court may entertain the appeal after the expiry of the said period of sixty days, if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from preferring the appeal in time.

49. Consider the following statements about the functions of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)

1. It has the suo moto power to take up corruption cases against the public servants
2. It exercises superintendence power over the functioning of CBI in cases associated with Prevention of Corruption Act: 1988
3. Central Vigilance Commissioner will act as a chairman of a selection committee on whose recommendations Director of Enforcement is appointed
4. It conduct preliminary inquiry into complaints referred by Lokpal

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c (Only three)

Statement 1 is incorrect: It does not have suo moto powers, it conducts inquiry or investigation to be conducted on a reference made by the central government wherein it is alleged that a public servant being an employee of the central government.

Statement 2 is correct: It exercises superintendence over the functioning of the DPSE (CBI) insofar as it relates to the investigation of offenses under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. It exercises superintendence over the vigilance administrations of the various Central Government Ministries, Departments & Organisations of the Central Government.

Statement 3 is correct: The Central Vigilance Commissioner is the chairman and the two vigilance commissioners along with secretaries of Home Affairs, Department of Personal and Training and the Department of Revenue are the members of the selection committee on whose recommendation the central government appoints the Director of Enforcement.

Statement 4 is correct: The Commission has empowered to conduct preliminary inquiry into complaints referred by Lokpal in respect of officers and officials of group A, B, C and D



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50. Consider the following statements about the process to get information under Right to Information Act: 2005

1. The Act clearly defined the term 'Public Authority'
2. The applicant below poverty line are exempted from fee for application
3. If information sought is concerned with life of an applicant information shall be provided within 48 hours
4. Appeals against the information provided can directly filed at Central Information Commissioner

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: c (Only three)

Statement 1 is correct: A "public authority" is any authority or body or institution of Government established or constituted by or under the Constitution; or by any other law made by the Parliament or a State Legislature; or by notification issued or order made by the Central Government or a State Government. The bodies owned, controlled or substantially financed by the Central Government or a State Government and non-Government organisations substantially financed by the Central Government or a State Government also fall within the definition of public authority. The financing of the body or the NGO by the Government may be direct or indirect.

Statement 2 is correct: If the applicant belongs to below poverty line (BPL) category, he is not required to pay any fee. However, he should submit a proof in support of his claim to belong to the below poverty line. There is no prescribed format of application for seeking information. The application can be made on plain paper. The application should, however, have the name and complete postal address of the applicant.

Statement 3 is correct: In normal course, information to an applicant shall be supplied within 30 days from the receipt of application by the public authority. If information sought concerns the life or

liberty of a person, it shall be supplied within 48 hours. In case the application is sent through the Assistant Public Information Officer or it is sent to a wrong public authority, five days shall be added to the period of thirty days or 48 hours, as the case may be.

Statement 4 is incorrect: If an applicant is not supplied information within the prescribed time of thirty days or 48 hours, as the case may be, or is not satisfied with the information furnished to him, he may prefer an appeal to the first appellate authority who is an officer senior in rank to the Public Information Officer. Such an appeal, should be filed within a period of thirty days from the date on which the limit of 30 days of supply of information is expired or from the date on which the information or decision of the Public Information Officer is received. The appellate authority of the public authority shall dispose of the appeal within a period of thirty days or in exceptional cases within 45 days of the receipt of the appeal. If the first appellate authority fails to pass an order on the appeal within the prescribed period or if the appellant is not satisfied with the order of the first appellate authority, he may prefer a second appeal with the Central Information Commission within ninety days from the date on which the decision should have been made by the first appellate authority or was actually received by the appellant.

51. With reference to National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), which of the following statements are correct?

1. It is apex institute founded in 2014, under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions.
2. It collaborates with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to offer training programs to civil servants from developing nations.
3. The NCGG is governed by the governing body which is headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer: (d)



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Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct:

NCGG is established in 2014, the NCGG is an apex-level institution under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. It is an autonomous institute under the aegis of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India. It is located in New Delhi.

Statement 2 is correct:

It works with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to train civil servants from developing countries.

It focuses on public policy, governance, reforms, and enhancing the capacity of civil servants in India and other developing nations.

The centre's origins can be traced back to the National Institute of Administrative Research (NIAR), which had been set up in 1995 by the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA). NIAR was later renamed NCGG.

Statement 3 is correct:

The NCGG is governed by the governing body which is headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

The Director-General of the Centre acts as the Member-Secretary of the body.

Apart from this, there are secretaries from nine departments or ministries and also five experts from various fields.

52. Consider the following pairs:

1. UMANG - Mobile Application that provides access to central and state government services.
2. Digital Locker – Exclusively used by Government offices to store important documents to store digitally.
3. Digi Sevak - Platform connects interested citizens with the government to volunteer for various Digital India activities.
4. India Stack – Unified software platform to bring India's population into the digital age.

How many of the above given pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Pair 1 is correct:

UMANG: Unified Mobile Application for New-age governance that provides access to central and state government services including Aadhar, Digital Locker, PAN, Employee Provident Fund services, etc.

Pair 2 is incorrect:

Digital Locker: Helps citizens digitally store important documents like mark sheets, PAN, Aadhar, and degree certificates. This reduces the need for physical documents and facilitates easy sharing of documents. Registered government departments and organizations can directly send copies of documents they issue to an individual's DigiLocker.

Pair 3 is correct:

DigiSevak: Platform connects interested citizens with the government to volunteer for various Digital India activities by Ministries and agencies of government.

Pair 4 is correct:

India Stack: It refers to the project of creating a unified software platform to bring India's population into the digital age. A set of APIs that allows governments, businesses, startups and developers to utilize a unique digital Infrastructure to solve India's hard problems towards presence-less, paperless, and cashless service delivery.

53. Consider the following statements with respect to Official Secrets Act:

1. It is a colonial law that has been in effect since the British reign and declares that actions that aid an enemy state against India are punishable.
2. The Official Secrets Act defines 'secret material'.

Which of the above given statements are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct:



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The Official Secrets Act 1923 is India's anti-espionage act held over from the British colonial period. It states clearly that actions which involve helping an enemy state against India are strongly condemned. It also states that one cannot approach, inspect, or even pass over a prohibited government site or area like an electrical substation.

Statement 2 is incorrect:

The Official Secrets Act does not define secret information; instead, the government uses the Manual of Departmental Security Instructions, 1994 to determine whether a document is classified as secret. It is the government's discretion to decide what falls under the ambit of a "secret" document.

54. Consider the following statements:

1. Right to Information Act, 2005 defines Public Authority.
2. Information relating to internal security, relations with foreign countries, intellectual property rights (IPR), cabinet discussions are exempted from RTI.
3. Provides penalties in case of failure to provide information on time, incorrect, incomplete or misleading or distorted information.

How many of the following statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct:

Section 2(h) of RTI Act, 2005: Public authorities mean all authorities and bodies under the union government, state government or local bodies. The civil societies that are substantially funded, directly or indirectly, by the public funds also fall within the ambit of RTI.

Statement 2 is correct:

The citizens can seek any information from the government authorities that the government can disclose to the parliament. Information relating to internal security, relations with foreign countries, intellectual property rights (IPR), cabinet discussions are exempted from RTI.

Statement 3 is correct:

Under Section 20: Provides penalties in case of failure to provide information on time, incorrect, incomplete or misleading or distorted information.

55. Which of the following are modules of Sevottam model of Service delivery?

1. Citizen Charter
2. Public Grievance Redressal Mechanism
3. Services Delivery Capabilities
4. Establishment of Panchayats

Select the correct code:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The Sevottam model is intended to serve as a structure for achieving excellence in public service delivery. The need for the Sevottam model emerged because the Citizen Charter failed to produce the required results in terms of enhancing the quality of public services on its own.

SEVOTTAM MODEL HAS 3 MODULES:

1. Citizen Charter: Requires effective charter implementation, which creates a mechanism for people to provide feedback on how organizations decide service delivery requirements.
2. Public Grievance Redressal Mechanism: Needs a good grievance redress mechanism that, regardless of the final judgment, leaves the citizen more comfortable with how the organization relates to grievances.
3. Services Delivery Capabilities: Organisation could have exemplary service delivery efficiency only if it manages the key components for successful service delivery well and builds its own capacity to boost delivery continuously.

56. Consider the following statements:

1. Aadhaar card can be used as a proof of citizenship or domicile.



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2. Once issued, Aadhaar number cannot be deactivated or omitted by the Issuing Authority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer:(d)

Explanation:

As per the 2016 ruling of Calcutta HC Aadhar Card is not a proof of citizenship.

The Aadhaar Act regulations, state that an individual's Aadhaar number may be omitted permanently or deactivated temporarily by the Unique Identification Authority of India, the agency responsible for issuing the numbers and managing the database. The regulations gives the Authority the power to deactivate Aadhaar numbers even in the absence of an effective grievance redressal procedure for those whose numbers have been suspended.

57.Which of the following statements are incorrect regarding Whistleblower Protection Act, 2014?

- 1. The act is not applicable to the Special Protection Group (SPG) personnel and officers.
- 2. A whistleblower is anyone who has and reports insider knowledge of illegal, illicit, and fraudulent activities occurring in an organization.

Select the incorrect code:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct:

The act is not applicable to the Special Protection Group (SPG) personnel and officers, constituted under the Special Protection Group Act, 1988.

Statement 2 is correct:

A whistleblower is anyone who has and reports insider knowledge of illegal, illicit, and fraudulent activities occurring in an organization.

Whistleblowers can be employees, suppliers, contractors, clients, or any individual who becomes aware of dubious business activities.

58.Consider the following statements regarding Social Audit:

- 1. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was the first Act to mandate Social Audit by the Gram Sabha.
- 2. A social audit is a systematic, independent assessment of an organization's or program's social impact and ethical performance.

Which of the above given statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Statement 1 correct:

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was the first Act to mandate Social Audit by the Gram Sabha of all the projects taken up in the Gram Panchayat.

Most States have set up an independent Social Audit Unit (SAU) and some have even begun to facilitate Social Audit in other programmes, including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme, Midday Meal Scheme and Public Distribution System.

Statement 2 is correct:

A social audit is a systematic, independent assessment of an organization's or program's social impact and ethical performance.

It evaluates how well their actions and policies align with their stated values and goals, particularly regarding their impact on communities, employees, and the environment.

59.Which of the following are the initiatives by NITI Aayog?

- 1. Strategy for New@75
- 2. Aspirational District Programme
- 3. SDG Index India
- 4. Atal Innovation Mission



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Select the correct code:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

MAJOR INITIATIVES/STEPS BY NITI AAYOG:

Strategy for New @75: NITI Aayog replaced the five-year plans with this document. In this document, the Aayog aimed for 9-10% economic growth and a \$4 Trillion economy by 2022-23. Due to unforeseen COVID-19-related lockdowns, the target could not be reached.

Aspirational Districts Programme: This programme was launched in 2018 to transform districts that had shown lesser progress in key social indicators.

SDG Index India: It was launched in 2018 to monitor India's progress on sustainable development goals. The assessment of the progress is based on data-driven assessment. The index consists of goal-wise scores on 16 SDGs and ranks states in India.

Atal Innovation Mission: NITI Aayog launched this program to promote the culture and entrepreneurship in India.

60. Which of the following pairs are correct with respect to Public Private Partnership?

- 1. BOT – A model in which private partner is responsible to design, build, operate and transfer back the facility to the public sector.
- 2. BOLT -A model ownership of the newly built facility will rest with the private party
- 3. DBFO - Variant of BOT, after the negotiated period of time, project is transferred to the government or to the private operator.
- 4. LDO – An investment model where either the government or the public sector entity retains ownership of the newly created infrastructure facility.

Select the correct code:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Commonly adopted model of PPPs include Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT), Build-Own-Operate (BOO), Build-Operate-Lease-Transfer (BOLT), Design-Build-Operate-Transfer (DBFOT), Lease-Develop-Operate (LDO), Operate-Maintain-Transfer (OMT), etc.

BOT: It is conventional PPP model in which private partner is responsible to design, build, operate (during the contracted period) and transfer back the facility to the public sector.

BOLT: In this approach, the government gives a concession to a private entity to build a facility (and possibly design it as well), own the facility, lease the facility to the public sector and then at the end of the lease period transfer the ownership of the facility to the government.

DBFO: In this model, entire responsibility for the design, construction, finance, and operation of the project for the period of concession lies with the private party.

LDO: In this type of investment model either the government or the public sector entity retains ownership of the newly created infrastructure facility and receives payments in terms of a lease agreement with the private promoter.

61. e-Shakti is a project of which of the following?

- (a) NABARD
- (b) World Bank
- (c) RBI
- (d) SEBI

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

eShakti, or SHG Digitisation, is a project of NABARD's Micro Credit and Innovations Department.

The project aims at the digitization of all the Self-Help Group (SHG) accounts. This initiative seeks to bring SHG members under the umbrella of financial inclusion, enabling them to access a broader range of financial services. Additionally, it aims to enhance bankers' comfort in credit appraisal and linkage by ensuring proper digital documentation and record-keeping.



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Improving the quality of the interface between SHG members and Banks for efficient and hassle-free delivery of banking services by using the available technology.

Facilitate convergence of delivery systems with SHGs using Aadhaar-linked identity.

62. How many of the following statements are incorrect regarding National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)?

1. It is a statutory corporation established by an act of the Indian Parliament in 1963.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
3. SAHAKAR-22 is an initiative of NCDC.

Select the incorrect statements:

- (a) 1 Only
- (b) 2 Only
- (c) All
- (d) None

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct:

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is a statutory corporation established by an act of the Indian Parliament in 1963.

Statement 2 is correct:

It functions under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

It is the apex financing organisation of the ministry.

This corporation was established for economic development through cooperative societies.

Its chief objectives are planning and promoting programmes for production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of agricultural produce, livestock, etc. on cooperative principles.

Statement 3 is correct:

SAHAKAR-22 – Sahakar-22 a mission mode activity of NCDC, launched by Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare to achieve the Mission of New India by 2022 through Cooperatives for doubling the farmers' income. The programme aims at the overall development of the districts by way of identification of viable sectors for funding, both in farm and non-farm sectors.

63. Which of the following statements are correct regarding E-PRISON project?

1. E-PRISON project is an initiative of Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. E-Prisons use data from the National Prisons Information Portal, which is managed by the Central Jails.

Select the correct code:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct:

The Ministry of Home Affairs' E-Prisons initiative intends to computerize the country's jail system, including the digitisation and availability of prisoner data.

The E-Prisons initiative will aid in the creation of a centralized database of standard information. Under the Interoperable Criminal Justice System, data from e-prisons has been connected with police and court systems.

Statement 2 is incorrect:

E-Prisons use data from the National Prisons Information Portal, which is managed by the states and union territories, in accordance with e-Prisons guidelines.

Through the Interoperable Criminal Justice System, authorized officials of Law Enforcement Agencies and Prisons can access the system through a secure network (ICJS). It also makes online visit requests and grievance resolution easier.

64. Consider the following statements are correct with respect to CBI:

1. The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee.
2. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act 1946.
3. The general consent given by the States enables the CBI to investigate corruption charges freely.

Select correct code:

- (a) 1 and 2



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(b) 2 and 3

(c) 1 and 3

(d) 1,2 and 3

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct:

The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).

In 1963, the CBI was established by the Government of India with a view to investigate serious crimes related to defense of India, corruption in high places, serious fraud, black-marketing and profiteering in essential commodities, having all-India and inter-state ramifications.

Statement 2 is correct:

It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act 1946.

It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.

It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates investigations on behalf of Interpol Member countries.

Statement 3 is correct:

According to Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946 under which the CBI functions, the State's consent is required to extend CBI investigation beyond Union Territories.

The general consent given by the States enables the CBI to investigate corruption charges freely, as "police" is Entry in the State List under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

65. Which of the following statements are incorrect regarding Competition Commission of India?

1. It is a non-statutory independent body of Government of India.
2. The commission is a quasi-judicial body which gives opinions to statutory authorities and also deals with other cases.

Select the incorrect statements:

(a) 1 Only

(b) 2 Only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect:

Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body of the Government of India responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002, it was duly constituted in March 2009.

Statement 2 is correct:

The commission is a quasi-judicial body which gives opinions to statutory authorities and also deals with other cases. The Chairperson and other Members shall be whole-time Members. The Commission consists of one Chairperson and six Members as per the Competition Act who shall be appointed by the Central Government.

66. Consider the following statements

1. Indian Ocean Geoid Low (IOGL) is the massive gravity hole in the Indian Ocean.
2. The earth has uniform gravity throughout its surface.

Which of the following statements are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The Indian Ocean Geoid Low (IOGL), is Earth's most prominent gravitational anomaly. Recently, a team of Indian scientists has identified what caused this giant 'gravity hole' covering more than three million square kilometres in the Indian Ocean. The massive "gravity hole" in the Indian Ocean, which spans more than three million square kilometres. The region where the Earth's gravitational pull is weakest is just south of Sri Lanka. As a result, the sea level is 100 meters lower than the average for the world.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Earth is rotating and is also not spherically symmetric; rather, it is slightly flatter at the poles while bulging at the Equator: an oblate spheroid. There are consequently slight deviations in the magnitude of gravity across its surface.

67. Consider the following statements



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1. Fermions that are their own antiparticles are called Majorana fermions.
2. All subatomic particles that make up matter are called fermions.
3. Majorana fermions help in building better quantum computers.

Which of the following statements are correct?

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

Answer: (d) All are correct

Explanation: Recently, Microsoft researchers announced a significant breakthrough in the creation of Majorana Zero Modes, a type of particle with potential implications for revolutionizing quantum computing.

-Microsoft researchers engineered a topological superconductor composed of an aluminium Superconductor and an indium arsenide Semiconductor.

-Their device passed a stringent protocol, including measurements and simulations, indicating a high probability of hosting Majorana zero modes.

Statement 1 is correct: Majorana Fermions: All subatomic particles that make up matter are called fermions.

-Fermions that are their own antiparticles are called Majorana fermions.

-Neutrinos are one type of particle that physicists believe could be Majorana fermions, although experimental proof is still lacking.

Statement 2 is correct: All subatomic particles that make up matter are called fermions.

Statement 3 is correct: Majorana zero modes possess unique properties that make Quantum Computers more robust and computationally superior. Quantum computers currently use individual electrons as qubits, but they are fragile and susceptible to decoherence.

-Majorana zero modes, composed of an electron and a hole, can be used as more stable qubits.

68. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Green Credit Programme'

1. It can be earned by individuals, farmer-producer organizations and industries.
2. The Green credits are non-tradable.
3. Central Pollution Control Board will be the administrator of the programme.

How Many of the following statements are correct?

- (a) One only
- (b) Two only
- (c) Three only
- (d) None

Answer: (a) One only

Explanation: The government has recently unveiled an innovative and voluntary Green Credit program designed to reward and incentivize individuals and entities for their positive environmental contributions.

-Participants can earn Green Credits for a wide range of activities that promote environmental sustainability

Statement 1 is correct: Green Credit refers to a unit of incentive provided to individuals and entities engaged in activities that deliver a positive impact on the environment.

-It is a voluntary program initiated by the government to incentivize various stakeholders in contributing to environmental preservation and sustainable practices.

-The guidelines bring together mechanisms to quantify and support ecosystem services together and would be of great help for organic farmers and FPOs.

-This program is part of the broader 'LiFE' campaign (Lifestyle for Environment), and it encourages and rewards voluntary environmentally-positive actions.

Covered Activities:

- Tree Plantation
- Water Management
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Waste Management
- Air Pollution Reduction
- Mangrove Conservation and Restoration
- Ecomark-based Green Credit
- Sustainable Building and Infrastructure

Statement 2 is incorrect: The green credits will be tradable and those earning it will be able to put these credits up for sale on a proposed domestic market platform.



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Statement 3 is incorrect: Administration: The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) shall be the administrator of the programme which will develop guidelines, processes and procedures for implementation of the programme.

69. Consider the following statements with respect to Khazan lands

1. Khazans are coastal wetlands of Goa.
2. They act as the main drainage system during floods
3. This system of traditional agriculture emerged during Portuguese rule in India.

Which of the following statements are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: According to the National Green Tribunal, the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority has failed to comply with environmental norms for construction on Khazan land in Cavelossim, Goa.

Statement 1 is correct: Khazan is the coastal wetlands of Goa which cover about 5% of the total geographical area of Goa.

-It is a low-lying, salt water-logged area that is affected by tidal flow.

Statement 2 is correct: It is used for shrimp farming, agriculture and salt production. These act as the main drainage system during floods.

Statement 3 is correct: Khazans are coastal wetlands of Goa. They were reclaimed from mangrove forests (in the pre-Christian Era) during Portuguese rule, by an intricate system of dykes, sluice gates and canals.

70. Consider the following statements.

1. The onset of an easterly jet stream over peninsular India.
2. Development of high pressure in the region lying to the north of the Himalayas.

Which of the above weather phenomena are observed during the winter season in India?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The onset of a westerly jet stream over peninsular India.

-The winter subtropical westerly Jet Stream blows from the west to the east in the entire west and middle Asia

-It is bifurcated by the Himalayan ranges and Tibetan Plateau. One of the branches blows parallel to the plateau from the north while the other moves towards the east in the south of the Himalayas.

-The western disturbance which enters the Indian subcontinent in winter is brought by these westerly winds.

Statement 2 is correct: A high pressure center in the region lying to the north of the Himalayas develops during winter. This center of high pressure gives rise to the flow of air at the low level from the north towards the Indian subcontinent, south of the mountain range.

71. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Committee on Public Undertakings'.

1. The chairman of this committee can be only from Lok Sabha.
2. The members are elected every year for a term of two years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct.

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation: Committee on Public Undertakings is a committee of members of Parliament, constituted by the Parliament of India. The committee's purpose is to examine the reports and accounts of public sector enterprises (PSUs) as defined in the fourth schedule of the Lok Sabha Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business. The Committee on Public Undertakings, established in 1964 on the recommendations of the Krishna Menon Committee, is a type of Financial Committee.

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Statement 1 is correct: It is made up of 22 people. The Indian Parliament provides all of the members.

-From Lok Sabha: 15 members

-From Rajya Sabha: 7 members

-The chairperson of the committee is appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

-The Chairman of the Committee on Public Enterprises is chosen from among the Lok Sabha members.

-As a result, there is no chairman of the committee who is a member of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The members of this financial committee are elected by the Parliament every year from among its own members. They are elected according to the principle of Proportional Representation by means of a Single Transferable Vote.

-The term of office of the members is one year.

72. What is the correct sequence of the above water bodies from East to West:

1. The Adriatic Sea
2. Sea of Marmara
3. The Aegean Sea
4. Sea of Azov

Choose the correct Answer

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

Answer: (b) 4-2-3-1

Explanation:

Option b is correct:



1. The Adriatic Sea: The Adriatic Sea is a body of water separating the Italian Peninsula from the Balkan Peninsula. The Adriatic is the northernmost arm of the Mediterranean Sea, extending from the Strait of Otranto to the northwest and the Po Valley.

2. Sea of Marmara: The Sea of Marmara, also known as the Sea of Marmora or the Marmara Sea, is a small inland sea located entirely within the borders of Turkey. It connects the Black Sea to the Aegean Sea via the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits, separating Turkey's European and Asian sides.



3. The Aegean Sea: The Aegean Sea is an elongated embayment of the Mediterranean Sea between Europe and Asia. It is located between the Balkans and Anatolia, and covers an area of some 215,000 km².



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4. Sea of Azov: The Sea of Azov is an inland shelf sea in Eastern Europe connected to the Black Sea by the narrow Strait of Kerch, and is sometimes regarded as a northern extension of the Black Sea. The sea is bounded by Russia on the east, and by Ukraine on the northwest and southwest, currently under Russian occupation.



73. Zombie firms, sometimes seen in news implies:

- (a) Firms which create more employment opportunities.
- (b) Firms supported by the Government without taxing on its profits.
- (c) Firms which are not able to cover their debt-servicing costs with current earnings.
- (d) Firms which earn enough profits to finance their debts.

Answer:(c)

Explanation:

Option c is correct:

Definition: Zombie firms are companies that are not able to cover their debt-servicing costs with their current earnings. These firms continue to operate and survive only by borrowing more money to pay off their existing debts. This phenomenon has been a growing concern in the global economy, as it can have significant negative implications for overall economic stability.

Reasons for the Existence of Zombie Firms:

1. Low interest rates: In an environment of low interest rates, it becomes easier for firms to borrow money at cheap rates. This allows zombie firms to keep borrowing and servicing their debt, even if their earnings are not sufficient to cover these costs.

2. Lack of competition: In some cases, zombie firms may be able to survive because they face little competition in their industry. This allows them to maintain some level of market share despite their financial difficulties.

3. Government support: In certain situations, zombie firms may receive support from the government, either through direct bailouts or through policies that prevent their bankruptcy. This can artificially prolong the life of these firms, even if they are not economically viable.

74. Consider the statements regarding the formation of Hailstones.

- 1. Hail is produced by cumulus clouds, which are generally large and dark.
- 2. Hailstones are formed when winds blow up the water droplets to heights where they freeze into ice.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Hail is associated with high, vertical cumulonimbus clouds, the kind of clouds that produce severe thunderstorms.

Statement 2 is correct: Hail forms when thunderstorm updrafts are strong enough to carry water droplets well above the freezing level. This freezing process forms a hailstone, which can grow as additional water freezes onto it. Eventually, the hailstone becomes too heavy for the updrafts to support it and it falls to the ground.

75. Consider the statements regarding Diversity for Restoration (D4R) Tool.

- 1. It has been developed by Biodiversity International.



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2. The tool aims to support ecosystem restoration programs in India by improving decision-making and promoting sustainable development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct.

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Researchers from Biodiversity International have devised a tool named Diversity for Restoration (D4R) for promoting restoration programmes in India.

-Another team from Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment helped these researchers to modify the tool for Indian conditions.

Statement 2 is correct:

Significance of the tool

-This tool is being claimed to help in enabling appropriate agroforestry and aiding systematic ecosystem restoration programmes in India.

-By using this tool tree species, which match the restoration objectives, are identified along with their ecological benefits.

-It helps in identifying the best suited tree species for a particular geographical region. Hence it promotes sustainable development.

-It will also help in the success of restoration of land and ecosystems with minimum instances of failure of plantation programmes.

-Thus better decisions would be taken regarding selection of the species suitable to local environmental, soil, and geographical conditions.

-This tool contains information on 100 plant functional traits of 237 important native trees of Western Ghats which have socio-economic significance.

-Functional traits provide information on economic and ecological uses of trees like timber, medicine, fruits or other commercial benefits.

-Habitat suitability, threat status are also considered by this tool while identifying suitable species.

76. Consider the following statements regarding Data Scraping.

- 1. Data scraping involves deleting specific data from a website as precautionary measure against potential theft or unauthorized access
- 2. It is commonly used to find sales leads or conduct market research via public data sources.

Which of the above statements is/are correct.

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation: Twitter has implemented temporary reading limits to address issues of data scraping and system manipulation. Verified accounts are now limited to reading 6,000 posts per day, while unverified or new accounts can read 600 and 300 posts per day, respectively.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Data scraping refers to the automated process of extracting large amounts of data from websites or digital platforms. It involves using software or scripts to gather information from web pages, or platforms like Twitter and then using the data for creating new content, journalism or research purposes.

Statement 2 is correct: The businesses can benefit a lot from data scraping. These are as follows:

-The data extracted is helpful for businesses in monitoring their competitors (strengths and weaknesses), ensuring that they do not lose their market share.

-It also helps to extract the most effective keywords. This, in turn, draws organic traffic to their websites.

-Data scraping also helps in collecting data on the targeted market, improving market strategy. This information can be used to develop products that meet the demands of consumers.

77. Consider the statements below.

- 1. Deep Sea mining is the extraction of mineral resources from the ocean floor in deep ocean waters.



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2. All the resources in Exclusive Economic Zones are under control of particular sovereign nation

Which of the above statements is/are correct.

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation: The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is preparing to allow Deep Sea Mining in the International Seabed, including mining for minerals needed for Green Energy.

The ISA's Legal and Technical Commission, which oversees the development of deep sea mining regulations, will meet in early July 2023 to discuss the mining code draft. The earliest that mining under ISA regulations could begin is 2026.

Statement 1 is correct: Deep sea mining involves removing mineral deposits and metals from the ocean's seabed. There are three types of such mining:

-Taking deposit-rich polymetallic nodules off the ocean floor

-Mining massive seafloor sulfide deposits

-Stripping cobalt crusts from rock.

-These nodules, deposits and crusts contain materials, such as nickel, rare earths, cobalt and more, that are needed for batteries and other materials used in tapping Renewable Energy and also for everyday technology like cellphones and computers.

-Companies and governments view these as strategically important resources that will be needed as onshore reserves are depleted and demand continues to rise.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) defined the EEZ as a zone in the sea over which a sovereign nation has certain special rights with respect to the exploration and usage of marine resources, which includes the generation of energy from wind and water, and also oil and natural gas extraction.

-The EEZ is an area that is adjacent to and beyond the territorial sea.

-It can extend to a maximum of 200 nautical miles from the baseline.

78. Consider the statements with respect to Germanium.

- 1. Germanium is a rare earth metal that is used in fiber optic cables, night vision devices, and solar cells.
- 2. The US is the major producer of germanium.
- 3. India is 100% dependent on imports to meet its germanium requirements.

Which of the following statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Germanium is key to fiber optic cables and also used in high-speed computer chips and plastics as well as infrared radiation. The metal and its oxides are used in military applications like night-vision devices as well as satellite imagery sensors. It is also important for low-carbon technologies such as solar cells. Germanium is used to make transistors for use in electronic devices. Germanium is also used to create alloys and as a phosphor in fluorescent lamps.

Statement 2 is incorrect: China is the leading producer of germanium worldwide, with its production having accounted for a 93 percent share of the global supply of germanium.

Statement 3 is correct: India is 100% dependent on import to meet its germanium requirements.

China, South Africa, Australia, France and the US are leading import sources for germanium.

79. Consider the statements regarding 'Forever Chemicals'

- 1. Forever chemicals are highly persistent synthetic chemicals used in a wide range of industrial and consumer products
- 2. They are listed in Stockholm Convention

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2 only



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Explanation:

All the statements are correct

According to a recent study, scientists have found that rainwater from many places across the globe is contaminated with Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAs).

-Further, they are called Forever chemicals because of their tendency to stick around in the atmosphere, rainwater, and soil for long periods of time.

-PFAs are also listed in the Stockholm Convention.

-They are man-made chemicals used to make nonstick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain-resistant fabrics, cosmetics, firefighting forms, and many other products that resist grease, water, and oil. They don't occur in nature.

-They can migrate to the soil, water, and air during their production and use.

-Most PFAs do not break down, they remain in the environment for long periods of time.

-Further, some of these PFAs can build up in people and animals if they are repeatedly exposed to the chemicals.

Harmful Effects:

-They cause a variety of health risks that are attributed to PFA exposure, including decreased fertility, developmental effects in children, interference with body hormones, increased cholesterol levels, and increased risk of some cancers.

-Recent research has also revealed that long-term low-level exposure to certain PFAs can make it difficult for humans to build antibodies after being vaccinated against various diseases.

80. Consider the following statements with respect to Farmers Distress Index:

1. The index aims to minimize the agrarian distress in the form of crop loss/ failure and income shock.
2. The index has been developed by Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA).

Which of the above statements is/are correct.

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The index tries to anticipate the Agrarian distress and prevent its spread from a few farmers to the village or block level.

-It will enable various entities such as the central government, state governments, local bodies, and non-governmental agencies to receive early warnings about impending farmers' distress, thus facilitating proactive interventions.

Objective:

-The index aims to minimize the agrarian distress in the form of crop loss / failure and income shock.

-Farmers' exposure to shocks have increased in the recent years, with an increase in extreme climate events as well as market and price fluctuations, many times driving them to death by suicides.

Statement 2 is correct: The Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), an institution under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), is developing an Early Warning System called "Farmers' Distress Index", a first of its kind for India.

81. Consider the statements regarding Productivity Growth in India's Manufacturing Sector.

1. Productivity measures output per unit of input, such as labor, capital or any other resource.
2. Employment in India's manufacturing sector has been on the rise since 2016.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: In simple terms, productivity is the ratio of output to input – in other words, how much a company can produce based on a given amount of input – and it focuses mainly on throughput and quantity.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Manufacturing accounts for nearly 17% of India's GDP but the sector has seen employment decline sharply in the last 5 years. From



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employing 51 million Indians in 2016-17, employment in the sector declined by 46% to reach 27.3 million in 2020-21.

-On a YoY basis, it employed 32% fewer people in 2020-21 over 2019-20. It had seen a growth of 1% (YoY) in 2019-20. This has happened despite the Indian government's push to improve manufacturing in the country with the 'Make in India' project. Under the project, India sought to create an additional 100 million manufacturing jobs in India by 2022 and to increase manufacturing's contribution to GDP to 20% by 2025.

82. Consider the statements regarding the Dispute Settlement System (DSS) of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

1. The DSS has been termed as the 'crown jewel' of the WTO.
2. DSS has been paralyzed due to the non-functioning of its appellate body since 2019.

Which of the above statements is/are correct.

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The member-countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) managed to hammer out a face-saving deal — India played a vital role — at the Geneva ministerial conference, thereby keeping faith in trade multilateralism alive.

-An important part was resurrecting the WTO's dispute settlement system (DSS), also called WTO's 'crown jewel', by 2024. Dispute settlement or dispute settlement system (DSS) is regarded by the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the, central pillar of the multilateral trading system, and as the organization's "unique contribution to the stability of the global economy".

-WTO dispute settlement provides mechanisms for resolving trade disputes between members of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO's Understanding on Dispute Settlement provides -WTO

members with a legal framework for resolving trade disputes that arise between them in implementing WTO agreements.

Statement 2 is correct: Since 2019, the WTO's two-tiered DSS remains paralyzed. The appellate body, which is the second tier of the WTO's DSS that hears appeals from WTO panels, is non-functional because the United States, single-handedly, has blocked the appointment of its members

83. The 'Iron catastrophe' was a major event early in the history of Earth. It refers to:

- (a) Large Scale homogenization of concentrated iron deposits due to repeated ice ages.
- (b) Erosion of ferrous minerals from Earth's crust due to Solar winds.
- (c) Sinking of Iron to the center of Earth, leading to an overall restructuring.
- (d) None of the above.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Option c is correct: The iron catastrophe is a postulated major geological event early in the history of Earth, where heavy metals such as iron and nickel congregated in the core during a geologically brief period.

-The original accretion of the Earth's material into a spherical mass is thought to have resulted in a relatively uniform composition. While residual heat from the collision of the material that formed the Earth was significant, heating from radioactive materials in this mass gradually increased the temperature until a critical condition was reached.

-As material became molten enough to allow movement, the denser iron and nickel, previously evenly distributed throughout the mass, began to migrate to the center of the planet to form the core.

84. With reference to Money Mulling, Consider the following statements.

1. Money mulling is a financial practice that involves banks assisting in the transfer of funds between accounts.
2. Money Mule Actions are linked to cybercrime.

Which of the above statements is/are correct.



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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Money mulling is a type of money laundering. A money mule is a person who receives money from a third party in their bank account and transfers it to another one or takes it out in cash and gives it to someone else, obtaining a commission for it.

Statement 2 is correct: Money Mule Actions are linked to cybercrime.

85. Consider the following statements regarding 'Results-Based Financing'?

1. Funding approach that rewards service providers based on the amount of time and effort they put into their work, regardless of actual results achieved.
2. Development Impact Bonds (DIBs) are a type of RBF.

Which of the above statements is/are correct.

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: RBF is an approach to financing and delivering services that focuses on achieving specific results or outcomes rather than solely on inputs or activities. It is often used in the context of social and development programs, particularly in sectors such as health, education, and water and sanitation.

Statement 2 is correct: Common forms of RBF include Social Impact Bonds (SIB), Development Impact Bonds (DIB), Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT), and Outcome-Linked Interest Rate Loans.

RBF seeks to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of social and development programs by linking funding to the achievement of specific results or outcomes.

86. In an election, a voter may vote for any number of candidates not greater than the number to be chosen. There are 7 candidates and 4 members are to be chosen. In how many ways can a person vote?

- (a) 89
- (b) 98
- (c) 79
- (d) 101

Ans (b)

87. There are 4 different letters and 4 addressed envelopes. In how many ways can the letters be put in the envelopes so that at least one letter goes to the correct address?

- (a) 15
- (b) 16
- (c) 18
- (d) 12

Ans (a)

88. In how many ways can 100 soldiers be divided into 4 squads of 10, 20, 30, 40 respectively?

- (a) 1700
- (b) 18!
- (c) 190
- (d) None of these

Ans (d)

89. If 6 boys and 6 girls have to sit in a round circular music chair. So, that there is a girl between every 2 boys. Find the number of ways they can sit?

- (a) $6! \times 5!$
- (b) $6! \times 4!$
- (c) $6! \times 3!$
- (d) $6! \times 2!$

Ans (a)

90. What is the number of ways in which an ascending A.P, comprising three numbers can be formed from 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7?

- (a) 8
- (b) 9
- (c) 10
- (d) 11

Ans (b)



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91. There are 10 students in a batch. In how many ways can the first five ranks be getting in?

- (a) 30000
- (b) 30240
- (c) 30500
- (d) 30600

Ans (b)

92. How many 3- letter words with or without meaning, can be formed by using all the letters of the word 'LOGARITHMS', if repetition of letters is not allowed?

- (a) 700
- (b) 720
- (c) 750
- (d) 760

Ans (b)

93. Find the number of different signals that can be transmitted by arranging 3 yellow flags, 4 red flags and 2 blue flags on a pole. All the flags, 4 red flags and 2 blue flags on a pole. All the flags are used transmit the signal?

- (a) 1200
- (b) 1260
- (c) 1300
- (d) 1350

Ans (b)

94. Find the no of parallelograms that can be formed from a set of four parallel lines intersecting from another set of three parallel lines?

- (a) 12
- (b) 24
- (c) 48
- (d) 18

Ans (d)

95. Find the number of combinations of four things selected out of 8 things

- (a) 50
- (b) 60
- (c) 70
- (d) 80

Ans (C)

96. What is the probability that a number selected from the numbers 1, 2, 3,20, is a prime number when each of the given numbers is equally likely to be selected?

- (a) 7/10
- (b) 2/15
- (c) 2/5
- (d) 3/5

Ans (c)

97. In a simultaneous toss of two coins, find the probability of exactly one tail?

- (a) 1/4
- (b) 1/2
- (c) 3/4
- (d) 4/5

Ans (b)

98. Anil placed a deck of 52 cards. If you pick two cards what is the probability that both are aces?

- (a) 1/169
- (b) 1/221
- (c) 1/338
- (d) 4/663

Ans (b)

99. A card is drawn form a pack of 100 cards numbered 1 to 100. Find the probability of drawing a number which is square?

- (a) 2/5
- (b) 3/15
- (c) 7/10
- (d) 1/10

Ans (d)

100. A can solve 80% of the problems given in an exam and B can solve 70%. What is the probability that exactly one of them will solve a problem selected at random from the exam?

- (a) 19/50
- (b) 28/50
- (c) 19/79
- (d) 28/79

Ans (a)