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Detailed
Explanation

Answers

Answers

Answers

Answers

Answers

Explanation

Explanation

Answers

Answers

Explanation

Explanation

Answers

Answers

Explanation

Answers

Answers

Answers

Answers

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Explanation

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1. Ans: C

Exp:

- Parliament passed the **Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021** to amend the **Representation of the People Act, 1950, Section 23(4)** was inserted in the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**.
- **Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021** was introduced to **link electoral roll data and voter ID cards with Aadhaar Card**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The language for registration of **'wives of service voters'** will now be replaced by **'spouse'**.
- Its basic motive is to **weed out duplication of voters**, such as **migrant workers** who may have been registered more than once on the **electoral rolls** in different constituencies or for persons **registered multiple times** within the **same constituency**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The seeding of **Aadhaar data** with **voter identities** will allow for remote voting, a measure that could help migrant voters.

2. Ans: C

Exp:

- DPSP are ideals which are meant to be kept in mind by the state when it formulates policies and enacts laws.
- **The source of the concept of Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) is the Spanish Constitution from which it came in the Irish Constitution.**
 - ◆ The concept of DPSP emerged from Article 45 of the Irish Constitution.
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Unlike the Fundamental Rights (FRs), the scope of DPSP is limitless and it protects the rights of a citizen and work at a macro level.
 - ◆ **DPSP consists of all the ideals which the State should follow and keep in mind while formulating policies and enacting laws for the country.**
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Hence, **option C is correct**.

3. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** was established in September 1942.
- It is **the largest research and development (R&D) organisation in India**.
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- CSIR has a pan-India presence and has a dynamic network of 37 national laboratories, 39 outreach centres, 3 Innovation Complexes and 5 units.

- **The Prime Minister is the ex-officio President of CSIR.**
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

4. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI)** is a system of rural local self-government in India.
- **Local Self Government is the management of local affairs** by such local bodies who have been elected by the local people.
- **PRI was constitutionalized through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** to build democracy at the grass roots level and was entrusted with the task of rural development in the country.
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- In ancient period, **there is a mention of village panchayats in Kautilya's Arthashastra**.
 - ◆ The town was referred to as Pur and its chief was the Nagarik.
 - ◆ Local bodies were free from any royal interference.
 - ◆ During the Mauryan and Post-Mauryan periods too, the headman, assisted by a council of elders, continued to play a prominent role in the village life.
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Hence, **option C is correct**.

5. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Central Vigilance Commission** was set up by the Government in 1964 **on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption**, headed by **Shri K. Santhanam**, to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- A warrant under his hand and seal indicates that the appointment letter bears the President's his/her own signature and this role is not assigned to any other authority.
- The President appoints the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India**, the **Supreme Court Judges**, the **Attorney General of India**, and the **Central Vigilance Commissioner** of India by a **warrant under his hand and seal**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Other officers appointed by warrant under the President's hand and seal are:
 - ◆ State Governors.
 - ◆ Judges of the state high courts.



- ◆ All members of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes.
- ◆ All members of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

6. Ans: A

Exp:

- NITI Aayog's Governing Council is the **premier body trusted with developing a shared vision of national priorities and strategies** with the active involvement of States and Union Territories.
 - ◆ It is a platform **to discuss inter-sectoral, inter-departmental and federal issues. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It comprises:
 - ◆ The Prime Minister of India.
 - ◆ Chief Ministers of all the states and union territories with the legislature.
 - ◆ Lt Governors of other UTs.
 - ◆ **Ex-Officio Members, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Full-Time Members, NITI Aayog.**
 - ◆ **Special Invitees.**
 - ◆ **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

7. Ans: D

Exp:

- The idea of Fundamental Duties is **inspired from the Constitution of Russia** (erstwhile Soviet Union). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- These were **incorporated in Part IV-A of the Constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976** on the recommendations of the **Swaran Singh Committee. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Originally 10 in number, one more duty was added through the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002.
- **All the eleven duties are listed in Article 51-A** of the Constitution (the sole Article in Part-IV-A).
- Like the Directive Principles of State Policy, **Fundamental duties are also non-justiciable in nature. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

8. Ans: B

Exp:

- In 1977, M.U. Beg was appointed as the chief justice of India (CJI) by superseding the then senior-most judge. This discretion of the government was curtailed by the Supreme Court in the **Second Judges Case (1993)**, in which the Supreme Court ruled that the **senior most judge of the Supreme Court should alone be appointed to the Chief Justice of India (CJI). Hence statement 1 is not correct.**

- The Chief Justice of India and the Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution.
- The opinion of the Chief Justice of India for **appointment of a Judge of the SC** should be formed **in consultation with a collegium** of the four senior-most puisne Judges of the Supreme Court.
- **In the third Judges case (1998)**, the Court opined that the consultation process to be adopted by the **CJI requires 'consultation of plurality judges.'** The sole opinion of the chief justice of India does not constitute the consultation process. **He should consult a collegium of four senior most judges of the Supreme Court and even if two judges give an adverse opinion, he should not send the recommendation to the government. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The **99th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2014** and the **National Judicial Appointments Commission Act of 2014** replaced the collegium system of appointing judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts with a **new body** called the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC). However, in **2015**, the Supreme Court declared both the **99th Constitutional Amendment as well as the NJAC Act as unconstitutional and void. This verdict was delivered by the Supreme Court in the Fourth Judges case (2015).**

9. Ans: B

Exp:

- Municipal Corporation is the urban local government that is responsible for the development of any Metropolitan City having a population of more than one million people.
- The **first municipal corporation in India was created in Madras in 1688**, followed by municipal corporations in Bombay and Calcutta in 1726.
 - ◆ **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **74th Amendment Act, 1992** has inserted a new Part IX-A into the Constitution which deals with the administration of Municipalities and Nagar Palikas.
 - ◆ **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

10. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Freedom of Speech in Parliament:**
 - ◆ The freedom of speech and expression guaranteed to a citizen under **Article 19(2)** is different from the freedom of speech and expression provided to a member of the parliament.
 - It has been guaranteed **under Article 105(1) of the Indian constitution.** But freedom is



subject to rules and orders which regulate the proceedings of parliament. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- ◆ The Indian Constitution borrows a **feature of parliamentary privileges** from the **British Constitution**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - Other borrowed aspects include **parliamentary government, the rule of law, legislative procedure, single citizenship, the cabinet system, prerogative writs, and bicameralism**.

11. Ans: C

Exp:

- The Constitution of India does not endeavor to define the term 'tribe'; however, the term Scheduled Tribe' was inserted in the Constitution through Article 342 (i).
- **The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution** provides for the setting up of a Tribes' Advisory Council in each of the States having Scheduled Areas.
 - ◆ Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Article 275: It provides for the grant of special funds by the Union Government** to the State Government for promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and providing them with better administration.
 - ◆ Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Hence, option C is correct.

12. Ans: C

Exp:

- Two years ago, in August 2017, a nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court in **Justice K. S. Puttaswamy (Retd) Vs Union of India** unanimously held that Indians have a constitutionally protected **fundamental right to privacy**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **right to privacy** is protected as an intrinsic part of the **right to life and personal liberty** under **Article 21** and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by **Part III of the Constitution**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The **Puttaswamy judgment** holds that the **right to privacy** is protected as a **fundamental constitutional right** under **Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India**.

13. Ans: D

Exp:

- Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) is an **independent authority under the Constitution of India**.
- **Office of the Accountant General was established in 1858** (the year the British took over administrative control of India from the East India Company). In 1860 Sir Edward Drummond was appointed as the first Auditor General.

◆ In 1866, the position was renamed Comptroller General of Accounts, and in 1884, it was re-designated as **Comptroller and Auditor General of India**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- He is the **head of the Indian audit & account department** and **chief Guardian of Public Purse**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Article 151** says that the **reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India** relating to the accounts of the Union shall be **submitted to the president**, who shall cause them to be laid before each House of Parliament. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

14. Ans: D

Exp:

India's Law on Bail

- The CrPC does not define the word bail but only categories offences under the Indian Penal Code as 'bailable' and 'non-bailable'. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The CrPC empowers magistrates to grant bail for bailable offences as a matter of right. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- This would involve release on furnishing a bail bond, without or without security.
- In case of non-bailable offences, a magistrate would determine if the accused is fit to be released on bail.
- **Non-bailable offences are cognisable**, which enables the police officer to arrest without a warrant. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Section 436 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, lays down that a person accused of a bailable offence under I.P.C. can be granted bail. On the other hand, Section 437 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 lays down that the accused does not have the right to bail in non-bailable offences. It is the discretion of the court to grant bail in case of non-bailable offences.

15. Ans: B

Exp:

- The Sixth Schedule under **Article 244 provides for the formation of autonomous administrative divisions** — Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) — that have some legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy within a state.
- The Sixth Schedule **contains special provisions for the administration of tribal areas in the four north-eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.



- The tribal areas in these **four states have been constituted as autonomous districts**. The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

16. Ans: D

Exp:

- 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.
- **ED has been given the responsibility to enforce the provisions of the PMLA 2002** by conducting investigation to trace the assets derived from proceeds of crime, to provisionally attach the property and to ensure prosecution of the offenders and confiscation of the property by the Special court. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018, **Directorate is mandated to attach the properties of the fugitive economic offenders** who have escaped from India warranting arrest and provide for the confiscation of their properties to the Central Government. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

17. Ans: C

Exp:

- Government of India has announced that the national flag can now remain hoisted through the night, if it is in the open and hoisted by a member of the public.
- **The first national flag**, which consisted of three horizontal **stripes of red, yellow and green**, is said to have been hoisted on 7th August, 1906, at the Parsee Bagan Square, near Lower Circular Road, in Calcutta (now Kolkata). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Later, in 1921, freedom fighter Pingali Venkayya met Mahatma Gandhi and proposed a basic design of the flag, consisting of two red and green bands.
- After undergoing several changes, **the Tricolour was adopted as our national flag** at a Congress Committee meeting in Karachi in 1931. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

18. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Under Rule 256 of the General Rules of Procedure of the Rajya Sabha**, the presiding officer of the House can invoke suspension of the Member of Parliament. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Chairman as per this rule can direct any member whose conduct in his opinion was not right or was disorderly.

- The **Constitution's Article 122** states that **parliamentary procedures cannot be challenged in court**. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

- Although courts have intervened in the procedural functioning of the legislature like,

- ◆ Maharashtra Legislative Assembly passed a resolution in its 2021 Monsoon Session suspending 12 BJP MLAs for a year.

- ◆ The matter came before the Supreme Court, which held that the resolution was ineffective in law beyond the remainder of the Monsoon Session.

19. Ans: C

Exp:

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a constitutional body envisaged to uphold the values of equality, equity, impartiality, independence enshrined in the Indian Constitution and the rule of law in superintendence, direction, and control over the electoral governance.

- Constitutional Provisions:

- ◆ Part XV of the Indian constitution deals with elections, and provides for the establishment of the ECI.

- ◆ Article 324 to 329 of the constitution deals with powers, function, tenure, eligibility, etc of the commission and the members.

- ◆ **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The members of the ECI are appointed by the President of India based on the recommendations made by the Prime Minister.

- ◆ However, Article 324(2) provides that the Parliament is entitled to enact legislation regarding the appointment of Election Commissioners (ECs).

- ◆ **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

20. Ans: D

Exp:

- **The Family Courts Act, 1984 was enacted for the establishment of Family Courts** with a view to promote conciliation, and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs and for related matters. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The **State Government** may, with the concurrence of the High Court, **appoint one or more persons to be the Judge or Judges of a Family Court**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- There are 715 Family Courts which are established and functioning in 26 States and Union territories, including three Family Courts in the State of Himachal Pradesh and two-Family Courts in the State of Nagaland.
 - ◆ However, for Himachal and Nagaland, the Central Government notification was not issued for bringing the said Act into force in these states.
- The issue of lack of jurisdiction of Family Courts in the State of Himachal Pradesh has been challenged before the High Court of Himachal Pradesh.
 - ◆ It was stated that as the Central Government has not issued any notification to extend the jurisdiction of Family Courts in the State of Himachal Pradesh, such Courts are functioning without jurisdiction and anything done or any action taken under the said Act appears to be void ab initio (Having no legal effect from inception).
- The family courts in Nagaland too were operating without any legal authority since 2008.
- Lok Sabha has passed the Family Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2022 that seeks to amend the Family Courts Act, 1984 to establish family courts in Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

21. Ans: C

Exp:

- President is the head of the Indian State and the first citizen of India.
- Election: Elected by an electoral college consisting of MPs of both Houses of Parliament and MLAs of the states and Delhi and Puducherry. (but not the nominated members of Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha and Assemblies and members of Councils)
- Constitutional Provisions: Article 54 – 62.
- Recently, Draupadi Murmu has been elected has 15th President of India.
- Following represents **the former Presidents in the chronological sequence. Hence, option C is correct.**

22. Ans: A

Exp:

- The Reserve Bank of India was established on April 1, 1935 in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
 - Though originally privately owned, since nationalisation in 1949, the Reserve Bank is fully owned by the Government of India. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **Monetary Policy Committee:** It is a statutory multi-member body institutionalised under the Reserve Bank

of India Act, 1934, for maintaining price stability, while keeping in mind the objective of growth.

- The Governor of RBI is ex-officio Chairman of the committee.
- **The MPC determines the policy interest rate (repo rate) required to achieve the inflation target (4%). Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Reserve bank of India has the sole right to issue currency notes** of various denominations **except one-rupee notes** under Section 22 of Reserve bank of India Act. The **one-rupee notes and coins are issued by the ministry of finance** and it bears the signature of the Finance Secretary. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

23. Ans: D

Exp:

- Mediation is a tried and tested **alternative method of dispute resolution**. It has proved to be a great success in the cities of **Delhi, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Nagpur, Chandigarh and Aurangabad**.
- It is a **voluntary and legally binding** procedure in which a neutral and unbiased mediator assists conflicting parties in reaching an agreement. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The mediation procedure must be completed within **180 days**, which the parties may extend by another **180 days**.
- The objective of the **Mediation Bill, 2021** is to resolve any **civil or commercial disputes** through mediation before involving a court or tribunal. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **India Mediation Council** will be established to regulate the whole process.

24. Ans: A

Exp:

- The Vice President is the **second highest constitutional office in India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- He/She serves for a five-year term but **can continue to be in office irrespective of the expiry of the term**, until the successor assumes office. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Vice President may resign his office by submitting his resignation to the President of India. The resignation becomes effective from the day it is accepted.
- The Vice President can be removed from office by a resolution of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), passed by a majority of its members at that time and agreed to by the House of the People (Lok Sabha). A resolution for this purpose may be moved only after notice of at least a minimum of 14 days has been given of such an intention.

- The Vice President is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and does not hold any other office of profit.
- Eligibility:
 - ◆ Should be a citizen of India.
 - ◆ Should have completed 35 years of age.
 - ◆ Should be qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha.
 - ◆ Should not hold any office of profit under the Union government or any state government or any local authority or any other public authority.
- Electoral College: As per Article 66 of the Constitution of India, the Vice-President is elected by the members of the Electoral College.
 - ◆ **Electoral College consists of:**
 - Elected members of Rajya Sabha.
 - Nominated members of Rajya Sabha.
 - Elected members of Lok Sabha. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

25. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Chief Justice of India** is appointed by the **President of India under Article 124 (2)**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The **SC collegium** is headed by **CJI** and comprises four other senior most judges of the court.
- **CJI** is known as the **Master of Roster**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **'Master of Roster'** refers to the privilege of the **Chief Justice** to constitute Benches to hear cases.

<https://www.drishtiiias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/women-in-judiciary-1>

26. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Fundamental Rights:** It guarantees all Indians the right to equality (Article 14),
 - ◆ **No discrimination by the State** on the basis of gender (**Article 15(1)**)
 - ◆ Special provisions to be made by the State in favour of women (**Article 15(3)**).
- **Fundamental Duties:** It ensures that practices derogatory to the **dignity of women** are prohibited under **Article 51 (A)**.
 - ◆ **Article 50 states that the State** shall take steps to **separate the judiciary from the executive**. There is no explicit link between this and women's constitutional protection.
- Therefore, **option D is correct**.

27. Ans: D

Exp:

- Any Member of Parliament who is not a minister is referred to as a private member. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Its drafting is the responsibility of the member concerned. Its **introduction in the House requires one month's notice**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The government bills\public bills can be introduced and discussed on any day, **private member's bills can be introduced and discussed only on Fridays**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- In case of multiple Bills, a ballot system is used to decide the sequence of bills for introduction.
- The Parliamentary Committee on Private Member's Bills and Resolutions goes through all such Bills and classifies them based on their urgency and importance.
- Its rejection by the House has no implication on the parliamentary confidence in the government or its resignation.
- Upon conclusion of the discussion, the member piloting the bill can either withdraw it on the request of the minister concerned, or he may choose to press ahead with its passage.

28. Ans: B

Exp:

Chargesheet:

- **About:**
 - ◆ A chargesheet, as **defined under Section 173 Criminal Code of Procedure (CrPC)**, is the final report prepared by a police officer or investigative agency after completing their investigation of a case. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - In the **K Veeraswami vs Union of India & Others (1991) case**, the supreme court ruled that the chargesheet is a **final report of the police officer under section 173(2) of the CrPC**.
 - ◆ A chargesheet **must be filed against the accused within a prescribed period of 60-90 days**, otherwise, the arrest is illegal, and the accused is entitled to bail. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Chargesheet Should Contain:**
 - ◆ Details of names, the nature of the information, and offences. Whether the accused is under arrest, in custody, or has been released, whether any action was taken against him, these are **all important questions answered in the chargesheet**.

- **Procedure after Filing the Chargesheet:**

- ◆ After preparing the chargesheet, the officer-in-charge of the police station **forwards it to a Magistrate**, who is empowered to take notice of the offences mentioned in it **so that the charges can be framed**.

29. Ans: D

Exp:

Law Commission of India:

- It is a **non-statutory body** constituted by the Government of India from time to time. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ **The first Law Commission of independent India was established in 1955** for a three-year term.
 - ◆ **The first Law Commission was established during the British Raj era** in 1834 by the Charter Act of 1833 and was **chaired by Lord Macaulay**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Objectives:**
 - ◆ It works as an **advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice**.
 - ◆ The Law Commission undertakes research in law and review of existing laws in India for making reforms therein and enacting new legislations on a reference made to it by the Central Government or suo-motu.
- **Composition:**
 - ◆ Apart from having a full-time chairperson, **the commission will have four full-time members, including a member-secretary**.
 - ◆ Law and Legislative Secretaries in the Law Ministry will be the ex-officio members of the commission.
 - ◆ It will also have not more than five part-time members.
 - ◆ **A retired Supreme Court judge or Chief Justice of a High Court** will head the Commission. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

30. Ans: D

Exp:

Chief Justice of India:

- The CJI should be a **citizen of India**.
- He/She should:
 - ◆ Have been for at least **five years a Judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession or**
 - ◆ Have been for at least **ten years an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession, or**

- ◆ Be, in the opinion of the President, a **distinguished jurist**.

- The CJI and the Judges of the **Supreme Court (SC)** are appointed by the President under clause (2) of **Article 124** of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Besides his **adjudicatory role**, the CJI also plays the role of the **administrative head of the Court**.
- In his administrative capacity, the Chief Justice exercises the prerogative of allocating cases to particular benches.
- CJI **also decides the number of judges that will hear a case**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Thus, he can influence the result by simply choosing judges that he thinks may favour a particular outcome.
- In 2019, the SC ruled that the **office of CJI comes under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

31. Ans: A

Exp:

- **About Eighth Schedule:**

- ◆ It lists the **official languages of the republic of India**. **Part XVII of the Indian constitution** deals with the official languages in **Articles 343 to 351**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ The Constitutional provisions related to the **Eighth Schedule** are:
 - **Article 344:** Article 344(1) provides for the **constitution of a Commission by the President on expiration of five years** from the commencement of the Constitution.
 - ◆ **Article 351:** It provides for the **spread of the Hindi language** to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ However, It can be noted that there is **no fixed criteria** for any language to be considered for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule.

32. Ans: C

Exp:

- **About:**

- ◆ The Appropriation Bill **gives power to the government to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India** for meeting the expenditure during the financial year. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ As per **Article 114 of the Constitution**, the government can withdraw money from the



Consolidated Fund only after receiving approval from Parliament.

- ◆ The amount withdrawn is used to meet the current expenditure during the financial year.
- **Procedure Followed:**
 - ◆ The Appropriation Bill is **introduced in the Lok Sabha** after discussions on Budget proposals and Voting on Demand for Grants.
 - The defeat of an Appropriation Bill in a parliamentary vote would lead to the resignation of a government or a general election.
 - ◆ Once it is passed by the Lok Sabha it is sent to the Rajya Sabha.
 - **Rajya Sabha** has the **power to recommend any amendments in this Bill**. However, it is the prerogative of the Lok Sabha to either accept or reject the recommendations made by the Rajya Sabha.
 - ◆ After the bill receives assent from the president it becomes an Appropriation act.
 - The unique feature of the Appropriation Bill is its automatic repeal clause, whereby the Act gets repealed by itself after it meets its statutory purpose. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The government **cannot withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund of India till the enactment of the appropriation bill**. However, this takes time and the government needs money to carry on its normal activities. To meet the immediate expenses the **Constitution has authorised the Lok Sabha to make any grant in advance for a part of the financial year**. This provision is known as the 'Vote on Account'.
 - **A vote on account is defined in Article 116 of the Indian Constitution.**
 - During an election year the Government either opts for 'interim Budget' or for 'Vote on Account' as after the election the Ruling Government may change and so the policies.

33. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Doctrine of Separation of Powers in India** as established in the Constitution is a principle that divides the **powers and functions of the government** among the three branches: **the executive, the legislative, and the judiciary**.

- Judiciary has the power of judicial review to check the constitutionality of laws passed by the Legislative branch. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Indian Constitution does not provide the executive with the power to veto laws passed by the legislature. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

34. Ans: C

Exp:

Governance Model of New Delhi:

- The **status of Delhi being a Union Territory under Schedule 1 of the Constitution** but christened the 'National Capital Territory' under Article 239AA. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **69th amendment to the Constitution of India** inserted Article 239AA, which declared the **Union Territory of Delhi to be administered by a Lieutenant Governor (L-G)** who works on aid and advice of the elected legislative assembly. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- However, the 'aid and advice' clause pertains only to matters on which the elected Assembly has powers under the **State and Concurrent Lists** with the exception of public order, police, and land.
- Further, the **Article 239AA also notes that L-G has to either act on the aid and advice** of the Council of Ministers, or he is bound to implement the decision taken by the President on a reference being made by him.
- Also, **Article 239AA, empowers the L-G to refer a difference of opinion on 'any matter'** with the Council of Ministers to the President.

35. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Delimitation literally means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries** of territorial constituencies in a country to represent changes in population.
- The Constitution **mandates that the Commission's orders are final and cannot be questioned before any court** as it would hold up an election indefinitely. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It follows the principle of **"One Vote One Value"**.
- **Composition:**
 - ◆ The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the **President of India** and works in collaboration with the **Election Commission of India**.
 - Retired **Supreme Court judge**
 - Chief Election Commissioner
 - Respective State Election Commissioners



- The **first delimitation exercise** was carried out by the President (with the help of the Election Commission) in 1950-51.
- The **Delimitation Commission Act was enacted in 1952.**
- **Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ There was no delimitation after the 1981 and 1991 Censuses.

36. Ans: C

Exp:

- Some of the key provisions of the '**Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019**' include:
- Increased **penalties for traffic violations**, including **higher fines** and **imprisonment** for certain offenses.
- Introduced a **national-level online database** for **driving licenses** and **vehicle registration. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Provision for the establishment of a **Motor Vehicle Accident Fund** to provide **compulsory insurance cover** to all road users in India.
- Introduced "**good Samaritan**" provision to encourage **witnesses to assist road accident victims** without **fear of legal liability. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

37. Ans: A

Exp:

- The right to Vote is implicit in Article 326 of the Constitution, which states that the elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of every State shall be on the basis of adult suffrage. **Hence, option A is correct.**
- Every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than eighteen years of age and not disqualified under the Constitution or any law made by the appropriate Legislature on the ground of nonresidence, unsoundness of mind, crime or corrupt or illegal practice, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election.

38. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Article 29:** This article is intended to protect the interests of minority groups.
 - ◆ Article 29(1): This provides any section of the citizens residing in India having a distinct culture, language, or script, the right to conserve their culture, language and script.
 - ◆ Article 29(2): The State shall not deny admission into educational institutes maintained by it or

those that receive aid from it to any person based only on race, religion, caste, language, or any of them.

- **Article 30:** Right of Minorities to Establish and Administer Educational Institutions
 - ◆ Article 30(1): All religious and linguistic minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
 - ◆ Article 30(2): The State shall not, when granting aid to educational institutions, discriminate against any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language. **Hence, option (a) is correct.**
- **Article 27:** It deals with the Freedom as to payment of taxes for promotion of any particular religion.
- **Article 28:** It deals with the freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions.

39. Ans: B

Exp:

- As per **Article 312 of the Indian Constitution, the Parliament is entitled to create one or more All India services** (including an All India Judicial Service) common to the Union and the States. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The All India Services (AIS) comprises the three civil services of India:
 - ◆ Indian Administrative Service (IAS),
 - ◆ Indian Police Service (IPS), and
 - ◆ Indian Forest Service (IFoS).
- AIS officers are **recruited by the Union Government (by UPSC) and their services are allotted under various State Cadres. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Hence, they have the accountability to serve both under the State and the Centre.
 - ◆ However, the Cadre Controlling Authority of AIS is the Union Government.
 - The DoPT (Department of Personnel and Training) is the cadre controlling authority of IAS officers.
 - Cadre controlling authority for deputation of **Indian Police Service** and Indian Forest Service Officers (**IFoS**) is the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and the **Environment Ministry** respectively. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**



40. Ans: A

Exp:

- In India, the **right to protest is a fundamental right** under **Article 19** of the Constitution of India.
- But **right to strike is not a fundamental right but a legal right** and with this right statutory restriction is attached in the **Industrial Dispute Act, 1947**.
 - ◆ **Strike is the collective refusal by employees** to work under the conditions required by employers. Strikes arise for a number of reasons, though principally in response to economic conditions (defined as an economic strike and meant to improve wages and benefits) or labour practices (intended to improve work conditions).
- The **Industrial Dispute Act, 1947** is subsumed under **The Industrial Relations Code, 2020**.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

41. Ans: C

Exp:

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated on 9th January to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian community to the development of India.
 - ◆ The Prime Minister inaugurated the 17th three-day Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention in Indore, Madhya Pradesh and a digital exhibition on the contribution of the diaspora in the freedom struggle. He also released a commemorative stamp, 'Surakshit Jaayen, Prashikshit Jaayen' on the occasion.
- **Background:**
 - ◆ 9th January was chosen as the day to celebrate PBD since it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa, led India's freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This day came into effect in 2003, but in 2015 it was revised and was decided to be celebrated every two years. It was then a theme-based conference that was set up every year during the interim period. PBD Conventions are held once every two years. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **PBD 2023:** The theme is "Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal". **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ On this day, the Government also confers Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award.

42. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Vice-President** is the ex-officio chairman of the Rajya Sabha and hence, the unchallenged guardian of the eminence and dignity of the House.
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - ◆ **Article 64:** The **Vice-President shall be ex officio Chairman of the Council of States** and shall not hold any other office of profit.
 - ◆ **Article 89** of the Constitution provides provision for the Chairman (Vice-President of India) and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

43. Ans: D

Exp:

- The Vice-President, like the president, is elected not directly by the people but by the method of indirect election. He is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the members of both Houses of Parliament.
- This electoral college is different from the electoral college for the election of the President in the following two respects:
 - ◆ It consists of both elected and nominated members of the Parliament (in the case of the president, only elected members). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It does not include the members of the state legislative assemblies (in the case of the President, the elected members of the state legislative assemblies are included). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

44. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Publicity rights** can be defined as an individual's right to control the commercial use of his or her identity. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- These rights, sometimes also referred to as **celebrity rights**, are rights associated with the personality of an individual.
- Under common law jurisdictions, **publicity rights** fall into the realm of the 'tort of passing off'. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Passing off** takes place when someone intentionally or unintentionally passes off their goods or services as those belonging to another party. This type of misrepresentation damages the goodwill of a person or business, resulting in financial or reputational damage.



45. Ans: D

Exp:

- A writ is a legal order given by a court of law. The Supreme Court of India can issue the writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and qu-warranto under Article 32 of the Indian Constitution.
 - ◆ Article 226 of the Constitution empowers a high court to issue writs for the enforcement of the fundamental rights of the citizens and for any other purpose.
- The writs include –
 - ◆ **Habeas Corpus** - to direct the release of a person detained unlawfully.
 - ◆ **Mandamus** - to direct a public authority to do its duty.
 - ◆ **Quo Warranto** - to direct a person to vacate an office assumed wrongfully.
 - ◆ **Prohibition** - to prohibit a lower court from proceeding on a case.
 - ◆ **Certiorari** - power of the higher court to remove a proceeding from a lower court and bring it before itself.
- Hence, option D is correct.

46. Ans: A

Exp:

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):

- Under **Section 452B of the amended (in 2016) RBI Act, 1934**, the central government is empowered to constitute a **six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Under the Reserve Bank of India, Act, 1934 **RBI is entrusted with the responsibility of conducting monetary policy** in India with the **primary objective of maintaining price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Further, Section 452B lays down that “the Monetary Policy Committee shall **determine the Policy Rate required to achieve the inflation target**”.
- The decision of the Monetary Policy Committee shall be **binding on the Bank**.
- Section 452B says the MPC shall consist of 6 members:
 - ◆ RBI Governor as its ex officio chairperson,
 - ◆ Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy,
 - ◆ An officer of the Bank to be nominated by the Central Board,
 - ◆ Three persons to be appointed by the central government.

- This category of appointments must be from “persons of ability, integrity and standing, having knowledge and experience in the field of economics or banking or finance or monetary policy”.

47. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Parliament** derives powers to create a new state from **Article 2 and Article 3 of the Constitution of India**.
- **Article 2:**
 - ◆ Parliament may by law **admit into the Union or establish new States** on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
 - ◆ States like **Sikkim** (previously not within India) became a part of the country **under Article 2**.
- **Article 3:** It empowered the Parliament to make law relating to the formation of new states by the alteration of existing states.
 - ◆ **Article 4:** Laws made for admission or establishment of new states (under Article 2) and formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states (under Articles 3) are not to be considered as amendments of the Constitution under Article 368.
- Hence, option A is correct.

48. Ans: D

Exp:

- **National Overseas Scholarship Scheme** is a **Central Sector Scheme** to facilitate the low-income students belonging to the **Scheduled Castes, Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans** category to obtain higher education by studying abroad. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ◆ 30% of the awards for each year are earmarked for women candidates.
- It is implemented under the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**, under the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

49. Ans: D

Exp:

- If it **secures 6% of the valid votes** polled in the state at a general election to the respective state legislative assembly (state LA) and **also, it wins 2 seats in the same state LA**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- If it **secures 6% of the total valid votes in the state** at a general election to the LS; and **also, it wins 1 seat in the LS from the same state**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.



- If it wins **3% of seats in the LA** at a general election to the legislative assembly of the state concerned **or 3 seats in the assembly (whichever is more)**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- If it secures **8% of the total valid votes** polled in the state at a General Election to the LS from the state **or to the State LA**. Hence, **statement 4 is correct**.

50. Ans: D

Exp:

- The Supreme Court Collegium is a **five-member body**, which is headed by the incumbent Chief Justice of India (CJI) and comprises the four other senior most judges of the court at that time. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- A High Court collegium is led by the incumbent Chief Justice and two other senior most judges of that court.
- The government can also raise objections and seek clarifications regarding the collegium's choices, but if the collegium reiterates the same names, the government is bound to appoint them as judges.
- Articles 124(2) and 217 of the Constitution deal with the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts.
- The appointments are made by the President, who is required to hold consultations with "such of the judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts" as he may think is needed.
- But the Constitution does not lay down any process for making these appointments. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

51. Ans: B

Exp:

- The State Governments are the owners of minerals located within the boundary of the State concerned.
- **District Mineral Foundations** are statutory bodies in India established by the State Governments by notification. They **derive their legal status from Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ The objective of District Mineral Foundation is to work for the interest of the benefit of the persons and areas affected mining related operations in such manner as may be prescribed by the State Government.
- The **Central Government is the owner of the minerals underlying the ocean within the territorial waters** or the Exclusive Economic Zone of India. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- ◆ International Seabed Authority (ISA) is the organization through which States Parties to UNCLOS organize and control all mineral-resources-related activities in the Area for the benefit of mankind as a whole.

- Granting Mineral Concessions:

- ◆ The State Governments grant mineral concessions for all the minerals located within the boundary of the State, under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960.
- ◆ However, for **minerals specified in the First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 approval of the Central Government** is necessary. Schedule I contains minerals such as coal and lignite, minerals of the "rare earths" group containing Uranium and Thorium. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- ◆ Also, the Central Government notifies certain minerals as 'minor' minerals from time to time for which the absolute powers for deciding on procedures of seeking applications for and granting mineral concessions, fixing rates of royalty, dead rent, and power to revise orders rest only with the State Government.
 - Example of minor minerals include building stones, gravel, ordinary clay, ordinary sand.

52. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Any Member of Parliament (MP)** who is not a minister is referred to as a **private member**. A Private Member issues a **Private Member's Bill**.
- The purpose of the private member's bill is to **draw the government's attention to what individual MPs see as issues** and gaps in the existing legal framework, which require legislative intervention.
- Its introduction in the House requires **one month's notice** and can be introduced and discussed only on **Fridays**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Its **rejection by the House has no implication on the parliamentary confidence** in the government or its resignation. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

53. Ans: B

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 - Example of minor minerals include building stones, gravel, ordinary clay, ordinary sand.

54. Ans: C

Exp:

- A Parliamentary Committee is a panel of Members of Parliament that is appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker/Chairman.
 - ◆ The committee works under the direction of the Speaker/Chairman and it presents its report to the House or to the Speaker/Chairman. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Parliamentary Committees have their origins in the British Parliament. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- They draw their authority from Article 105 and Article 118.
 - ◆ Article 105 deals with the privileges of MPs.
 - ◆ Article 118 gives Parliament authority to make rules to regulate its procedure and conduct of business

55. Ans: C

Exp:

Constitutional protection for Undertrials

- **State Subject:**
 - ◆ ‘Prisons/persons detained therein’ is a **State subject** under Entry 4 of List II of the **Seventh Schedule** to the Constitution of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Administration and management of prisons is the responsibility of respective State Governments.
 - ◆ However, the Ministry of Home Affairs provides **regular guidance and advice to States and UTs on various issues** concerning prisons and prison inmates.
- **Article 39A:**
 - ◆ Article 39A of the Constitution **directs the State to ensure 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. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Right to free legal aid or free legal service is an essential** fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution.
- **Article 21:**
 - ◆ It forms the basis of reasonable, fair and just **liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution of India**, which says, “No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law”.

56. Ans: A

Exp:

Legality of Games in India:

- The **state legislators are**, vide Entry No. 34 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, given **exclusive power to make laws relating to betting and gambling. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Most Indian states regulate gaming on the basis of a distinction in law between ‘games of skill’ and ‘games of chance’.



- ◆ As such, a 'dominant element' test is to be utilised to determine whether chance or skill is the dominating element in determining the result of the game.
 - This 'dominant element' may be determined by examining whether factors such as superior knowledge, training, experience, expertise or attention of a player have a material impact on the outcome of the game.
- Staking money or property on the outcome of a 'game of chance' is prohibited and subjects the guilty parties to criminal sanctions.
 - ◆ However, placing any stakes on the outcome of a 'game of skill' is not illegal per se and may be permissible. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - ◆ It is important to note that the Supreme Court recognized that no game is purely a 'game of skill' and almost all games have an element of chance.

57. Ans: A

Exp:

- It is the act of abstaining from participation in an official action such as a legal proceeding due to a conflict of interest of the presiding court official or administrative officer. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Rule for Recusal:
 - ◆ There are no formal rules governing recusals, although several SC judgments have dealt with the issue.
 - In Ranjit Thakur v Union of India (1987), the SC held that the test of the likelihood of bias is the reasonableness of the apprehension in the mind of the party.
 - The judge needs to look at the mind of the party before him, and decide whether he is biased or not. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

58. Ans: B

Exp:

Court Vacations:

- About:
 - ◆ The Supreme Court has 193 working days a year for its judicial functioning, while the High Court's function for approximately 210 days, and trial courts for 245 days. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - ◆ High Courts have the power to structure their calendars according to the service rules. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- ◆ The Supreme Court takes two long vacations each year, the summer and winter breaks, but is technically not fully closed during these periods.

● Legal Provisions:

- ◆ Under Rule 6 of Order II of The Supreme Court rules, 2013, the CJI has nominated the Division Benches for hearing of urgent miscellaneous matters and regular hearing matters during the summer vacation for the period.
- ◆ The rule reads that CJI may appoint one or more Judges to hear during summer vacation or winter holidays all matters of an urgent nature which under these rules may be heard by a Judge sitting singly.
- ◆ And, whenever necessary, he may likewise appoint a Division Court for the hearing of urgent cases during the vacation which require to be heard by a Bench of Judges. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

59. Ans: D

Exp:

- Recently, Union Home and Cooperation Minister presided over the 25th Eastern Zonal Council meeting in Kolkata.
- Zonal Councils are the statutory (and not the constitutional) bodies.
 - ◆ They are established by an Act of the Parliament, that is, States Reorganisation Act of 1956. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The act divided the country into five zones- Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern and provided a zonal council for each zone.
 - ◆ In addition to the above-mentioned Zonal Councils, a North-Eastern Council was created by a separate Act of Parliament, the North-Eastern Council Act of 1971.
- Headquarters of Zonal Councils:
 - ◆ Northern Zonal Council: New Delhi
 - ◆ Central Zonal Council: Allahabad.
 - ◆ Eastern Zonal Council: Kolkata
 - ◆ Western Zonal Council: Mumbai
 - ◆ Southern Zonal Council: Chennai
 - ◆ Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

60. Ans: C

Exp:

- Deepfake technology is a method for manipulating videos, images, audios utilizing powerful computers and deep learning. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ◆ It is used to generate fake news and commit financial fraud among other wrong doings.



- ◆ It overlays a digital composite over an already-existing video, picture, or audio; cybercriminals use Artificial Intelligence technology.
- In India there are **no legal rules against using deepfake technology**.
 - ◆ However, specific laws can be addressed for misusing the tech, which include **Copyright Violation, Defamation and cyber felonies**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

61. Ans: C

Exp:

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

- **CPCB is a statutory organisation** which was constituted in September, 1974 under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- It was **entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981** like:
 - ◆ to promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control and abatement of water pollution.
 - ◆ to improve the quality of air and to prevent, control or abate air pollution in the country. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

62. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Appropriation Bill is introduced in the Lok Sabha** after discussions on Budget proposals and **Voting on Demand for Grants**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ The defeat of an **Appropriation Bill in a parliamentary vote** would lead to the resignation of a government or a general election.
- To meet the immediate expenses the **Constitution has authorised the Lok Sabha to make any grant in advance** for a part of the financial year. This provision is known as the '**Vote on Account**'. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ A vote on account is defined in **Article 116 of the Indian Constitution**.

63. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Constitutional Provisions Regarding:**
 - ◆ Cooperatives are a **state subject under the Constitution**, meaning they come under the state

governments' jurisdiction, but there are many societies whose members and areas of operation are spread across more than one state. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

- For example, most sugar mills along the districts on the **Karnataka-Maharashtra border procure cane from both states**.
- ◆ Cooperatives of more than one state are registered under the **Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act (MSCS) of 2002 Act**.
 - Their board of directors has **representation from all states** they operate in.
 - Administrative and financial control of these societies is with the central registrar, with the law making it clear that no state government official can wield any control over them.
- ◆ **Part IXB was inserted in the Constitution via 97th Constitutional Amendment Act 2011**. In view of the insertion of Part IXB, it has become imperative to amend the Act.
 - **Under 97th Amendment:**
 - The right to form cooperative societies was included as **Right to Freedom (Article 19 (1))**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - **Promotion of Cooperation societies** was inserted as one of the DPSPs (**Article 43-B**). Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

64. Ans: A

Exp:

Indian Constitution's View of Alcohol:

- **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) (Article 47):**
 - ◆ It mentions that "in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health". Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
 - ◆ **While DPSPs are not legally enforceable**, they set goals that the state should aspire towards to establish conditions under which citizens can lead a good life.
 - ◆ Thus, **alcohol is seen by the Constitution and by extension**, the Indian state, as an undesirable evil that needs to be regulated.
- **Seventh Schedule:**
 - ◆ According to the **Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, alcohol is a state subject**, i.e., state legislatures have the right and responsibility to draft laws regarding it, including "the production,



manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of intoxicating liquors". Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- ◆ Thus, laws regarding alcohol differ from state to state, falling in the whole spectrum between prohibition and private sale.

65. Ans: B

Exp:

- Recently, the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)** has detected large-scale **anomalies in the updating of the National Register of Citizens (NRC)** in Assam.
- **Article 148** provides for an independent office of the CAG. It is the supreme audit institution of India.
- CAG is the **Head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department** - created in 1753.
- CAG 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.
- **Appointment:**
 - ◆ Appointed by the President of India by a warrant under his hand and seal.
- **Tenure:**
 - ◆ A period of **six years or upto the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- **Removal:**
 - ◆ CAG can be removed by the President on the same grounds and in the same manner as a judge of the Supreme Court. He does not hold his office till the pleasure of the President.
- **Salary & Expenses:**
 - ◆ Salary and other service conditions are determined by the Parliament.
 - ◆ The **administrative expenses** of the office of the CAG, including all salaries, allowances and pensions of persons serving in that office are **charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India** (thus are not subject to the vote of Parliament). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

66. Ans: B

Exp:

- Under the **Drug and Cosmetics Act, 1940**, the regulation of **manufacture, sale and distribution of Drugs** is primarily the concern of the **State authorities** while the **Central Authorities** are responsible for approval of **new drugs clinical trials** in the country, **laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)** is responsible work with coordination of the activities of **State Drug Control Organizations by providing expert advice**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

67. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Estimates committee:**
 - ◆ **About:**
 - It was first established during British Era in the 1920s but Independent India's first Estimates Committee was established in 1950. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - This committee examines the estimates included in the budget and suggests 'economies' in public expenditure.
 - Other Financial Committees of Parliament include - Public Accounts Committee and Committee on Public Undertakings.
 - ◆ **Members:**
 - It has 30 members and all these members are from Lok Sabha. Hence statement 2 is not correct.
 - The members are elected by Lok Sabha members from amongst themselves every year by principles of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote, so that all parties get due presentation in it.
 - A minister cannot be elected as member/Chairman of estimates committee. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
 - The chairman is appointed by the Speaker and the chairman is always from the ruling party or coalition.
 - ◆ **Functions:**
 - This committee tries to report the economy and efficiency in expenditures.
 - It suggests what changes in policy or administrative framework can be done and what alternative policies can be considered to bring economy and efficiency.
 - The works of this committee continue throughout the year and it keeps reporting to the house as examination proceeds.
 - Due to this reason, this committee is also called 'continuous economy committee'. Hence, statement 4 is correct.



68. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Chief Information Commissioner** and an **Information Commissioner** shall hold office for such term as prescribed by the **Central Government** or until they attain the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier, and shall not be eligible for reappointment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **salaries and allowances** payable to and **other terms and conditions of service** of the **State Chief Information Commissioner** and the **State Information Commissioners** shall be such as may be prescribed by the **Central Government**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

69. Ans: D

Exp:

- The Sarkaria Commission, also known as the Commission on Centre-State Relations, was a commission appointed by the Government of India in 1983 to review the political and administrative relationships between the states and the center, and to make recommendations for improving coordination and cooperation between the two levels of government. **Hence, option D is correct.**

70. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Council of Ministers** shall be **collectively responsible** to the **House of the People i.e., Lok Sabha**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **Prime Minister** and other **ministers** are collectively responsible for the council of ministers.
- The **total number of ministers** cannot exceed **15%** of the total strength of the Lok Sabha. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

71. Ans: A

Exp:

- In the landmark judgement of **Kesavananda Bharati v. Union of India**, the Supreme Court of India held that the **right to property is not a part of the "Basic Structure"** of the Indian Constitution.
- The **court held that the right to property can be amended or abolished by the parliament** through constitutional amendment as it is not considered as a fundamental right.
- However, the **power of judicial review, the principle of federalism, and the separation of powers are considered as part of the "Basic Structure"** and cannot be amended or abolished by parliament as they are considered as **fundamental and basic features of the Indian Constitution.**
- **Therefore, option A is correct.**

72. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Sixth Schedule under Article 244** provides for the formation of autonomous administrative divisions — **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)** — that have some **legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy** within a state. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Sixth Schedule contains special provisions for the administration of tribal areas in the four north-eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
 - ◆ The tribal areas in these four states have been constituted as autonomous districts. The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.
- The acts of Parliament or the state legislature do not apply to autonomous districts or apply with specified modifications and exceptions.
 - ◆ **The power of direction, in this regard, lies either with the President or Governor. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

73. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** is an organisation within the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** in the Government of India.
- It is responsible for **conducting large-scale economic censuses and surveys**, collecting and compiling **statistical data on the Indian economy and society**, and disseminating this data to the public.
- The **NSO also provides technical assistance to other government agencies in the collection and analysis of statistical data.**
- However, one of the functions of the NSO is **not to formulate and implement monetary policy**, which is the responsibility of the **Reserve Bank of India.**
- **Therefore, option C is correct.**

74. Ans: B

Exp:

- The Supreme Court of India is the highest judicial court and the final court of appeal under the Constitution of India, the highest constitutional court, with the power of judicial review.
- India is a federal State and has a single and unified judicial system with three-tier structure, i.e. Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts.
 - ◆ **Appointment of Judges:**
 - The **judges of the Supreme Court** are appointed by the **President**. The CJI is



appointed by the President after **consultation with such judges of the Supreme Court** and high courts as he deems necessary. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**

- The other judges are appointed by the President after **consultation** with the CJI and such other judges of the Supreme Court and the high courts as he deems necessary. The consultation with the chief justice is **obligatory** in the case of appointment of a judge other than Chief justice. Hence, state

◆ **Constitutional Provisions:**

- The Indian constitution provides for a provision of the Supreme Court under **Part V (The Union)** and **Chapter 6 (The Union Judiciary)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- **Articles 124 to 147 in Part V** of the Constitution deal with the organisation, independence, jurisdiction, powers and procedures of the Supreme Court.
- The Indian constitution under **Article 124(1)** states that there shall be a Supreme Court of India constituting of a Chief Justice of India (CJI) and, until Parliament by law prescribes a larger number, of not more than seven other Judges.

75. Ans: D

Exp:

- Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh on 1st November 2000 with its 16 Chhattisgarhi speaking districts.
 - ◆ It is the 10th largest state in India with an area of 135,190 sq-km.
 - ◆ It is an important hub for the production of steel and electrical power in India, producing about 15% of the total steel produced in India.
- It is **surrounded by seven states:** Madhya Pradesh, **Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana**, Orissa, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- The most familiar tribes found in the state are Miriam, Baiga, Kamars, Halbas, Gonds, Bhumja, Kawars, etc.
- The state is a leading producer of minerals such as coal, iron ore and dolomite.
 - ◆ Moreover, considerable reserves of bauxite, limestone and quartzite are available in the state.

- ◆ The state accounts for 35.4% of tin ore reserves of India. **Chhattisgarh is the only state in India that produces tin concentrates.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

- There are four main catchment areas in the state, mainly **Mahanadi, Ganga, Godavari, and Narmada.** Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ Under this, the Mahanadi, Shivnath, Arpa, Indravati, Sabari, Leelagar, Hasdo, Pairi, and Sondur are main rivers.

76. Ans: B

Exp:

- Recently, the **Supreme Court** has ruled that a fundamental right under **Article 19/21 can be enforced** even against persons other than the State or its instrumentalities. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The court took this view while ruling that the right of **free speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) cannot be curbed by any additional grounds** other than those already laid down in Article 19(2).
 - ◆ Article 19 of the Constitution of India guarantees the **right to freedom of speech and expression, and is typically invoked against the state.**
- **Article 19(1)** in The Constitution Of India 1949, All citizens shall have the right
 - (a) to freedom of speech and expression;
 - (b) to assemble peaceably and without arms;
 - (c) to form associations or unions; Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ (d) to move freely throughout the territory of India;
 - ◆ (e) to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India; and
 - ◆ (f) omitted
 - ◆ (g) to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.

77. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Protection Against Arrest and Detention:** Article 22 grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained.
 - ◆ Detention is of two types, namely, **punitive** (punishment after trial and conviction) and **preventive** (punishment without trial and conviction).
 - ◆ The first part of Article 22 deals with the ordinary law and includes:
 - Right to be informed of the grounds of arrest.



- Right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner.
- Right to be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours, excluding the journey time.
- Right to be released after 24 hours unless the magistrate authorises further detention.
- The second part of Article 22 deals with preventive detention law. Protection under this article is **available to both citizens as well as aliens** and includes the following, **Hence, option C is correct.**
- **The detention of a person cannot exceed three months** unless an advisory board (judges of high court) reports sufficient cause for extended detention.
 - The grounds of detention should be communicated to the detenu.
 - The detenu should be afforded an opportunity to make a representation against the detention order.

78. Ans: B

Exp:

- According to Article 112 of the Indian Constitution, the Union Budget of a year is referred to as the Annual Financial Statement (AFS).
- The Budget Division of the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance is the nodal body responsible for preparing the Budget. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- This Budget is managed by the Central Government through the approval of the Lok Sabha and hence, this bill must have majority support in the Lok Sabha to pass. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

79. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **right to privacy** in India is a **constitutional right** under **Article 21** of the **Indian Constitution**, which states that **"No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law"**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Article 21's protection of life and personal liberty is not absolute** and can be **subject to limitations imposed** by the state. The **right to privacy** is also **not an absolute right**. It is generally protected under the law, but it may be subject to **reasonable restrictions**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

80. Ans: C

Exp:

Constitutional Provisions Related to Regional Language:

- **Article 345:** The legislature of a **State may by law adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the State**

or Hindi as the Language or Languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of that State.

- **Article 346:** The language authorised for use in the Union **for official purposes shall be the official language for communication between one State and another State and between a State and the Union.**
- **Article 347:** It gives the **President the power to recognise a language as an official language of a given state**, provided that the President is satisfied that a substantial proportion of that state desires that the language be recognised. Such recognition can be for a part of the state or the whole state.
- **Article 350A:** The facilities for **instruction in mother-tongue at the primary stage.**
- **Article 350B:** It provides for the **establishment of a Special Officer for linguistic minorities.**
- **Article 351:** It gives power to the union government to **issue a directive for the development of the Hindi language.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

81. Ans: A

Exp:

- **About:**
 - ◆ Delimitation means the **act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country** to represent changes in population.
 - ◆ The Delimitation Commission Act was **enacted in 1952**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Once the Act is in force, the **Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission.**
 - **Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times** — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.
 - The **first delimitation exercise was carried out by the President** (with the help of the Election Commission) **in 1950-51.**
- **History:**
 - ◆ The last delimitation exercise that changed the **state-wise composition of the Lok Sabha was completed in 1976 and done on the basis of the 1971 census.**
 - ◆ The **Constitution of India mandates that the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha should be based on the population of each state** so that the ratio of seats to population is as close as possible to being equal across all states. It is intended to **ensure that each person's vote carries roughly the same weight**, regardless of which state they live in.

- ◆ However, this provision meant that **states that took little interest in population control could end up with a greater number of seats in Parliament.**
- ◆ To avoid these consequences, the Constitution was amended during Indira Gandhi's **Emergency rule** in 1976 to **suspend delimitation until 2001. Another amendment postponed this until 2026.** It was **hoped that the country would achieve a uniform population growth rate by this time.** Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

82. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **decision of what parts of a speech** are to be expunged lies with the **Presiding Officer of the House.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- Under **Article 105(2) of the Indian Constitution, Members of Parliament enjoy immunity from court proceedings** for their statements in Parliament. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ However, their speeches are subject to the **discipline of the Rules of Parliament**, the "good sense" of its Members and the **control of proceedings by the Speaker.**
- Rule 380 of the **Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha** gives the **Speaker the discretion to expunge any words or expressions** used in debate that are considered **defamatory, indecent, unparliamentary, or undignified.**

83. Ans: C

Exp:

Some provisions in the constitution supporting the process of judicial review are:

- **Article 372 (1)** establishes the judicial review of the pre-constitution legislation.
- **Article 13** declares that any law which contravenes any of the provisions of the part of Fundamental Rights shall be void.
- **Articles 32 and 226** entrusts the roles of the protector and guarantor of fundamental rights to the Supreme and High Courts.
- **Article 251 and 254** states that in case of inconsistency between union and state laws, the state law shall be void.
- **Article 246 (3)** ensures the state legislature's exclusive powers on matters pertaining to the State List.
- **Article 245** states that the powers of both Parliament and State legislatures are subject to the provisions of the constitution.

- **Article 137** gives a special power to the SC to review any judgment pronounced or order made by it. An order passed in a criminal case can be reviewed and set aside only if there are errors apparent on the record.

- Hence, **option C is correct.**

84. Ans: A

Exp:

- Article 15 (1) and (2) proscribe the nation from discriminating any citizen on the basis of any one or many of the aspects such as religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth and others.
- These articles make room that there will not be any restriction whatsoever to any person on the above grounds in order to access and make use of the public facilities and amenities like shops, hotels, restaurants, places of entertainment, and others. Hence, **option A is correct.**

85. Ans: A

Exp:

- **About sealed cover jurisprudence:**
 - ◆ Sealed cover jurisprudence in India is a practice **where confidential information is submitted in a sealed envelope to the court**, allowing the court to consider sensitive information while maintaining confidentiality. **This practice is not limited to criminal cases and can also be used in civil cases.**
 - The use of sealed covers has become an important tool in Indian jurisprudence to balance the need for transparency and the need to maintain confidentiality.
 - It is often used in cases where national security or other sensitive issues are involved, such as cases related to defense deals, investigations involving state secrets, and issues of public interest.
 - In such cases, the information submitted in the sealed cover is not made available to the public or the parties to the case, but only to the judges who are hearing the case.
 - ◆ The judges are required to **maintain the confidentiality of the information and ensure that it is not used for any other purpose than the case at hand.** The use of sealed covers in India has been recognized and upheld by the courts as a legitimate tool to protect sensitive information while ensuring that justice is done. Hence, **option A is correct.**

86. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution**, also known as the **Anti-Defection Law**, was added by the **52nd Amendment in 1985**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The **91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003**, mandated that at **least two-thirds** of the members of a party must be in Favour of a “**merger**” for it to have validity in the eyes of the law.
- The decision on questions as to **disqualification on ground of defection** are referred to the **Chairman or the Speaker of such House**, which is subject to ‘**Judicial review**’. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

87. Ans: C

Exp:

Law Commission of India:

- **About:**
 - ◆ The **Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body** constituted by the Government of India from time to time. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - **The first Law Commission of independent India was established in 1955** for a three-year term.
 - The **first Law Commission** was established during the British Raj era in 1834 by the Charter Act of 1833 and was **chaired by Lord Macaulay**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Objectives:**
 - ◆ It works as an **advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice**.
 - ◆ The Law Commission undertakes research in law and review of existing laws in India for making reforms therein and enacting new legislations on a reference made to it by the Central Government or suo-motu.
- **Composition:**
 - ◆ Apart from having a full-time chairperson, **the commission will have four full-time members, including a member-secretary**.
 - ◆ Law and Legislative Secretaries in the Law Ministry will be the ex-officio members of the commission.
 - ◆ It will also have not more than five part-time members.
 - ◆ A **retired Supreme Court judge or Chief Justice of a High Court** will head the Commission. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

88. Ans: C

Exp:

Finance Commission (FC):

- The **Finance Commission (FC)** is a **constitutional body**, that determines the method and formula for **distributing the tax proceeds between the Centre and states**, and among the states as per the constitutional arrangement and present requirements. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Under **Article 280 of the Constitution**, the **President of India** is required to constitute a Finance Commission at an interval of five years or earlier. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The 15th Finance Commission was constituted by the President of India in November 2017, **under the chairmanship of NK Singh**. Its recommendations will cover a **period of five years from the year 2021-22 to 2025-26**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

89. Ans: A

Exp:

- Postal ballot voting is for restricted set of voters who 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.
- Further, they are **distributed electronically** to electors and are returned to the election officers via post., Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Currently, only the following voters are 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)**,
 - ◆ **Voters under preventive detention**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

90. Ans: B

Exp:

- As per Census-1931, Schedule tribes are termed as “**backward tribes**” living in the “**Excluded**” and “**Partially Excluded**” areas. The Government of India Act of 1935 called for the first time for representatives of “backward tribes” in provincial assemblies.
- The Constitution **does not define the criteria for recognition of Scheduled Tribes** and hence the definition contained in **1931 Census was used in the initial years after independence**.



- However, **Article 366(25) of the Constitution only provides process to define Scheduled Tribes:** "Scheduled Tribes means such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this Constitution."
 - ◆ 342(1): **The President may** with respect to any State or Union Territory, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor, by a public notification, **specify the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within tribes or tribal communities** as Scheduled Tribe in relation to that State or Union Territory.
- **The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution** lays out provision for Administration and Control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in states other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The Sixth Schedule** deals with the administration of the tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

91. Ans: D

Exp:

- **The Collegium System** is the appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the SC, and not by an **Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.** Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Articles 124(2) and 217** of the Indian Constitution deal with the **appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts.**
- The **SC collegium** is headed by the **CJI (Chief Justice of India)** and comprises four other **senior most judges of the Supreme court.** Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

92. Ans: B

Exp:

- Recently, a political party called for a proposal to **remove the Tamil Nadu Governor.**
- Under **Article 155 and 156 of the Constitution**, a Governor is **appointed by the President** and **holds office "during the pleasure of the President"**.
 - ◆ If this pleasure is withdrawn before completion of the five-year term, **the Governor has to step down.**
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- As the President **works on the aid and advice of the Prime Minister** and the **council of ministers**, in effect, the Governor **can be appointed and removed by the central government.**
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**

93. Ans: C

Exp:

- The 10% EWS quota was introduced under the 103rd Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2019 by amending **Articles 15 and 16.**
- It inserted Article 15 (6) and Article 16 (6).
- It is for economic reservation in jobs and admissions in educational institutes for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). Hence, **statements 1 & 2 are not correct.**
- It was enacted to promote the welfare of the poor not covered by the 50% reservation policy for **Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC).** Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- It enables **both the Centre and the States** to provide reservations to the EWS of society. Hence, **statement 4 is not correct.**

94. Ans: A

Exp:

- Recently, the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has highlighted the need to update the **National Population Register (NPR)** database across the country.
- NPR is a database containing a **list of all usual residents of the country.**
- A **usual resident** for the purposes of NPR is a person who has **resided in a place for six months or more** and intends to reside there for another six months or more.
- Unlike the NRC, the NPR is **not a citizenship enumeration drive as it records even a foreigner** staying in a locality for more than six months.
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- Its objective is to have a comprehensive identity database of people residing in the country.
- The NPR is prepared under the provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.
- It is **mandatory for every "usual resident of India" to register in the NPR.**
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

95. Ans: D

Exp:

- EAC-PM is a **non-constitutional, non-statutory, independent body** constituted to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, specifically to the **Prime Minister.** Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**



- The council **highlights key economic issues** to the government of India from a neutral viewpoint.
- For administrative, logistic, planning and budgeting purposes, the **NITI Aayog** serves as the **Nodal Agency** for the **EAC-PM**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

96. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Law Commission of India** is a **non-statutory body** constituted by the Government of India from time to time. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The Law Commission of India would be headed by a retired Supreme Court judge or Chief Justice of a High Court. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The **first Law Commission** was established during the British Raj era in 1834 **by the Charter Act of 1833** and was **chaired by Lord Macaulay**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- Apart from having a full-time chairperson, **the commission will have four full-time members, including a member secretary**.
 - ◆ Law and Legislative Secretaries in the Law Ministry will be the ex-officio members of the commission. Hence, **statement 4 is not correct**.

97. Ans: B

Exp:

- Recently, the **Kerala Legislative Assembly** passed the Kerala Lok Ayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2022.
- The **Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013** provided for the establishment of **Lokpal & Lokayukta**.
 - ◆ Lokpal was established for the **Union & Lokayukta** for the **states**.
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Lokpal is a **multi-member body**, that consists of **one chairperson and a maximum of 8 members**.
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The members of the Lokpal are **appointed by the president on the recommendation of a Selection Committee**.
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

98. Ans: B

Exp:

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is **headed by the Prime Minister of India**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- It is the **apex body for Disaster Management in India**. Setting up of NDMA and the creation of an enabling

environment for institutional mechanisms at the State and District levels is mandated by the Disaster Management Act, 2005. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- It **lays down policies on disaster management**.

99. Ans: C

Exp:

- ICJ was established in 1945 by the **United Nations charter** and started working in April 1946.
- The Court is composed of **15 judges**, who are elected for **terms of office of nine years**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **United Nations General Assembly** and the **Security Council** elected the judges of the ICJ. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

100. Ans: B

Exp:

Fundamental rights available only to citizens and not to foreigners	Fundamental rights available to both citizens & foreigners (except enemy aliens)
Article 15: Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth..	Article 14: Equality before law and equal protection of laws.
Article 16: Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.	Article 20: Protection in respect of conviction for offences.
Article 19: Protection of six rights regarding freedom of (speech and expression, (ii) assembly (iii) association, (iv) movement (v) residence and profession.	Article 21: Protection of life and personal liberty.
Article 29: Protection of language, script and culture of minorities..	Article 21A: Right to elementary education.
Article 30: Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions.	Article 22: Protection against arrest and detention in certain cases.
	Article 23: Prohibition of traffic and human beings and forced labour.
	Article 24: Prohibition of employment of children in factories etc.

- Hence **option B is Correct**.



101. Ans: C

Exp:

Types of Grants:

- **Excess Grant:** It is granted when money has been spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted for that service in the budget for that year.
 - ◆ It is voted by the Lok Sabha after the financial year.
 - ◆ Before the demands for excess grants are submitted to the Lok Sabha for voting, they **must be approved by the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament.**
- **Vote of Credit:** It is granted for meeting an unexpected demand upon the resources of India, when on account of the magnitude or the indefinite character of the service, the demand cannot be stated with the details ordinarily given in a budget.
 - ◆ Hence, it is like a blank cheque given to the Executive by the Lok Sabha.
- **Exceptional Grant:** It is granted for a special purpose and forms no part of the current service of any financial year.

Related Constitutional Provisions:

- Article 115 pertains to supplementary, additional or excess grants.
- Article 116 of the Constitution pertains to Votes on account, Votes of credit and exceptional grants.
- Supplementary, additional, excess and exceptional grants and vote of credit are regulated by the same procedure which is applicable in the case of a regular budget.
- Hence, option C is correct.

102. Ans: A

- Under Article 72 of the Constitution, the President shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence where the sentence is a sentence of death. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The President cannot exercise his power of pardon independent of the government. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- In several cases, the Supreme Court (SC) has ruled that the President has to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers while deciding mercy pleas. These include Maru Ram vs Union of India in 1980, and Dhananjay Chatterjee vs State of West Bengal in 1994.
- Under Article 161, the Governor in India too has pardoning powers.

- Difference Between Pardoning Powers of President and Governor:
- The scope of the pardoning power of the President under Article 72 is wider than the pardoning power of the Governor under Article 161. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

103. Ans: C

Exp:

- Tribunal is a quasi-judicial institution that is set up to deal with problems such as resolving administrative or tax-related disputes. It performs a number of functions like adjudicating disputes, determining rights between contesting parties, making an administrative decision, reviewing an existing administrative decision and so forth.
- Tribunals were not part of the original constitution, it was incorporated in the Indian Constitution by 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.
 - ◆ Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Article 323-A deals with Administrative Tribunals.
- Article 323-B deals with tribunals for other matters.
 - ◆ Hence, statement 2 is correct.

104. Ans: A

Exp:

- Sealed Cover Jurisprudence is a practice used by the Supreme Court and sometimes lower courts, of asking for or accepting information from government agencies in sealed envelopes that can only be accessed by judges. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- While a specific law does not define the doctrine of sealed cover, the Supreme Court derives its power to use it from Rule 7 of order XIII of the Supreme Court Rules and Section 123 of the Indian Evidence Act of 1872. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - ◆ Rule 7 of order XIII of the Supreme Court Rules:
 - According to the rule, if the Chief Justice or court directs certain information to be kept under sealed cover or considers it of confidential nature, no party would be allowed access to the contents of such information, except if the Chief Justice himself orders that the opposite party be allowed to access it.
 - It also mentions that information can be kept confidential if its publication is not considered to be in the interest of the public.
 - ◆ Section 123 of the Indian Evidence Act of 1872:
 - Under this act, official unpublished documents relating to state affairs are protected and a



public officer cannot be compelled to disclose such documents.

- Other instances where information may be sought in secrecy or confidence are **when its publication impedes an ongoing investigation**, such as details which are part of a police case diary.

105. Ans: D

Exp:

- The Attorney General (AG) of India is a **part of the Union Executive**.
 - ◆ AG is the **highest law officer in the country**.
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Article 76** of the Constitution provides for the office of AG of India.
- Procedures and grounds for the **removal of AG are not stated in the Constitution**.
 - ◆ S/he **holds office during the pleasure of the President** (may be removed by the President at any time).
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- S/he has the **right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament** or their joint sitting and any committee of the Parliament of which s/he may be named a member, but without a right to vote.
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- Hence, **option D is correct**.

106. Ans: B

Exp:

Abortion Laws in India:

- Under the Indian Penal Code, 1860, **abortion remains a criminal offence under Section 312**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- However, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 (MTP) and its amendment simply provides an exception to the criminalization. The **MTP Act, 1971 allows abortion until 20 weeks of pregnancy**.
 - ◆ Through an amendment in 2021, the ceiling for abortions was raised to 24 weeks, but only for special categories of pregnant women such as rape or incest survivors, that too, with the approval of two registered doctors. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- In the case of fetal disability, there is no limit to the timeline for abortion, but that is allowed by a medical board of specialist doctors set up by the governments of states and union territories. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

107. Ans: B

Exp:

- The Election Commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
 - ◆ The body administers elections to the **Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country**.
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Originally the commission had only one election commissioner but after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989, it has been made a multi-member body.
 - ◆ The commission consists of **one Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners**.
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The Chief Election Commissioner **can be removed from office only through a process of removal similar to that of a Supreme Court judge for by Parliament**.
 - ◆ Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court, CEC, Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) may be Removed from office through a motion adopted by Parliament on grounds of 'Proven misbehaviour or incapacity'.
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

108. Ans: B

- **Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution lists the **official languages of the republic of India**. Part XVII of the Indian constitution deals with the official languages in **Articles 343 to 351**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Constitutional provisions related to the Eighth Schedule are:
 - ◆ **Article 344:** Article 344(1) provides for the constitution of a Commission by the President on expiration of five years from the commencement of the Constitution.
 - ◆ **Article 351:** It provides for the spread of the **Hindi language** to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India.
- However, It can be noted that **there is no fixed criteria for any language** to be considered for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- **Official Languages:**
 - ◆ The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution **consists of the following 22 languages:**



- Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.

- ◆ Of these languages, **14 were initially included in the Constitution.**
- ◆ **Sindhi** language was added by the **21st Amendment Act of 1967.**
- ◆ **Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali** were included by the **71st Amendment Act of 1992. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ◆ **Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali** were added by the **92nd Amendment Act of 2003 which came into force in 2004.**

109. Ans: D

Exp:

- As per Census-1931, Schedule tribes are termed as “backward tribes” living in the “Excluded” and “Partially Excluded” areas. The **Government of India Act of 1935** called for the first time for representatives of “backward tribes” in provincial assemblies.
- The **Constitution does not define the criteria for recognition of Scheduled Tribes** and hence the definition contained in 1931 Census was used in the initial years after independence. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- However, **Article 366(25) of the Constitution only provides process to define Scheduled Tribes:** “Scheduled Tribes means such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under **Article 342** to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this Constitution.”
 - ◆ **342(1):** The **President may with respect to any State or Union Territory**, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor, by a public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within tribes or tribal communities as Scheduled Tribe in relation to that State or Union Territory. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- There are over **705 tribes which have been notified.** The **largest number of tribal communities are found in Odisha.**

110. Ans: B

Exp:

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST):

- NCST was set up with effect from 19th February, 2004 by **amending Article 338 and by inserting a new article**

338A in the Constitution **through the 89th Constitution Amendment Act, 2003.** Hence, it is a constitutional body. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct but statement 2 is correct.**

- Article 338A inter-alia gives powers to the NCST to oversee the implementation of various safeguards provided to STs under the Constitution or under any other law for time being in force or under any other order to the Government and to evaluate the working of such safeguards.
- It consists of a **Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and 3 other Members** who are **appointed by the President** by warrant under his hand and seal. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ At least one member should be a woman.
 - ◆ The Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the other Members hold office for a term of 3 years.
 - ◆ The members are not eligible for appointment for more than two terms.

111. Ans: C

Exp:

- In India, the Municipal Corporation is the **urban local government that is responsible for the development of any Metropolitan City having a population of more than one million people.**
 - ◆ Mahanagar Palika, Nagar Palika, Nagar Nigam, City Corporation, and so on are some of the other names for it.
- The Municipal Corporations are **established in the states by the acts of the state legislatures**, whereas in the **Union Territories through the acts of the Parliament. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Municipal governments **rely heavily on property tax revenue** to fund their operations.
- The first municipal corporation in India was created in **Madras in 1688, followed by municipal corporations in Bombay and Calcutta in 1726. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In the Constitution of India, no provision was made for the establishment of local self-government, except the incorporation of Article 40 in the Directive Principles of State Policy.
 - ◆ The 74th Amendment Act, 1992 has inserted a new Part IX-A into the Constitution which deals with the administration of Municipalities and Nagar Palikas.
 - ◆ It consists of **Article 243P to 243ZG.** It also added a new **twelfth schedule** to the Constitution. The 12th schedule consists of 18 items.



- ◆ 12th Schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with the provisions that specify the powers, authority and responsibilities of Municipalities. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

112. Ans: C

Exp:

Presidents Rule:

- It is this duty in the performance of which the centre takes over the government of a state under **Article 356** in case of **failure or breakdown of constitutional machinery in a state.**
- This is popularly known as '**President's Rule**'. Hence **statement 1 is correct.**
- **Grounds of imposition:** the president's ruler can be proclaimed under Article 356 on two grounds:
 - ◆ Article 356 empowers the President to issue a proclamation if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of a state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.
 - ◆ Article 365 says that whenever a state fails to comply with or to give effect to any direction from the centre, it will be lawful for the President to hold that a situation has arisen in which the government of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.
- **Parliamentary approval and duration:** A proclamation imposing the president's rule must be approved by both the houses of parliament within two months from the date of its issue.
- **Consequences of the President's rule:** The President acquires the following extraordinary powers when the President's rule is imposed in a state:
 - ◆ He can take up the **functions of the state government and powers vested in the governor** or any other executive authority in the state. Hence **statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ He can declare that the powers of the state legislature are to be exercised by the parliament.
 - ◆ He can take all other necessary steps including the suspension of the constitutional provisions relating to any body or authority in the state.
- **Scope of judicial review:** The 38th Amendment act of 1975 made the satisfaction of the President in invoking Article 356 final and conclusive which would not be challenged in any court on any ground.
 - ◆ But, this provision was subsequently deleted by the 44th Amendment Act of 1978 implying that the satisfaction of the President is not beyond judicial review.

113. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Emergency provisions** contained in **Part XVIII of the Constitution of India, from Article 352 to 360.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- The Constitution stipulates three types of emergencies:
 - ◆ **National Emergency**
 - ◆ **Constitutional Emergency**
 - ◆ **Financial Emergency** These provisions **enable the Central government to meet any abnormal situation effectively.**
- **Emergency Provisions** in Indian Constitution are **taken from Government of India Act 1935.**
 - ◆ However, suspension of Fundamental Rights during emergency is taken from **Weimer (German) Constitution.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

114. Ans: B

Exp:

- The codification of criminal laws in India was done during British rule, which more or less remains the same even in the 21st century.
- **Lord Macaulay** is said to be the chief architect of codifications of criminal laws in India. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Criminal law in India is governed by Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and Indian Evidence Act, 1872, etc.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- Criminal law is considered to be the most apparent expression of the relationship between a state and its citizens.

115. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Article 29:**
 - ◆ It provides that **any section of the citizens residing in any part of India having a distinct language, script or culture of its own, shall have the right to conserve the same.**
 - ◆ It grants **protection to both religious minorities as well as linguistic minorities.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- **Article 30:**
 - ◆ All minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
 - ◆ The protection under Article 30 is confined only to minorities (religious or linguistic) and does not extend to any section of citizens (as under Article 29).



● **Article 350-B:**

- ◆ The **7th Constitutional (Amendment) Act 1956** inserted this article which provides for a **Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities appointed by the President of India**.
- ◆ It would be the duty of the Special Officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under the Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

116. Ans: A

Exp:

- They are not sacrosanct or permanent and the Parliament can curtail or repeal them but only by a constitutional amendment act. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The rights are not absolute but qualified.
- The state can impose reasonable restrictions on them, however, the reasonability of the restrictions is decided by the courts.
- The rights are justiciable and allow persons to move the courts for their enforcement, if and when they are violated. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Any aggrieved person can directly go to the Supreme Court in case of violation of any fundamental right.

117. Ans: D

Exp:

- Under the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS), postal ballots are sent electronically to registered service voters. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 was amended in 2016 to allow service voters to use the ETPBS. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The service voter can then download the ETPB (along with a declaration form and covers), register their mandate on the ballot and send it to the returning officer of the constituency via ordinary mail.
- The post will include an attested declaration form (after being signed by the voter in the presence of an appointed senior officer who will attest it).

118. Ans: D

Exp:

- National Human Right Commission (NHRC) is a **watchdog of human rights in the country**, i.e. the rights related to life, liberty, equality, and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the **Indian Constitution or embodied in the international covenants and enforceable by courts in India.**

- NHRC was established on **12th October 1993, under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993**. It was **amended by the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006**, and Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019.

- ◆ It was established in conformity with the **Paris Principles**, adopted for the promotion and protection of human rights in Paris (October 1991), and **endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1993**.

- It is a **multi-member body** consisting of a chairman and four members. A person who has been the **Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court** is a chairman. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The chairman and members are **appointed by the President** on the recommendations of a **six-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as its head**, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament and the Union Home Minister.
- The chairman and members hold office for a **term of three years or until they attain the age of 70 years**, whichever is earlier. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The President can **remove the chairman or any member** from the office under some circumstances. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

119. Ans: D

Exp:

- The 74th Amendment Act, 1992 has inserted a new Part IX-A into the Constitution which deals with the administration of Municipalities and Nagar Palikas.
- It consists of **Article 243P to 243ZG**. It also added a new **twelfth schedule** to the Constitution. The 12th schedule consists of 18 items.
 - ◆ 12th Schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with the provisions that specify the **powers, authority and responsibilities of Municipalities**.
- The subjects are there in 12th Schedule of Indian Constitution:
 1. Urban planning including town planning.
 2. Regulation of land-use and construction of buildings.
 3. Planning for economic and social development.
 4. **Roads and bridges.**
 5. **Water supply for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes.**
 6. Public health, sanitation conservancy and solid waste management.



7. Fire services.
8. Urban forestry, protection of the environment and promotion of ecological aspects.
9. Safeguarding the interests of weaker sections of society, including the handicapped and mentally retarded.
10. Slum improvement and upgradation.
- 11. Urban poverty alleviation.**
12. Provision of urban amenities and facilities such as parks, gardens, playgrounds.
13. Promotion of cultural, educational and aesthetic aspects.
14. Burials and burial grounds; cremations, cremation grounds and electric crematoriums.
- 15. Cattle pounds; prevention of cruelty to animals.**
- 16. Vital statistics including registration of births and deaths.**
17. Public amenities including street lighting, parking lots, bus stops and public conveniences.
18. Regulation of slaughterhouses and tanneries.

- Hence, option D is correct.

120. Ans: B

Exp:

Emergency Provisions:

- These provisions enable the Central government to meet any abnormal situation effectively.
- Emergency Provisions in Indian Constitution are **taken from Government of India Act 1935. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ However, suspension of Fundamental Rights during emergency is taken from Weimer (German) Constitution.
- The rationality behind the incorporation is to safeguard the sovereignty, unity, integrity and security of the country, the democratic political system and the Constitution.
- The Constitution stipulates three types of emergencies:
 - ◆ **National Emergency**
 - **Under Article 352, the president can declare a national emergency** when the security of India or a part of it is threatened by war or external aggression or armed rebellion. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Financial Emergency**
 - **Article 360** empowers the president to proclaim a Financial Emergency
 - ◆ Constitutional Emergency.

121. Ans: B

Exp:

- **The Registrar General of India** comes under the **Ministry of Home Affairs. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Apart from conducting the **Population Census and monitoring the implementation of the Registration of Births and Deaths in the country**, it has been giving estimates on fertility and mortality using the **Sample Registration System (SRS). Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- SRS is the largest demographic sample survey in the country that among other indicators provide direct estimates of maternal mortality through a nationally representative sample.

122. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Additional Grant:** It is granted when a need has arisen during the current financial year for additional expenditure upon some new service not contemplated in the budget for that year.
- **Excess Grant:** It is granted when money has been spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted for that service in the budget for that year.
 - ◆ It is voted by the Lok Sabha after the financial year. Before the demands for excess grants are submitted to the Lok Sabha for voting, they must be approved by the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament.
- **Article 115 pertains to supplementary, additional or excess grants.**
 - ◆ Article 116 of the Constitution pertains to Votes on account, Votes of credit and exceptional grants.
 - ◆ Supplementary, additional, excess and exceptional grants and vote of credit are regulated by the same procedure which is applicable in the case of a regular budget.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

123. Ans: (d)

- Under Article 72 of the Constitution, the President shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence where the sentence is a sentence of death.
- **Types of Pardon:**
 - ◆ **Pardon:** It removes both the sentence and the conviction and completely absolves the convict from all sentences, punishments and disqualifications.



- ◆ **Commutation:** It denotes the substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form. For example, a death sentence may be commuted to rigorous imprisonment, which in turn may be commuted to a simple imprisonment.
- ◆ **Remission:** It implies reducing the period of sentence without changing its character. For example, a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for two years may be remitted to rigorous imprisonment for one year.
- ◆ **Respite:** It denotes awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded due to some special fact, such as the physical disability of a convict or the pregnancy of a woman offender.
- ◆ **Reprieve:** It implies a stay of the execution of a sentence (especially that of death) for a temporary period. Its purpose is to enable the convict to have time to seek pardon or commutation from the President.

● Hence, option (d) is correct.

124. Ans: C

Exp:

- PRI was constitutionalized through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 to build democracy at the grass roots level and was entrusted with the task of rural development in the country.
- **Compulsory Provisions:**
 - ◆ Organisation of Gram Sabhas;
 - ◆ Creation of a three-tier Panchayati Raj Structure at the Zila, Block and Village levels;
 - ◆ Almost all posts, at all levels to be filled by direct elections;
 - ◆ Minimum age for **contesting elections to the Panchayati Raj institutions is 21 years. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The post of Chairman at the Zila and Block levels should be filled by indirect election;
 - ◆ There should be reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes in Panchayats, in proportion to their population, and for women in Panchayats up to one-third seats;
 - ◆ State Election Commission to be set up in each State to conduct elections to Panchayati Raj institutions;
 - ◆ The tenure of Panchayati Raj institutions is five years, if dissolved earlier, fresh elections to be held within six months;
 - ◆ A **State Finance Commission is set up in each State every five years. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

● **Voluntary:**

- ◆ Giving voting rights to members of the Central and State legislatures in these bodies;
- ◆ **Providing reservation for backward classes. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ The Panchayati Raj institutions should be given financial powers in relation to taxes, levy fees etc. and efforts shall be made to make Panchayats autonomous bodies.

125. Ans: C

Exp:

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a constitutional body envisaged to uphold the values of equality, equity, impartiality, independence enshrined in the Indian Constitution and the rule of law in superintendence, direction, and control over the electoral governance.
- Part XV of the Indian constitution deals with elections and provides for the establishment of the ECI. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Article 324 to 329 of the constitution deals with powers, function, tenure, eligibility, etc of the commission and the members.
- The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners based on the recommendations made by the Prime Minister. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ However, **Article 324(2)** provides that the Parliament is entitled to enact legislation regarding the appointment of Election Commissioners (ECs).
- They have a fixed tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

126. Ans: C

Exp:

- Article 80 of the Constitution lays down the **maximum strength of Rajya Sabha as 250**, out of which 12 members are nominated by the President and 238 are representatives of the States and of the two Union Territories. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The present strength of Rajya Sabha, however, is 245, out of which 233 are representatives of the States and Union territories of Delhi and Puducherry and 12 are nominated by the President.
 - ◆ The members nominated by the President are persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as literature, science, art and social service.

- The **Fourth Schedule to the Constitution** provides for **allocation of seats to the States and Union Territories in Rajya Sabha**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- ◆ The allocation of seats is made on the basis of the population of each State.
- ◆ Consequent on the reorganization of States and formation of new States, the number of elected seats in the Rajya Sabha allotted to States and Union Territories has changed from time to time since 1952.

127. Ans: B

Exp:

- The union territories of Puducherry, **Jammu and Kashmir** and the **National Capital Territory of Delhi** have representation in the Rajya Sabha, while **Ladakh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli — Daman and Diu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep** are unrepresented in the upper house.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

128. Ans: (b)

Exp:

- Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), 1958 gives **sweeping powers to the armed forces**.
 - ◆ For example, it allows them to **open fire, even causing death, against any person in contravention to the law or carrying arms and ammunition**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ Also, it gives them powers to arrest individuals without warrants, on the basis of “**reasonable suspicion**”, and **search premises without warrants**.
- It can be **imposed by the Centre or the Governor of a state**, on the state or parts of it, after these areas are declared “**disturbed**” under **Section 3**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ◆ The Act was amended in 1972 and the powers to **declare an area as “disturbed”** were conferred concurrently upon the Central government along with the States.
 - ◆ Currently, the Union Home Ministry issues periodic “disturbed area” notification to extend AFSPA only for Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
 - ◆ The notification for Manipur and Assam is issued by the State governments.
 - ◆ Tripura revoked the Act in 2015 and Meghalaya was under AFSPA for 27 years, until it was revoked by the MHA from 1st April 2018.
- The armed forces must act in cooperation with the district administration and **not as an independent body**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

129. Ans: A

Exp:

National Press Day:

- **National Press Day** is celebrated across India every year on **16th November** to commemorate the setting up of the **Press Council of India**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It was first set up in **1966 under the Indian Press Council Act, 1965**, on the recommendations of the first Press Commission, with the two-fold objective of **preserving the freedom** of the press by **maintaining and improving the standards** of newspapers and the news agencies in India. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- As a quasi-judicial autonomous authority, it was **reestablished in the year 1979 under an Act of Parliament, Press Council Act, 1978**.
- The Press Council of India is the **only body to exercise an authority even over the instruments of the State** in its duty to safeguard the independence of the press.

130. Ans: A

Exp:

Ninth Schedule:

- The Ninth Schedule was added by the **first amendment to the Indian Constitution**. Hence **statement 2 is not correct**.
- It was introduced on **10th May 1951 by the Jawaharlal Nehru Government** to protect land reform laws from being challenged in the courts on the grounds of violation of fundamental rights. Hence **statement 1 is correct**.
- It was created by the **new Article 31B**.
 - ◆ Article 31B also has a retrospective operation which means that if laws are inserted in the **Ninth Schedule** after they are **declared unconstitutional**, they are considered to have been in the Schedule since their commencement, and thus valid.
- While most of the laws protected under the **Schedule concern agriculture/land issues, the list includes other subjects**.
- Although **Article 31B excludes judicial review**, the apex court has said in the past that even laws under the Ninth Schedule would be open to scrutiny if they violated Fundamental Rights or the basic structure of the Constitution.

131. Ans: B

Exp:

- DNTs are communities that were ‘notified’ as being ‘born criminals’ during the British regime under a series of laws starting with the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871.



- ◆ These Acts were repealed by the Independent Indian Government in 1952, and these communities were “De-Notified”.
- While most DNTs are spread across the **Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) categories**, some DNTs are not covered in any of the SC, ST or OBC categories.
- A **National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT)** was constituted in 2006 by the then government.
 - ◆ It was headed by **Balkrishna Sidram Renke** and submitted its report in 2008. **Hence, the statement 2 is correct**
 - ◆ The commission held that “It is an irony that these tribes somehow escaped the attention of our Constitution makers. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**

132. Ans: B

Exp:

National Crime Records Bureau

- NCRB, headquartered in New Delhi, was **set up in 1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It was set up based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA’s Task Force (1985).
- NCRB brings out the annual comprehensive statistics of crime across the country (‘Crime in India’ report).
- Having been published since 1953, the report serves as a crucial tool in understanding the law-and-order situation across the country.

133. Ans: A

Exp:

Mediation:

- **Mediation is a voluntary, binding process** in which an impartial and neutral mediator facilitates disputing parties in reaching a settlement. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a structured process where a neutral person uses specialised communication and negotiation techniques. Litigants participating in the mediation process have unequivocally endorsed it.
- Other than mediation there are some other dispute resolution methods such as Arbitration, Negotiation and Conciliation.

Legal Provisions Related to Mediation:

- Mediation in India is **primarily governed by two legislative acts viz. the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC), 1908** and the Arbitration and Conciliation Act (ACA), 1996. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

134. Ans: A

Exp:

- The Three-Language Formula was first proposed by the Kothari **Commission in 1968**. Under this scheme:
 - ◆ **First language:** It will be the mother tongue or **regional language.**
 - ◆ **Second language:** In Hindi speaking states, it will be other modern Indian languages or English. In non-Hindi speaking states, it will be **Hindi or English.**
 - ◆ **Third Language:** In Hindi speaking states, it will be **English or a modern Indian language.** In the non-Hindi speaking state, it will be English or a modern Indian language. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India** contains a list of 22 recognised schedule languages. These languages are as follows:
 - ◆ Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.
 - ◆ **English is not a part of the Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution of India. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

135. Ans: B

Exp:

Election Commission of India:

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
 - ◆ It was **established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950** (celebrated as **national voters’ day**). The secretariat of the commission is in New Delhi. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country.
- 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. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

136. Ans: C

Exp:

- One of the **Sarkaria Commission's** key recommendations was to establish a permanent **Inter-State Council.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Inter state council** is an independent national consultative forum having a clearly defined mission in conformity with **Article 263 of the Indian Constitution.**
- The **interstate council** was established as a robust institutional framework for promoting and supporting **cooperative federalism.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **inter-state council** is a **recommendatory body** that has been empowered to investigate and discuss subjects of common interest between the **Union and state(s), or among states.**

137. Ans: C

Exp:

Impeachment of President:

- **According to Article 61,** the President can be removed from his office before the expiry of his term **only on the grounds of violation of the constitution.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- However, the Constitution **does not define the meaning of the phrase 'violation of the constitution'.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The impeachment process **can be started from any house of the parliament** by levelling charges against him. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The notice bearing the charges against the president must be signed by at least a quarter of the members of the house.

138. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)** was constituted under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987** which came into force on 9th November, 1995 to establish a nationwide uniform network for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief** and the second **senior most Judge of the Supreme Court of India is the Executive Chairman** of the Authority. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- Article 39 A of the Constitution provides for free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society, to promote justice on the basis of equal opportunity. Article 14 and Article 22 (1), obligates the State to ensure equality before law.

- It can be noted that the role played by NALSA and its networks is very much relevant to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal-16, which seeks to "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels".

139. Ans: D

Exp:

National Human Rights Commission:

- **Statutory Body:** NHRC was established on 12th October, 1993. The **statute under which it is established is the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993** as amended by the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006.
 - ◆ The PHRA Act also provides for the creation of a State Human Rights Commission at the state level.
- **In Line with Paris Principles:** Paris Principles were adopted for the promotion and protection of human rights in October 1991, and were endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1993.
- **Watchdog of Human Rights in the country:** The NHRC is an embodiment of India's concern for the promotion and protection of human rights.
 - ◆ Section 2(1)(d) of the PHRA defines Human Rights as the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India.
- **Composition:** The commission is a multi-member body consisting of a chairman and four members.
 - ◆ A person who has been the Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court is a chairman. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Appointment:** The chairman and members are **appointed by the President on the recommendations of a six-member committee** consisting of the Prime Minister as its head, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament and the Union Home Minister. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**



140. Ans: C

Exp:

Constitution Assembly

- The **Constitution of India** is framed by the Constituent Assembly. In 1934, **M N Roy first proposed the idea of a constituent assembly. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under the **Cabinet Mission plan of 1946, elections** were held for the formation of the constituent assembly. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The constituent assembly drafted the constitution and also:
 - ◆ **Ratified India's membership of the commonwealth in May 1949.**
 - ◆ **Adopted the national flag on July 22, 1947.**
 - ◆ **Adopted the national song on January 24, 1950.**
 - ◆ **Adopted the national anthem January 24, 1950.**
 - ◆ **Elected Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the first President of India on January 24, 1950.**

141. Ans: A

Exp:

India Plastics Pact:

- The India Plastics Pact, the first in Asia, was launched in September 2021 in collaboration with the **Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is the first of its kind in Asia. The Plastics Pact is an **ambitious and collaborative initiative to bring stakeholders together** to reduce, reuse and recycle plastics within the material's value chain. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

142. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Mediation is a voluntary, binding process** in which an impartial and neutral mediator facilitates disputing parties in reaching a settlement.
 - ◆ It is a structured process where a neutral person uses specialised communication and negotiation techniques. Litigants participating in the mediation process have unequivocally endorsed it.
 - ◆ Other than mediation there are some other dispute resolution methods such as Arbitration, Negotiation and Conciliation.
- **Legal Provisions Related to Mediation:**
 - ◆ Mediation in India is primarily governed by two legislative acts viz. the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC), 1908 and the Arbitration and Conciliation Act (ACA), 1996.

- ◆ There are many other statutory provisions that make **mediation a compulsory prerequisite to filing a suit in court.** Some of these statutes are:

- Industrial Disputes Act, 1947
- Companies Act, 2013
- **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006**
- **Hindu Marriage Act, 1955**
- Special Marriage Act, 1954
- **Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016**
- Commercial Courts Act, 2015
- **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**

- Hence, option D is correct.

143. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Indian President is elected through an electoral college system**, wherein the votes are cast by national and State-level lawmakers.
- The elections are conducted and overseen by the Election Commission (EC) of India.
- The electoral college is made up of all the elected members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha MPs), and the elected Members of the Legislative Assemblies of States and Union Territories (MLAs).
- **Related Constitutional Provisions:**
 - ◆ **Article 54: Election of President**
 - ◆ Article 55: Manner of election of President.
 - ◆ Article 56 :Term of office of President
 - ◆ Article 57: Eligibility for re-election.
 - ◆ Article 58: Qualifications for election as President
- Hence, option A is correct.

144. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957** provides for the **acquisition of land containing or likely to contain coal deposits** and for matters connected therewith. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under the provisions of this Act, the land is acquired for Government Companies only for coal mining and activities strictly incidental to mining purposes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- For other requirements, like permanent infrastructure, offices, residence etc. the land is acquired under Land Acquisition Act, 1894.
- Mining rights and surface rights of a single patch of land may not be acquired under different Acts.



145. Ans: D

Exp:

- De-Notified, Nomadic And Semi-Nomadic Tribes(DNTs) are communities that are the most vulnerable and deprived.
- DNTs are communities that were 'notified' as being 'born criminals' **during the British regime** under a series of laws starting with the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- These Acts were repealed by the Independent Indian Government in 1952, and these communities were "De-Notified".
- A few of these communities which were listed as de-notified were also nomadic.
 - ◆ Nomadic and semi-nomadic communities are defined as those who move from one place to another rather than living in one place all the time.
- While most DNTs are spread across the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) categories, **some DNTs are not covered in any of the SC, ST or OBC categories. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

146. Ans: A

Exp:

- The anti-defection law **punishes individual Members of Parliament (MPs)/MLAs for leaving one party for another. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Parliament added it to the Constitution as the **Tenth Schedule in 1985**. Its purpose was to bring stability to governments by **discouraging legislators from changing parties.**
 - ◆ **The Tenth Schedule** - popularly known as the **Anti-Defection Act** - was included in the Constitution via the **52nd Amendment Act, 1985.**
 - ◆ It sets the provisions for disqualification of elected members on the grounds of defection to another political party.
 - ◆ It was a **response to the toppling of multiple state governments** by party-hopping MLAs **after the general elections of 1967.**
- However, it **allows a group of MP/MLAs to join (i.e., merge with) another political party** without inviting the penalty for defection. And it **does not penalize political parties** for encouraging or accepting defecting legislators. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ As per the **1985 Act**, a '**defection**' by **one-third of the elected members** of a political party was considered a 'merger'.

- ◆ But the **91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003**, changed this and now at **least two-thirds of the members of a party must be in Favour of a "merger"** for it to have validity in the eyes of the law.

- The **members disqualified under the law can stand for elections** from any political party for a seat in the same House.
- The **decision on questions as to disqualification on ground of defection** are referred to the Chairman or the Speaker of such House, which is subject to '**Judicial review**'.
 - ◆ However, the **law does not provide a timeframe** within which the presiding officer has to decide a defection case.

147. Ans: B

Exp:

73rd Constitutional Amendment:

- The 73rd Constitutional Amendment **added Part IX** titled "The Panchayats" to the Constitution. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Basic unit of democratic system-**Gram Sabhas** (villages) comprising **all the adult** members registered as **voters. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Three-tier system of panchayats at village, intermediate block/taluk/Mandal and district levels except in States with population is below 20 lakhs (Article 243B).
- Seats at all levels to be filled by direct elections (Article 243C (2)).
- Three-tier system of panchayats at village, intermediate block/taluk/Mandal and district levels except in States with population is below 20 lakhs (Article 243B).
- Seats at all levels to be filled by direct elections Article 243C (2).
- Seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) and the chairpersons of the Panchayats at all levels also shall be reserved for SCs and STs in proportion to their population.
- One-third of the total number of seats to be reserved for women.
- One third of the seats reserved for SCs and STs are also reserved for women.

148. Ans: C

Exp:

University Grants Commission

- It came into existence on **28th December 1953.**
- It became a statutory body by an **Act of Parliament in 1956. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**



- It is established for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in university education. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The head office of the **UGC is located in New Delhi.**

149. Ans: B

Exp:

Role of Governors in State Universities:

- In most cases, the **Governor of the state is the ex-officio chancellor** of the universities in that state. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- While as Governor he functions with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, as **Chancellor he acts independently of the Council of Ministers and takes his own decisions on all University matters.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

In the Case of Central Universities:

- Under the Central Universities Act, 2009, and other statutes, the **President of India shall be the Visitor of a central university.**
- With their role limited to presiding over convocations, **Chancellors in central universities are titular heads**, who are **appointed by the President** in his capacity as Visitor.
- The Vice Chancellor too is appointed by the Visitor from panels of names picked by search and selection committees formed by the Union government.
- The Act adds that the President, as Visitor, shall have the right to authorize inspections of academic and non-academic aspects of the universities and to institute inquiries.

150. Ans: B

Exp:

91st Amendment Act:

- The Constitution (**91st Amendment**) Act, 2003 inserted **clause 1A in Article 164**, which says "the **total number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a State** shall not exceed **15% of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly of that State.**"
 - ◆ It also provided that the number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister in a State shall **not be less than twelve**".
- Similar amendments were also **made under Article 75.**
 - ◆ According to it, the PM shall be appointed by the **President and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the PM.**

- ◆ The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the COM shall not exceed **15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha.**

- The purpose of the 91st Amendment was to prevent jumbo Cabinets and the resultant drain on the public exchequer.

- **Hence, option B is correct.**

151. Ans: C

Exp:

Section 144 CrPC:

- This law **empowers the magistrate of any state or union territory in India** to pass an order prohibiting the gathering of four or more people in a specified area.
 - ◆ It is imposed in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger of some event that has the potential to cause trouble or damage to human life or property.
 - ◆ This order can be **passed against a particular individual or general public.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Features of Section 144:**
 - ◆ It places restrictions on handling or transporting any kind of weapon in the given jurisdiction.
 - The maximum punishment for such an act is three years.
 - ◆ According to the order under this section, there shall be no movement of public and **all educational institutions shall also remain closed.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Further, there will be a complete bar on holding any kind of public meeting or rallies during the period of operation of this order.
 - ◆ It also **empowers the authorities to block internet access** in the region.
 - ◆ The ultimate purpose of Section 144 is to **maintain peace and order in the areas** where trouble could erupt to disrupt the regular life.
- **Duration of Section 144 Order:**
 - ◆ **No order** under this section **can remain in force for a period of more than 2 months.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - Under the state government's discretion, it can choose to extend the validity for two more months with the maximum validity extendable to six months.

152. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Article 366 (25)** of the Constitution refers to **Scheduled Tribes** as those communities that are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution.



- ◆ **Article 342** says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification or through a subsequent amending Act of Parliament will be Scheduled Tribes.
- The list of **Scheduled Tribes is State/UT specific**, and a community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in **one State need not be so in another State**.
- The **Constitution is silent** about the criteria for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- In 1973, the **Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)** as a separate category, that are less developed among the tribal groups.
 - ◆ In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups.

153. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Article 366 (25)** of the Constitution refers to **Scheduled Tribes** as those communities that are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution.
 - ◆ **Article 342** says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification or through a subsequent amending Act of Parliament will be Scheduled Tribes.
- The list of **Scheduled Tribes is State/UT specific**, and a community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in **one State need not be so in another State**.
- The **Constitution is silent** about the criteria for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- In 1973, the **Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)** as a separate category, that are less developed among the tribal groups.
 - ◆ In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups.

154. Ans: D

Exp:

Salient Features of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment:

- The 73rd Constitutional Amendment added Part IX titled "The Panchayats" to the Constitution.
 - ◆ Basic unit of democratic system-Gram Sabhas (villages) comprising all the adult members registered as voters.

- ◆ Three-tier system of panchayats at village, intermediate block/taluk/mandal and district levels except in States with population is below 20 lakhs (**Article 243B**).
- ◆ Seats at all levels to be filled by direct elections (**Article 243C (2)**).
- **Reservation of Seats:**
 - ◆ Seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) and the chairpersons of the Panchayats at all levels also shall be reserved for SCs and STs in proportion to their population.
 - ◆ One-third of the total number of seats to be reserved for women.
 - ◆ One-third offices of chairpersons at all levels reserved for women (**Article 243D**).
- **Duration:**
 - ◆ Uniform five year term and elections to constitute new bodies to be completed before the expiry of the term.
 - ◆ In the event of dissolution, elections compulsorily within six months (**Article 243E**).
- **Power of Panchayats:** Panchayats have been authorised to prepare plans for economic development and social justice in respect of subjects illustrated in Eleventh Schedule (**Article 243G**).
- **Source of Revenue (Article 243H):** State legislature may authorise the Panchayats with
 - ◆ **Budgetary allocation from State Revenue.**
 - ◆ **Share of revenue of certain taxes.**
 - ◆ **Collection and retention of the revenue it raises.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

155. Ans: C

Exp:

- The anti-defection law punishes individual Members of Parliament (MPs)/MLAs for leaving one party for another.
 - ◆ Parliament added it to the Constitution as the Tenth Schedule in 1985. Its purpose was to bring stability to governments by discouraging legislators from changing parties.
 - ◆ The Tenth Schedule - popularly known as the Anti-Defection Act - was included in the Constitution via the 52nd Amendment Act, 1985.
- **Issues with Anti Defection Law:**
 - ◆ **Undermining Representative & Parliamentary Democracy:** After enactment of the Anti-defection law, the **MP or MLA has to follow the party's direction blindly** and has **no freedom to vote** in their judgement. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Due to Anti-Defection law, the chain of accountability has been broken by making legislators accountable primarily to the political party.
- ◆ **Controversial Role of Speaker:** There is **no clarity in the law about the timeframe for the action** of the House Chairperson or Speaker in the anti-defection cases.
- Some cases take six months and some even three years. There are cases that are disposed off after the term is over. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- ◆ **No Recognition of Split:** Due to the **91st amendment**, the anti-defection law created an exception for anti-defection rulings.
- However, the **amendment does not recognize a 'split' in a legislature party** and instead recognizes a 'merger'. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

156. Ans: A

Exp:

- Education comes under the Concurrent List, but **entry 66 of the Union List** — “coordination and determination of standards in institutions for higher education or research and scientific and technical institutions” — **gives the Centre substantial authority over higher education. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The University Grants Commission plays that standard-setting role, even in the case of appointments in universities and colleges.
- **According to the UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018, the “Visitor/Chancellor” — mostly the Governor in states — shall appoint the Vice Chancellor (VC) out of the panel of names recommended by search-cum-selection committees. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Higher educational institutions, particularly those that get UGC funds, are mandated to follow its regulations.

157. Ans: B

Exp:

- Recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in its latest annual report for 2020-21, has said that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019 is a compassionate and ameliorative legislation and does not deprive any Indian of citizenship.

- The CAA, which aims to give citizenship to migrants belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian communities(not all Communities) from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan, was notified on 12th December 2019, and came into force on 10th January 2020. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The CAA does not apply to Indian citizens. Therefore, it does not in any way take away or abridge the rights of any Indian citizen. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

158. Ans: D

Exp:

- Section 144 CrPC empowers the magistrate of any state or union territory in India to pass an order **prohibiting the gathering of four or more people** in a specified area. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is imposed in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger of some event that has the potential to cause trouble or damage to human life or property.
- No order under this section can remain in force for a period of more than 2 months.
- Under the state government’s discretion, it can choose to extend the validity for two more months with the maximum validity extendable to **six months. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

159. Ans: A

Exp:

Registrar General of India:

- The Census Organization was set up on an ad-hoc basis for each Census till the 1951 Census.
 - ◆ The Government of India, in 1949 **established an organisation in the Ministry of Home Affairs under Registrar General and ex-Officio Census**. Commissioner, India to develop systematic collection of statistics on the size of population, its growth, etc.
 - ◆ Later, this office was also entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 in the country.
- It **arranges, conducts and analyses the results of the demographic surveys** of India including **Census of India and Linguistic Survey of India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **position** of Registrar is usually **held by a civil servant** holding the rank of Joint Secretary. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

160. Ans: D

Exp:

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering



Union and State election processes in India. Hence **statement 1 is not correct.**

- It was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950 (celebrated as national voters' day). The secretariat of the commission is in New Delhi.
- The Election Commission of India administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country. Hence **Statement 2 is not correct.**
- Election to the panchayati raj institution is conducted by the State Election Commission.

161. Ans: B

Exp:

- Recently, The Union Cabinet has approved the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Amendment Bill, 2022**, which seeks to amend the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.
- **The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)** defines a Cooperative as "an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise."
- **The Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011** added a new Part IXB in the Indian Constitution regarding the **cooperatives working in India.**
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- The word "**cooperatives**" was added after "**unions and associations**" in **Article 19(1)(c)** under **Part III of the Constitution.**
 - ◆ This enables all the **citizens to form cooperatives by giving it the status of fundamental right of citizens.**
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- A new **Article 43B** was added in the **Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV)** regarding the "**promotion of cooperative societies**".
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

162. Ans: D

Exp:

- Post-independence, **Article 343 of the Constitution of India** provides that the **official language of the Union** shall be Hindi in the **Devanagari script.**
 - ◆ However, it mandated that the **English language will continue to be used for all official purposes** of the Union for 15 years from the commencement of the Constitution of India.
 - ◆ It further provides that the **President** may, during the said period, by order to authorise the use of

the **Hindi language for any official purpose of the Union**, other than the English language.

- **Article 348(1)(a)** states that **unless Parliament by law** provides otherwise, all proceedings before the **Supreme Court and in every High Court** shall be conducted in **English.**
 - ◆ **Section 272 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973**, states that the **State government shall determine** the language of all courts **other than the High Courts.** It means that the language used in the district courts shall be in the **regional language as the state government directs.**
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Article 348(2)** provides further that notwithstanding the provisions of Article 348(1), the **Governor of a state may**, with the previous **consent of the President**, authorise the use of **Hindi or any other language** used for any official purpose, in proceedings in the **High Court.**
 - ◆ States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have already authorised the use of Hindi in proceedings before their respective high courts and taking a cue, Tamil Nadu is also working in that direction – to authorise the use of Tamil before its high court.
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

163. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Uniform Civil Code (UCC):**
 - ◆ UCC is envisaged to provide for one law for the entire country, applicable to all religious communities in their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption etc.
 - **Article 44** of the Constitution lays down that the **state shall endeavour to secure a UCC for the citizens throughout the territory of India.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
 - Article 44 is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).
 - The purpose behind Article 44 is to strengthen the object of "secular democratic republic" as enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution.
 - ◆ As of now, **Goa is the only state in India with a UCC.** Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

164. Ans: A

Exp:

- **The Supreme Court** described privacy and its importance in the landmark decision of **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India** in 2017 that **Right to Privacy is a fundamental and inalienable right.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**



- The **right to privacy** is protected as an **intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty** under **Article 21** and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by **Part III** of the Constitution.
- The **Puttaswamy judgment** holds that the **right to privacy** is protected as a **fundamental constitutional right** under **Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

165. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Schedule 8 of the Indian Constitution** has **22 Official Languages**, including **Hindi** as well. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- **Article 351 states that**, it is the duty of the Union to encourage the spread of the Hindi language to make it lingua franca (a shared language of communication used by people who are speakers of different languages) in India without interfering with its genius, style and expressions.
- **Article 348 (2) provides that** the Governor of the State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of the Hindi language or any other language used for any official purpose of the State, in the proceedings of the High Court having its principal seat in that State provided that decrees, judgments or orders passed by such High Courts shall be in English.
- **As per Article 343(1) of the Constitution of India**, Hindi in Devanagari script shall be the official language of the Union. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **The Official Language Act, 1963 provides under Section 7** that the use of Hindi or official language of a State in addition to the English language may be authorized, with the consent of the President of India, by the Governor of the State for the purpose of judgments, decrees etc. made by the High Court for that State.

166. Ans: A

Exp:

- The term '**Lok Adalat**' means '**People's Court**' and is based on **Gandhian principles**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- As per the **Supreme Court**, it is an old form of adjudicating system prevalent in ancient India and its validity has not been taken away even in the modern days too.
- **Lok Adalat** is a **statutory body** under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- It is one of the components of the **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system** and delivers informal, cheap and expeditious justice to the common people.

167. Ans: B

Exp:

About Punchhi Commission:

- The Punchhi Commission was constituted by the Union Government in April 2007 under the chairmanship of former **Chief Justice of India (CJI) Madan Mohan Punchhi**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Commission examined and reviewed **how the existing arrangements between the Union and States were functioning**, as well as various court rulings regarding the powers, duties, and responsibilities in all areas, including legislative relations, administrative relations, the role of governors, emergency provisions and others.
- The Commission **presented its seven-volume report to the government in March 2010**.
- The **Inter-State Council's (ISC) Standing Committee** considered the suggestions of the Punchhi panel at its meetings in April 2017, November 2017, and May 2018.

Key Recommendations of Punchhi Commission:

- **National Integration Council:**
 - ◆ It recommended the **creation of a superseding structure for matters relating to internal security** (like the Homeland Security Department in the United States). This structure could be known as the '**National Integration Council**'. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Amendment to Article 355 and Article 356:**
 - ◆ It advised that Article 355 and Article 356 of the Constitution should be amended.
 - ◆ **Article 355 talks about the duty of the Centre to protect the state against any external aggression** and Article 356 talks about the **implementation of President's rule** in case of failure of the machinery of the state.
 - ◆ The recommendation seeks to protect **States' interests by curbing the centre's misuse of powers**.
- **Subjects in the Concurrent List:**
 - ◆ The Commission recommended that the States should be consulted through the inter-state council before **bills are introduced on matters that fall in the concurrent list**.
 - ◆ A concurrent list is one of the three lists; in this, the matters on which both State and Centre governments **can formulate laws are mentioned**.
- **Appointment and Removal of Governors:**
 - ◆ The Governor should stay away from active politics (even at a local level) for at least two years prior to his appointment.



- ◆ There should be a say of the state's Chief minister **while making the Governor's appointment.**
- ◆ A **committee should be formed** that is entrusted with the task of appointment of governors. This committee may comprise the **Prime Minister, the Home Minister, the Lok Sabha's speaker** and the concerned **Chief Minister of the State. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - The term of appointment should be five years.
 - Governor could only be **removed via a resolution by the State Legislature.**

168. Ans: D

Exp:

Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA):

- FCRA was enacted during the Emergency in 1976 amid apprehensions that foreign powers were interfering in India's affairs by pumping money into the country through independent organisations.
 - ◆ The law sought to regulate foreign donations to individuals and associations so that they functioned in a manner consistent with the values of a sovereign democratic republic.
- The FCRA requires every person or NGO seeking to receive foreign donations to be:
 - ◆ registered under the Act
 - ◆ to **open a bank account for the receipt of the foreign funds in State Bank of India, Delhi. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ to utilize those funds only for the purpose for which they have been received and as stipulated in the Act.
- FCRA **registration is valid for 5 years**, and NGOs are expected to apply for **renewal within six months** of the date of expiry of registration. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The government can also cancel the FCRA registration of any NGO if it finds that the NGO is in violation of the Act, if it has not been engaged in any reasonable activity in its chosen field for the benefit of society for two consecutive years, or if it has become defunct.
 - ◆ Once the registration of an NGO is cancelled, it is not eligible for re-registration for three years.

169. Ans: C

Exp:

Election Commission of India:

- **Part XV (Article 324-329)** of the Indian Constitution: It deals with elections and establishes a commission for these matters.

- Originally the **commission had only one EC** but after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989, it was made a **multi-member body (1 CEC & 2 other ECs.)**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- According to Article 324, the **Election Commission shall consist of the CEC** and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the President may from time-to-time fix.
- They can **resign anytime or can also be removed** before the expiry of their term.
- The CEC can be removed from office only through a **process of removal similar to that of a SC judge** by Parliament. **Hence, statement 3 correct.**
- Any other EC cannot be removed except on the recommendation of CEC.
- It decides the election schedules for the conduct of elections, whether general elections or bye-elections. **Hence, statement 2 correct.**

170. Ans: B

Exp:

- The CrPC provides for the appointment of public prosecutors by the state government, but their removal is not mentioned in the CrPC. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Section 177 of the CrPC** provides that every offence shall ordinarily be inquired into and tried by a court within whose local jurisdiction it was committed.
 - ◆ However, in certain cases, the **jurisdiction of the court can be determined by the place where the accused person resides** or the place where the victim resides. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

171. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Virtual Digital Assets** service providers/businesses have now become the '**Reporting Entities**' under **PMLA Act 2002**, and they must follow similar reporting standards and KYC norms as the other regulated entities like **banks, securities intermediaries, payment system operators, etc.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **PMLA-covered activities include: Exchange of Virtual digital assets (VDA) and fiat currencies, Change between one or more VDA types, etc.**
- **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

172. Ans: C

Exp:

- **About the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act:**
 - ◆ Panchayati Raj Institution was constitutionalised through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, of 1992. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**



- ◆ This act has added a new Part-IX to the Constitution of India and consists of provisions from Articles 243 to 243 O. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ◆ In addition, the act has also added a new 11th Schedule to the Constitution and contains 29 functional items of the panchayats. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

173. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Article 174** of the Constitution authorizes the **Governor to summon, dissolve and prorogue the state legislative assembly.**
- Article 174(2)(b) of the Constitution gives powers to the Governor to **dissolve the Assembly on the aid and advice** of the cabinet. However, the Governor can **apply his mind when the advice comes from a Chief Minister** whose majority could be in doubt. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- According to **Article 175(2)**, the Governor can summon the **House and call for a floor test** to prove whether the government has the numbers.
- However, the Governor can exercise the above **only as per Article 163 of the Constitution** which says that the Governor acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- When **the House is in session**, it is the **Speaker who can call for a floor test**. But when the Assembly is not in session, the Governor's residuary powers under Article 163 allow him to call for a floor test. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

174. Ans: D

Exp:

Bail and Its Types:

- **Definition:** Bail is the **conditional/provisional release of a person held under legal custody** (in matters which are yet to be pronounced by the Court), by undertaking a promise to appear in the Court as and when required. It signifies a **security/collateral deposited** before the Court for release.
 - ◆ In Supt. and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs v. Amiya Kumar Roy Choudhry (1973) case, the Calcutta High Court explained the **principle behind giving Bail.**
- **Types of Bail in India:**
 - ◆ **Regular Bail:** It is a direction given by the Court (any Court within the country) to release a person who is **already under arrest** and kept in police custody. For such Bail, a person can file an

application under **Section 437 and 439** of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ **Interim Bail:** Bail granted for a **temporary and short period** by the Court till the application seeking Anticipatory Bail or Regular Bail is **pending** before a Court. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ **Anticipatory Bail or Pre-arrest Bail:** It is a legal provision that allows an accused person to apply for bail before being arrested. In India, pre-arrest bail is granted under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. It is **issued only** by the **Sessions Court and High Court.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct**
 - The provision of pre-arrest bail is discretionary, and the court may grant bail after considering the nature and gravity of the offence, the antecedents of the accused, and other relevant factors. The court may also impose certain conditions while granting bail, such as **surrendering the passport, refraining from leaving the country, or reporting to the police station regularly.**

175. Ans: C

Exp:

- In this case, while striking down the practice of **Jallikattu (bull-wrestling)** and **bullock cart racing** in the Indian states of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, respectively.
- The **Supreme Court** had ruled that the **right to dignity and fair treatment** as enshrined in **Article 21** of India's Constitution is not confined to **human beings** alone, but animals as well. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Protection of wildlife are also mentioned in the **DPSP and Fundamental duties.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Article 48 A** states that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.
 - ◆ **Article 51A(g)** states it to be a duty of every citizen of India "to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures."

176. Ans: D

Exp:

- Recently, Kerala Governor warned ministers that the **statements of individual ministers that lower the dignity of the Governor's office** can invite action including withdrawal of pleasure.



- ◆ **The pleasure doctrine** is a concept derived from English common law, under which the crown can dispense with the services of anyone in its employ at any time.
- **Constitutional Provisions related to Governor:**
 - ◆ **Article 153** says that there shall be a Governor for each State. One person can be appointed as Governor for two or more States.
 - A Governor is **appointed by the President** and is a nominee of the Central Government.
 - ◆ **It is stated that the Governor has a dual role.**
 - He is the constitutional head of the state, **bound by the advice of his Council of Ministers (CoM).**
 - **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - He functions as a **vital link between the Union Government and the State Government.**
 - ◆ Governor has the power to **grant pardons, reprieves, etc. (Article 161).**
 - ◆ There is a **CoM with the CM at the head** to aid and advise the Governor in the exercise of his functions, except some conditions for discretion. **(Article 163).**
 - ◆ In the Constitution, **there are no guidelines for exercise of the Governor's powers, including for appointing a CM or dissolving the Assembly.**
 - **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ There is **no limit set** for how long a Governor can withhold assent to a Bill.
 - **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

177. Ans: C

Exp:

Women Representation in Parliament:

- **Global Scenario:**
 - ◆ According to the **Inter-Parliamentary Union**, New Zealand is among a half-dozen nations in the world that can claim at least 50% female representation in their parliament by 2022. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - In 1893, New Zealand became the first nation to allow women to vote.
 - ◆ Other nations include **Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Rwanda and the United Arab Emirates.**
 - ◆ Globally, about 26% of lawmakers are women.

Indian Scenario:

- ◆ As per the data compiled by the IPU, of which India is a member, women **represent 14.44% of the total members of the Lok Sabha.**

- ◆ As per the latest **Election Commission of India (ECI) data:**

- As of October 2021, Women represent **10.5%** of the total members of the Parliament.
- The scenario for women **Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs)** across all state assemblies in India is even worse, with the national average being a pitiable 9%.
- In the last 75 years of independence, **women's representation in Lok Sabha has not even increased by 10%. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ In electoral representation, India has fallen several places in the **Inter-Parliamentary Union's global ranking of women's parliamentary** presence, from 117 after the 2014 election to 143 as of January 2020.
 - India is currently behind Pakistan (106), Bangladesh (98) and Nepal (43) and ahead of Sri Lanka (182).

178. Ans: C

Exp:

Committee of Parliament on Official Language:

- The Committee of Parliament on Official Language was set up in 1976 under Section 4 of The Official Languages Act, 1963.
- The Committee is constituted & chaired by the union home minister, and has, 30 members (20 MPs from Lok Sabha and 10 MPs from Rajya Sabha).
- Unlike the **other Parliamentary panels submit its report to Parliament, this panel submits its report to the President**, who "shall [then] cause the report to be laid before each House of Parliament, and sent to all the State Governments". **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

Effort to Promote Hindi and Other Regional Language:

- **Three-Language Formula (Kothari Commission 1968)**
 - ◆ **First language:** It will be the **mother tongue** or regional language.
 - ◆ **Second language:** In **Hindi** speaking states, it will be other modern Indian languages or English. In non-Hindi speaking states, it will be Hindi or English.
 - ◆ **Third Language:** In Hindi speaking states, it will be **English or a modern Indian language.** In the non-Hindi speaking state, it will be **English or a modern Indian language.** **Hence statement 2 is correct.**



179. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Make in India Programme** was launched in 2014, Make in India aims to transform the country into a leading global manufacturing and investment destination.
 - ◆ The initiative is **an open invitation to potential investors and partners across the globe to participate in the growth story of 'New India'**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- **Objectives:**
 - ◆ To attract foreign investment for new industrialisation and develop the already existing industry base in India to surpass that of China.
 - ◆ Target of an increase in manufacturing sector growth to 12-14% per annum over the medium term.
 - ◆ To increase the share of manufacturing sector in the country's Gross Domestic Product from 16% to 25% by 2022.
 - ◆ **To create 100 million additional jobs by 2022.**
 - ◆ To promote export-led growth.
- Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

180. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Public interest Litigation (PIL)** means **litigation filed in a court of law, for the protection of "Public Interest", such as Pollution, Terrorism, Road safety, Constructional hazards etc.** Any matter where the interest of public at large is affected can be redressed by filing a Public Interest Litigation in a court of law. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- Public interest litigation is **not defined in any Act of the Government of India.** It has been interpreted by judges to consider the intent of the public at large. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- Public interest litigation is the **power given to the public by courts through judicial activism.** However, the person filing the petition must prove to the satisfaction of the court that the petition is being filed for public interest and not just as frivolous litigation by a busy body. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- The court can itself take cognizance of the matter and proceed suo motu or cases can commence on the petition of any public spirited individual.

181. Ans: D

Exp:

- **The Tapas Majumdar Committee (1999)** encompassed the **insertion of Article 21A.**
 - ◆ In 1993, the Supreme Court's landmark judgement in the **Unnikrishnan JP vs State of Andhra Pradesh**

& Others held that **Education is a Fundamental right flowing from Article 21.**

- ◆ The **86th amendment to the constitution of India in 2002**, provided Right to Education as a fundamental right in **part-III of the Constitution.** Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- Right to Education a fundamental right for **children between 6-14 years.**
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ India became one of 135 countries to make education a fundamental right of every child when the act came into force on 1 April 2010.
 - ◆ The Title of the RTE Act incorporates the words **'free and compulsory'**.

182. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Article 324 of the Constitution** provides that the power of **superintendence, direction and control of elections** to parliament, state legislatures, the office of president of India and the office of vice-president of India **shall be vested in the Election Commission.**
 - ◆ A party seeking registration under the said section with the Commission has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation as per guidelines prescribed by the Commission in exercise of the powers conferred by **Article 324 of the Constitution of India.**
- **Article 320** states the **functions of Public Service Commissions.** **Article 323A** provides for the **establishment of administrative tribunals** by law made by Parliament. **Article 239** deals with the **administration of Union territories.**
- Hence, **option A is correct.**

183. Ans: B

Exp:

- **The Arms Act, 1959** aims to be as extensive as possible to cover all aspects relating to the **acquisition, possession, manufacture, sale, import, export, and transport** of arms and ammunition in India.
- Unlawful manufacture, sale and transfer are liable for an imprisonment term **not less than seven years** which could be extended to life imprisonment, with a fine. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- The **minimum age requirement** for acquiring a **gun license** in India is **21 years.** Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- The validity of the license has been increased from the present **3 years to 5 years.**

